

TEACHER GUIDE

SELMA

VOTING RIGHTS

Video Lessons, Teacher Guide, and Student-Led Activities

Created with the Ron Clark Academy (Atlanta, GA)

Updated 10/20/2020

I VOTED

TEACHER GUIDE

HISTORY OF VOTING RIGHTS

DEAR TEACHER,

In this lesson, the participant(s) will examine the history and the current state of the Voting Rights Act, and learn what they can do to be more involved in their communities.

OBJECTIVES:

- Describe and define the historical moments of the Voting Rights Act's development
- Synthesize primary and secondary sources around the issue of voting in America
- Evaluate the current state of the Voting Rights Act

PROCEDURES:

1. Play Part I of the video. Participants will learn about voting rights over the past 150 years.

2. Student-Led Activity. Participants may complete the student activity either in groups or as a whole class. Additional links are provided for primary and secondary sources that help answer the questions. At the end of 20 minutes, click "PLAY" for the answers. All participants should write the answers to all questions. Once all answers have been identified, lead the participants in the following discussion questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. How have voting rights evolved over the last 150 years?**
- 2. What is the current state of voting rights in America?**
- 3. Are there any current threats to voting in your community? State? Region?**
- 4. How can you become involved?**

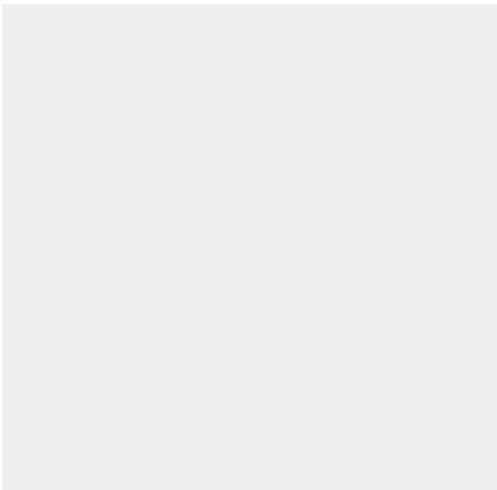
STUDENT ACTIVITY

NAME _____

1

TIMELINE OF VOTING RIGHTS

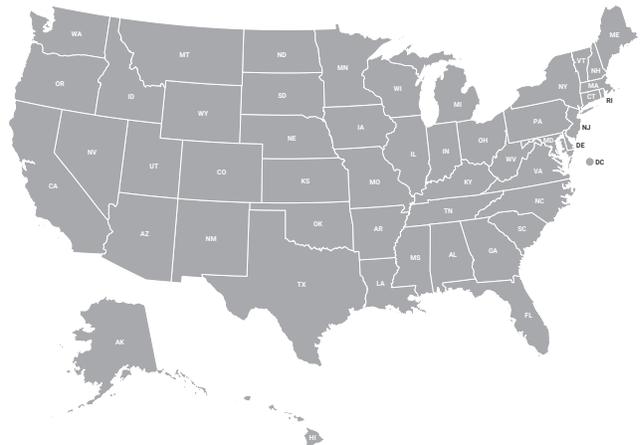
Fill in the blanks of the [timeline](#) delineating the development of voting rights in the US.

1865		
1866		
1869		
1920		
1965		
1970		
1975		
1982		
2006		
2013		

VOTER RESTRICTIONS

Identify and label at least [10 states](#) that are historically and currently enacting unfair voting legislation. What do you notice about the regions? Which other states should be added to this list?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



ANSWER KEY

1

TIMELINE OF VOTING RIGHTS

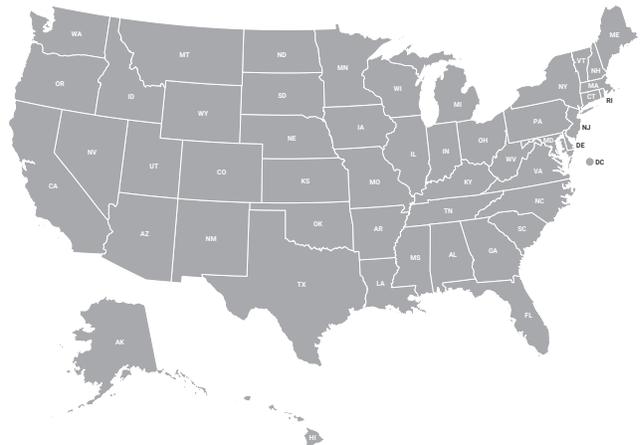
Fill in the blanks of the [timeline](#) delineating the development of voting rights in the US.

1865	EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION	BLACK CODES JIM CROW (1865-1965)
1866	CIVIL RIGHTS ACT SIGNED	
1869	15TH AMENDMENT	
1920	19TH AMENDMENT	
1965	SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCH	
1970	NIXON EXTENDS VRA	
1975	GERALD FORD EXTENDS VRA	
1982	REGAN EXTENDS VRA	
2006	BUSH EXTENDS SECTION 5	
2013	SHELBY VS. HOLDER SECTION 5 REMOVED	

VOTER RESTRICTIONS

Identify and label at least [10 states](#) that are historically and currently enacting unfair voting legislation. What do you notice about the regions? Which other states should be added to this list?

1. NORTH DAKOTA
2. KANSAS
3. TEXAS
4. IOWA
5. MISSOURI
6. ARKANSAS
7. WISCONSIN
8. TENNESSEE
9. MISSISSIPPI
10. ALABAMA
11. WEST VIRGINIA
12. VIRGINIA
13. SOUTH CAROLINA
14. NEW HAMPSHIRE
15. RHODE ISLAND



STUDENT ACTIVITY

NAME _____

2

Explain how preclearance Section 5 of the VRA works using [Attorney General Eric Holder's speech](#) (15 minutes).
Explain why Section 5 is called a keystone of the VRA.

3

Name the Supreme Court Justice(s) who [agree](#) with the original wording of the VRA. Name the Supreme Court Justice(s) who [disagree](#).
Why? Cite their reasoning.

4

Provide [5 examples](#) of election fraud laws since 2003.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Name the types of citizens whose rights are at risk in your community.

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4. How can you become involved?

I VOTED



LED BY
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The Ron Clark Academy (RCA) is a highly-acclaimed, nonprofit middle school located in Southeast Atlanta. The Academy has received both national and international recognition for its success for creating a loving, dynamic learning environment that promotes academic excellence and fosters leadership.

THE
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