



President Lyndon B. Johnson, upon signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, said, “The right to vote is the basic right without which all others are meaningless.” Yet, the right to vote, known as “suffrage,” is not purely a civil right belonging to all persons. Rather, it is a political right belonging to those who meet requirements set by law.

CREATE A VOTING RIGHTS TIMELINE

Directions: The right to vote has been expanded many times since our nation was founded. Cut out the Voting Rights Cards below and try to arrange them in the order in which they happened.

U.S. VOTING RIGHTS GAME CARDS

<p>1776 – At the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the right to vote is based on property ownership. Nearly all voters are white, male Protestants over the age of 21.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>Poll taxes, grandfather clauses and literacy tests are used in many Southern states to restrict the ability of African Americans to register and vote.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>American Indians are made citizens by an act of Congress.</p>	<p>C</p> <p>The Supreme Court rules that American Indians are not citizens and, thus, cannot vote.</p>
<p>D</p> <p>The 26th Amendment lowers the voting age to 18.</p>	<p>E</p> <p>Lawmakers enact the 14th Amendment granting citizenship to African Americans and permitting them to vote. However, state officials still try to deny them this right.</p>	<p>F</p> <p>George Washington is elected president by the Electoral College. Only 6 percent of the entire population is eligible to vote in the election.</p>	<p>G</p> <p>President Lyndon B. Johnson signs a major civil rights law that guarantees the right to register to vote without reprisal. The 24th Amendment makes the “poll tax” unconstitutional.</p>
<p>H</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. leads 25,000 people on a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to dramatize the need for more voting rights.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>The 19th Amendment lets women vote.</p>	<p>J</p> <p>The 15th Amendment gives African Americans the right to vote and prohibits state and local governments from denying that right.</p>	<p>Further amendments to the Voting Rights Act require that many voting materials be printed in languages other than English.</p>

For answers see www.ohionewspapers-in-ed.org/



Learning Outcomes: Understands characteristics of democracy including the right to vote and the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, sequences information on a timeline and uses problem-solving skills to make decisions in groups.

“VOTE” ABULARY WORDS:
Electorate,
Poll tax, Register