

Teacher's Name:
Employee Number:
School:

Social Studies Lesson Plan
Analyze how the Constitution has expanded voting rights from our nation's early history to today

1. **Title: Voting and the Constitution**

2. **Overview - Big Ideas:**

Enduring Understandings

- Understand how the constitution has expanded voting rights
- Comprehend the impact of amendments 15, 19, 23, 24 and 26
- Identify ways the civil liberties of African Americans have been extended

Essential Questions – (What provocative questions will you use to foster inquiry, understanding and transfer of learning?)

- Who was able to vote at the beginning of our country's history?
- What was a poll tax and how did it affect voting rights?
- How did amendment XIX extend voting rights?
- How did amendment XV extend the voting rights?
- How did amendment XXIII and XXIV extend voting rights?
- What role did amendment XVI play in extending voting rights?

3. **Lesson Objectives:**

Standards - Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Social Studies

NGSSS-SS Benchmarks

- Analyze how the Constitution has expanded voting rights from our nation's early history to today.

Tested Seventh Grade NGSSS-SS Benchmarks Relevant to this Lesson

- SS.7.C.3.7 Analyze the impact of the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments on participation of minority groups in the American political process.
- SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
- SS.7.C.3.9 Illustrate the law making process at the local, state, and federal levels.

4. **Key Vocabulary:**

abridged, amendment, civic responsibility, congress, election, electors, enforce, legislation, liberties, minority groups, modified, poll taxes, populous, primary election, race, servitude, suffrage, voting privileges, voting rights,

5. **Evidence of Student Understanding (Assessment) in this Lesson:**

What key knowledge and skills will students acquire as a result of this lesson?

After students complete this lesson, an understanding of how amendments to the Constitution extended liberties to all Americans will be evident. Students will also identify how the seventeenth, nineteenth, twenty-third, twenty-fourth, and the twenty-sixth amendments extended the voting rights in the United States.

What will students be able to do as a result of such knowledge and skills?

As a result of acquiring said knowledge and skills, students will be able to complete the attached tables associated with this lesson which display particular amendments and the changes they brought to voting rights. In addition, the students will be able to identify, in writing, which amendment made most impact on the expansion of voting rights.

Additionally, students will be able to correctly answer the questions that are part of the formal assessment included in this lesson.

Both **formative and summative assessments** are included

6. **Materials Needed:**

- Attachment A: Reading associated with lesson
- Attachment B: Graphic Organizer-Voting Rights Protected
- Attachment C: Cause & Effect-Resulting Amendment
- Attachment D: Writing-Most impact on voting of an amendment
- Attachment E: Flow Chart-Affect of Poll Tax removal
- Attachment F: Post Lesson Quiz

7. Steps to Deliver the Lesson:

A detailed, step by step description of how to deliver the lesson and achieve the lesson plan objectives.

- a. Lesson Opening: Review with the students the Bill of Rights. Have students brainstorm ways in which these amendments protect our civil liberties. Then, brainstorm ways in which some civil liberties were taken away from minority groups in the history of the United States.
- b. Reading: Use effective reading strategies appropriate for your class to read attachment A, "Voting and the Constitution" with students. Discuss and check for understanding as students read through passage.
- c. Discuss vocabulary associated with lesson
- d. Have students work individually or as a group to complete attachment B the graphic organizer on the voting rights protected by each amendment, attachment C on the causes and effects that resulted in each amendment, attachment D the writing on which amendment had most impact on voting in the United States and attachment E the flow chart on the effect of the abolishment of poll taxes on elections.
- e. Have students take the post-quiz associated with the lesson (attachment F). Review quiz with students and check for understanding as needed. Re-teach concepts not mastered.

8. Specific Activities: (From Guided to Independent)

Activities designed to facilitate the gradual release of teacher responsibility, from teacher-led to independent

- a. After students have completed attachments B, C , D and E, have them write summaries that explain the information presented in the graphic organizer.
- b. Pair students who are struggling readers and/or English Language Learners, with another student for assistance.
- c. Circulate the room to monitor students' abilities in writing the paragraphs. Model writing with the students demonstrating difficulties.
- d. Have students share their writing with the class.

9. Differentiated Instruction Strategies:

How to accommodate a variety of student learning needs; remediation strategies as well as enrichment strategies

- a. While students are completing the graphic organizers, work individually with students who are having difficulty with reading.
- b. While students are completing the paragraph summary, work on an individual basis with students who are having difficulty.

10. Technology Integration:

Activities incorporating technology; e.g., address lesson content through online resources.

- a. Have students research in order to find out the history the preceded each amendment
- b. Have students test their knowledge of the amendments by playing the "Rags to Riches" game:
<http://www.quia.com/rr/9218.html>
- c. Concentration matching game using the amendments to the Constitution:
<http://www.quia.com/cc/73685.html>
- d. Visit Kids.gov for research/background information
http://kids.gov/k_5/k_5_government.shtml
- e. Have students visit the Congress for Kids- amendments site for games and activities on the amendments:
http://www.congressforkids.net/games/amendments/2_amendments.htm

11. Lesson Closure:

Description of methods to draw ideas together, review concepts, etc.

- a. After completing and reviewing the post-quiz, ask students the following questions to wrap up the lesson:
 - How did the Civil War Amendments extend Civil Liberties to African Americans?
 - How did amendment XIX (19) extend the voting rights?
 - How did amendment XV (15) extend the voting rights?
 - How did amendment XXVI (26) extend the voting rights?
 - What role did amendment XXIV (24) play in extending voting rights?
- b. For home learning: Have students develop a flow chart that explains how voting rights have been extended in the United States. Have them write each amendment and explain how the amendment extended the voting rights of citizens.

