

Voting Rights in America

Students will learn the qualifications for voter eligibility and understand the history of voting in the United States.

(30 - 45 minutes)

Resources

Sample voting qualifications T-chart:

1776	Today
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Literate2. Own land3. Male4. Age 21 or older5. White6. Rich	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. U.S. citizen2. Age 18 or older

Elementary Lesson

1. Make a T-chart comparing voting qualifications in 1776 and now.
2. Ask students to discuss how voting qualifications have changed over time.
3. Using the T-chart, ask students to independently write a response to the question: how have voting rights changed over time?



Primary Sources

Declaration of Independence

U.S. Constitution:

- Article 1, Section 4
- Amendments 14, 15, 19, 24, and 26

to vote

to express an opinion or preference

disenfranchise

to deny someone the right to vote (v.)

suffrage

the right to vote in public elections

poll tax

a tax some counties required citizens to pay before they could vote

amendment

an addition or change to a law