



Key Points:

- The 15th Amendment provided that the right to vote would not be denied or abridged on the basis of “race, color or previous condition of servitude”.
- Although the 15th Amendment guaranteed the right to vote for African Americans, southern officials found various means to take that right away. One way was requiring that citizens pass a literacy test in order to register to vote.
- A literacy test required citizens to prove that they were able to read and write before being registered to vote; literacy tests were used primarily to deny African Americans and other minority groups the right to vote.