Attachment A: Reading **Voting and the Constitution**

Any citizen of the United States over the age of 18, who meets certain state requirements, may vote in Federal elections. This has not always been the case. When the United States first won its independence, there were many restrictions on who could vote. In some states, only white male landowners over the age of 21 could vote. Beginning in 1870, however, a series of Constitutional Amendments (15th, 19th, 23rd, 24th, and 26th) and passage of certain pieces of legislation extended voting privileges to more and more citizens.

It is everyone's civic responsibility to vote, but in order to do so you must be registered. Requirements for registration and registration deadlines vary from state to state and the District of Columbia. North Dakota is the only state that does not require voters to register.

The following amendments each expanded voting privileges to more people in the United States:

AMENDMENT XV (15)

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XIX (19)

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation

AMENDMENT XXIII (23)

Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.

Section 1.

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it

were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. (This amendment gives citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote in presidential elections. Before this amendment was passed, residents of Washington, D.C. could not vote in a presidential election because the District of Columbia is not a state)

AMENDMENT XXIV (24)

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXVI (26)

Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.

Note: Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation

From: Ben's Guide for US government for kids

Attachment B: Graphic Organizer

Voting and the Constitution

Directions: In the chart below, describe how the rights of voters have been changed by each amendment.

| Amendment | Voting rights protected |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 15 | |
| 19 | |
| 23 | |

| | |
|----|--|
| 24 | |
| 26 | |

Attachment C: Graphic Organizer

Cause and Effect

Directions: In the chart below, describe how the cause that led to the change of each constitutional amendment.

| Cause | Effect | Resulting Amendment |
|-------|--------|---------------------|
| | | 15 |
| | | 19 |
| | | 23 |

| | | |
|--|--|----|
| | | 24 |
| | | 26 |

Attachment D: Writing

Voting and the Constitution

Directions: After reading and discussing the following amendments to the constitution: 15, 19, 23, 24, and 26, respond to the following prompt.

Which of the voting rights amendments do you think had the greatest impact on the United States of America? Write to explain your answer and use details and information from the time period to support your answer.

Attachment E: Flow chart

Amendment 24

Directions: Fill in the flowchart referencing amendment twenty four.

In 1964 the twenty-fourth amendment made poll taxes illegal in national elections. Two years later, the Supreme Court ruled that poll taxes were illegal in state elections as well.

What is a poll tax?



Who did the poll tax affect and why?



How do you think poll taxes were affecting politics in the United States?



How do you think amendment twenty-four changed elections in the United States?

Attachment F

Voting and the Constitution - Post Quiz

Low Complexity Items:

1. Amendment XV states that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of which of the following?
 - a. Gender and condition of age
 - b. Economic status and other conditions
 - c. Race, color or previous condition of servitude
 - d. Age and previous economic conditions

2. In what year was the first voting change to the constitution ratified?
 - a. 1869
 - b. 1870
 - c. 1865
 - d. 1871

3. Which amendment declared that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age?
 - a. XV
 - b. XXIII
 - c. XXVI
 - d. XIX

Moderate Complexity Items (3 items):

4. According to amendment XIX the right of a citizen to vote could not be denied on account of sex. Why did congress pass this amendment in 1919?
- a. To give men the right to vote
 - b. To give African Americans the right to vote
 - c. To give women the right to vote
 - d. To give Native Americans the right to vote

5. Why was amendment XXIII necessary?

- a. The citizens of Washington DC did not have the same rights as everyone else to vote
- b. The citizens of Washington DC felt they should have more voting rights than the rest of the country
- c. The citizens of Washington DC should be the only ones voting for President and Vice President because they reside in the country's capital
- d. So that congress could vote during elections if they are not in their home town.

6. Amendment XV (15) states:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude-.

What is the meaning of the phrase "previous condition of servitude?"

- a. people who were domestic servants
- b. people who were formerly slaves
- c. people who formerly served in the military
- d. people who provided service

High Complexity Items

7. Amendment XXIV of the constitution reads:

AMENDMENT XXIV

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

What is the purpose of this amendment?

- a. To give everyone access to voting
 - b. To limit the access to voting
 - c. To allow only certain groups of people the ability to vote
 - d. To stop government workers from making money from the poll taxes
8. What effect do you think abolishing poll taxes had on the future of elections?
- a. Fewer people voted during the elections
 - b. Greater number of rich women voted
 - c. Greater number of people voted
 - d. Fewer African Americans voted

9. Amendment XV of the constitution reads:

AMENDMENT XV

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

How does this amendment and the changes it brought to voting reflect the importance of individual rights?

- a. It gave the African Americans that had been freed the right to vote
- b. It gave African Americans the right to vote only if their state allowed them to vote
- c. It gave African Americans the right to vote if they were sponsored by another person
- d. It gave African Americans the right to vote only if they had never been a slave

10. Amendment XXIV abolished all poll taxes. Why do you think that this amendment was necessary?

- a. Poll taxes were limiting the ability of rich women and Native American women to vote
- b. Poll taxes were limiting the ability of African Americans, Native Americans and some poor whites to vote
- c. Poll taxes were limiting the ability of rich men and Native Americans in the North to vote
- d. Poll taxes were limiting the ability of white men in the South to vote.

Answer Key:

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. A
10. B