

# Voting Rights

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Voting Rights Note Sheet

**Directions:** Different groups gained the right to vote throughout the history of the United States. Keep track of the details and important points below.

The Founding Fathers left it up to

\_\_\_\_\_ to decide who could vote.



In colonial times and during the early years of our country, white men had to prove that they owned \_\_\_\_\_ in order to be able to vote. Where did this idea come from?

\_\_\_\_\_

The 15th Amendment passed in \_\_\_\_\_. It said the right to vote could not be denied on account of \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_. But it only applied to \_\_\_\_\_

Over time, voting rights changed in two ways: By changing

\_\_\_\_\_ laws and by amending the

\_\_\_\_\_



Despite the 15th Amendment, some states prevented black people from voting. Name three barriers:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Women were guaranteed the right to vote in the year \_\_\_\_\_, when the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment was passed.

But some \_\_\_\_\_ allowed women to vote earlier than that. Which state gave women the vote first?

\_\_\_\_\_

When was that? \_\_\_\_\_

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Although the 19th Amendment said that \_\_\_\_\_ could not keep a person from voting, women of color were still excluded.

Some ideas about women's suffrage came from the \_\_\_\_\_, six American Indian nations.



American Indians were given U.S. citizenship in the year \_\_\_\_\_, when the president signed the \_\_\_\_\_. But that didn't guarantee them the right to vote. Why not?

Residents of the District of Columbia, our nation's capital, gained the right to vote in presidential elections in the year \_\_\_\_\_ when the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment was passed.



How long did it take for all American Indians to get the right to vote? \_\_\_\_\_

The Civil Rights Movement brought changes to the voting laws and practices in the U.S. What did the 24th Amendment ban in 1964?

The Constitution changed the voting age from 21 to \_\_\_\_\_ when the \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment was passed in 1971.

What was passed in 1965? \_\_\_\_\_

Which war influenced this change?

Which court case removed some of its protection? \_\_\_\_\_

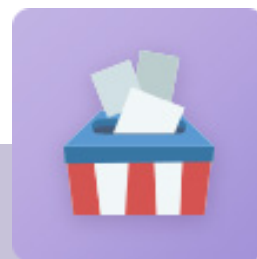
## Voting Rights Chart

GROUP	DATE	LAW OR AMENDMENT	FACTOID
Adult White men with property	Colonial Times	Traditional <b>English Law</b> and custom	Many believed only landowners were responsible enough to make political decisions.
	1789	<b>The Constitution</b> gave states the power to decide who could vote.	
All White adult men	1820s - 1880s	<b>State constitutions</b> lifted the property requirement over a period of 60 years.	Thomas Paine supported ending the property requirement, while John Adams feared 'mob rule' without it.
All adult men	1870	<b>15th Amendment:</b> voting shall not be denied on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.	The Amendment passed after the Civil War. Later, many state laws, called Jim Crow Laws, were passed to undermine it. The 15th Amendment excluded women.
Women	1920	<b>19th Amendment:</b> voting shall not be denied an account of sex.	Women could vote in Wyoming by 1869. Women of color were barred from voting as a result of Jim Crow and other discriminatory state laws, despite their contributions to women's suffrage.
American Indians	until 1962	The Indian Citizenship Act gave Native peoples the rights and privileges of American citizenship, but they had to work to change <b>state laws</b> to gain voting rights.	Previously, American Indians were not considered Americans. Some states denied American Indians the right to vote until 1962.
Residents of Washington, D.C.	1961	<b>23rd Amendment:</b> D.C. residents can vote for the president and have electoral votes based on population, as long as the number is less than the least populous state.	Washington, D.C. is not a state and only has a non-voting representative in Congress. Before the 23rd Amendment, these citizens could not vote for the President.
All American citizens	1964	<b>24th Amendment:</b> banned the use of poll taxes in elections.	A poll tax was one of many restrictions placed on Black Americans' voting rights in the Jim Crow South. It also affected poor Whites who could not afford to pay it.
All American Citizens	1965	<b>Voting Rights Act:</b> further protected the voting rights of all Americans by reinforcing the 15th Amendment.	This Act outlawed voting practices used to discriminate mainly against Black citizens, like literacy tests and voter intimidation. The Act protects all groups from voter discrimination based on race, color, or language.
Citizens 18 years old and up	1971	<b>26th Amendment:</b> citizens who are 18 years of age or older cannot be denied the right to vote on account of age	In the 1960s and '70s thousands of young men were drafted to fight in the Vietnam War. Many were too young to vote. Supporters of this amendment chanted, "Old enough to fight, old enough to vote!"

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**A. Amendment Match.** Write the number of the Amendment next to the correct description.



- |                |       |  |
|----------------|-------|--|
| 15th Amendment | _____ | Prevented poll taxes                     |
| 19th Amendment | _____ | Removed gender requirements for voting   |
| 23rd Amendment | _____ | Lowered the voting age to 18             |
| 24th Amendment | _____ | Removed race restrictions for voting     |
| 26th Amendment | _____ | Granted D.C. residents the right to vote |

**B. Intent v. Impact.** When amendments aren't enforced, they don't work the way they're supposed to. *Intent* is the purpose something is supposed to have. *Impact* reflects its actual effects. Create split-screen pictures showing the intent and the impact of the 15th and 19th Amendments. Use the language of the Amendments to help you illustrate their intent and what you learned in the lesson to show their actual impacts.

## 15th Amendment

<b>Intent</b>	<b>Impact</b>
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## 19th Amendment

<b>Intent</b>	<b>Impact</b>
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**C. Do they have the right to vote?** Use today's lesson and the voting rights chart to decide whether or not each person can vote and to state the reasons behind your decision.



Hi! I'm Lea. I am 35 and live on the Cherokee reservation in North Carolina in 1987. Can I vote?

How do you know? Describe the law or amendment that determines Lea's voting rights.



My name is Mary. I'm 20 years old today. It is 1962, and I live in D.C. and would like to vote for the President. Can I?

How do you know? Describe the law or amendment that determines Mary's voting rights.



I am Ann. It is 1878, and I am 52 years old. I was formerly enslaved, and now I live in Wisconsin. Can I vote?

How do you know? Describe the law or amendment that determines Ann's voting rights.



Hi! I'm Mike. I am 17 years old and live in Illinois in 2011. Can I vote?

How do you know? Describe the law or amendment that determines Mike's voting rights.



My name is Shari. I am 63, I live in Indiana, and the year is 1998. Can I vote?

How do you know? Describe the law or amendment that determines Shari's voting rights.



I am, Marvin, a wealthy land owner in Maine. It is 1815 and I am 45 years old. Can I vote?

How do you know? Describe the law or amendment that determines Marvin's voting rights.

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**D. Voting Rights Today.** Read about some of the voting laws and practices that reduce voter turnout for communities of color, low income, and the elderly today. Then think about what a state could do instead to increase voter turnout.

Law or Practice?	What is this?	Impacts and Effects	What else could a state do?
Strict Voter ID laws	These laws require voters to show certain types of ID when they vote.	IDs may be costly or hard for some people to get.	
Physical Address	These laws require voters to have a physical address.	American Indians living on reservations often have a P.O. Box address instead of a physical address.	
Polling Place Closures	Closing a polling location and requiring voters to vote somewhere new.	For those who lack transportation, closing a polling place near them may make it harder to vote.	
Reduced Voting Hours	Reducing the hours that polling places are open or that early voting occurs.  *Voters should know that as long as they are in line when the polls close, they still have the right to vote!	For those who work on Election Day, reduced voting hours may make it harder to find a time to vote.	