

The Right to Vote

We the People

Part I

You will need a copy of the U.S. Constitution as your primary source material.

When it comes to voting, the Constitution has been changed many times over the years. The definition of an eligible voter is a good example of this, having been the focus of many amendments. The time line on the right represents the dates of Constitutional amendments that changed the rules for voting. Conduct research using secondary source materials to complete the time line with the title of each amendment and a short explanation of the change it made. Use online or library materials, and cite the source of this material at the end of each answer.

1870

1913

1920

Part II

Now use a copy of the Constitution and the time line you've completed to answer the following questions. Check your answers against both of your sources.

1. Which amendment allowed residents of the District of Columbia to vote for the president and vice president?
2. How many years after the Constitution was ratified did women receive the right to vote?
3. In what year was the voting age lowered to 18? Before this amendment, at what age could people vote?
4. How long after slavery was abolished were African-Americans granted the right to vote?
5. Before 1913, how were U.S. senators selected?

1961

1964

1971