

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK

SS.5.CG.2.3 *Analyze how the U.S. Constitution expanded civic participation over time.*

BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS

- 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 Voting Rights Act of 1965.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN

4th Grade

SS.4.CG.2.2 Explain the importance of voting, public service, and volunteerism to the state and nation.

- Students will explain how voting, public service, and volunteerism contribute to the preservation of a republic.
- Students will discuss different types of public service and volunteerism.

WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING

Middle School
Civics

- [SS.7.CG.2.3](#)
- [SS.7.CG.3.6](#)

TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any point during the school year.
 - It is important to note if it is an election year, as that may impact the timing in which the teacher chooses to address this benchmark.
- This benchmark may be taught with SS.5.CG.2.4, which addresses the importance of civic responsibilities such as voting.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

→ What to know:

- ◆ Describe can mean: write, discuss, explain, or elaborate
- ◆ Civic participation refers to ways citizens may participate in political and governmental processes
- ◆ Voting is a both a right and a civic responsibility
- ◆ To be eligible to vote in local, state, and federal elections, one must meet eligibility criteria: citizenship requirements, residency requirements, age requirements, and registration requirements

- ◆ The U.S. Constitution grants states the power to set most voting requirements
- Main concepts to teach:
 - ◆ Civic participation has been expanded over time through the U.S. Constitution
 - ◆ Specific amendments and legislation that have expanded voting rights
- Examples:
 - ◆ At the start of the U.S. Constitution (1787) most states allowed only white men age 21 and older who owned land to vote
 - ◆ 1828 was the first presidential election where a majority of states had dropped the property requirement for voting
 - ◆ 15th Amendment (1870)
 - Guaranteed African-American men the right to vote
 - ◆ 19th Amendment (1920)
 - Guaranteed women the right to vote
 - ◆ 24th Amendment (1964)
 - Abolished charging poll taxes or any other taxes for voting
 - ◆ 26th Amendment (1971)
 - Guaranteed every citizen over the age of 18 the right to vote
 - ◆ Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - Outlawed discriminatory voting practices directed against African-Americans
 - Outlawed the use of literacy tests as a condition of voter registration
 - Established federal oversight of election administration

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on Voting Rights and Amendments:

1. [FJCC: Content Background Information on Extension of Civil Rights & Voting Rights](#)
2. [Library of Congress: Constitution & Amendments](#)
3. [Library of Congress: Founders and the Vote](#)
4. [White House: Elections and Voting](#)
5. [History: Voting Rights Timeline](#)