

EXPANDING VOTING RIGHTS



LESSON SUMMARY

BENCHMARK
SS.5.CG.2.3 Analyze how the U.S. Constitution expanded civic participation over time.
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students will describe how the U.S. Constitution expanded voting rights through amendments and legislation including, but not limited to, the 15th, 19th, 24th and 26th Amendments, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
CORRELATED FLORIDA STANDARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ELA.5.R.2.1: <i>Explain how text structures and/or features contribute to the overall meaning of texts.</i>ELA.5.R.2.2: <i>Explain how relevant details support the central idea(s), implied or explicit.</i>ELA.5.R.2.4: <i>Track the development of an argument, identifying the specific claim(s), evidence, and reasoning.</i>ELA.5.R.3.2: <i>Summarize a text to enhance comprehension.</i>ELA.5.C.2.1: <i>Present information orally, in a logical sequence, using nonverbal cues, appropriate volume, clear pronunciation, and appropriate pacing.</i>
ESSENTIAL QUESTION
How have voting rights expanded over time?
VOCABULARY
amendments, rights, poll tax, literacy test
MATERIALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Voting Rights cardsVoting Rights Over Time slidesExpanding Voting Rights Timeline

ACTIVITY SEQUENCE

INTRODUCTION/HOOK

1. Explain to students that today you're going to be participating in a role playing game to get a better understanding of voting rights over time. We'll be taking ourselves back to colonial times and working our way toward modern day.
2. Hand out the "Voting Rights" cards (one per student) and the "Expanding Voting Rights Timeline."

Teacher Note: *Teacher will need to ensure all the "Voting Rights" cards are printed/cut/prepped before beginning the activity. There are 15 total cards.*

3. Lead students to the understanding that throughout U.S. history, not everyone has had the right to vote. Over the years, more and more people have been granted the right to vote through amendments (changes) to the Constitution and laws passed by Congress. Today we're going to take a closer look at how these amendments and laws helped allow more people to participate in our nation's elections.

ACTIVITY

4. Project the "Voting Rights Over Time" slides.
5. Begin working through the slides/cards. Follow the directions on the slides and allow students to share out the descriptions written on their cards for their specific groups. As you progress to each new group, previous groups should remain standing.
6. Lead students through the discussion points written in the Speaker Notes portion of the slides to understand the impact of each amendment/law.

Teacher Note: *Students will see a progression from how limited voting rights were in the 1700s, to how expansive and inclusive they are now through the work of several constitutional amendments and pieces of legislation.*

7. While you work through each amendment/law, have the students also fill in information about each amendment/law (date and one sentence summary) on their timelines.

CLOSURE/FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

8. To finish the lesson, you can pose the following scenarios to ensure students understand more about the expansion of voting rights. They will use their voting rights cards from earlier.
 - a. Stand up if you were able to vote before 1920.
 - b. Stand up if you would be able to vote in 2023.
 - c. Stand up if you were able to vote before 1963.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[FJCC/LFI Website](#)

ANSWER KEYS

"Expanding Voting Rights Timeline" sample response
SOURCES
n/a