

Name: _____

Voting Timeline



1870

The 15th Amendment gives African-American men the right to vote and prohibits state and local governments from denying that right. This amendment was still necessary even after the 14th Amendment gave African-American men the right to vote as citizens.

1876

Poll taxes and literacy tests are used in many southern states to restrict the ability of African-Americans to register and vote.

The Supreme Court rules that Native Americans are not citizens and because of this they do not have the right to vote.

1964

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs a major civil rights law that guarantees the right to register to vote without reprisal. This law is called the Civil Rights Act. The 24th Amendment makes the poll tax unconstitutional.

1971

The 26th Amendment lowers the voting age to 18.

1798

The Electoral College elects George Washington president. Only 6 percent of the entire population can vote in the election.

1868

Lawmakers enact the 14th Amendment granting citizenship to African-Americans, and African-American men are now allowed to vote. However, state officials still try to deny them this right and prevent them from voting.

1920

The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote.

1940

Congress grants citizenship to Native Americans.

1965

Martin Luther King, Jr., leads 25,000 people on a 54-mile march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, to dramatize the need for more voting rights.

The Voting Rights Act is passed. This is a landmark piece of legislation, which echoes and underscores the 15th Amendment. This law protects all voting rights, including the rights of Native Americans to vote. It states: "No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure, shall be imposed or applied by any state or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color."