

# All Part of the Process

## Participation of Minority Groups in the Political Process

**Benchmark:** 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.

### Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will recognize the rights outlined in these amendments.
- Students will evaluate the impact these amendments have had on various social movements.
- Students will analyze historical scenarios to examine how these amendments have affected participation in the political processes.
- Students will recognize how the amendments were developed to address previous civil rights violations.

**Time:** One-two class periods

### Materials:

- PowerPoint
- Projector
- Speakers
- Handout A: Voter Literacy Test
- Handout B: Amendments
- Handout C: All Part of the Process – Current Social Movements
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Laptop access for each student (or pair of students)

### Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.
- Cut Handout B into strips for distribution.

### Lesson Overview

**Warm Up** Distribute Handout A: Voter Literacy Test. Have students work to complete the handout individually.

**Using the “Part of the Process” PowerPoint**, discuss how citizens can participate in the political process and highlight roadblocks in the past that restricted certain minority groups from participation (i.e. tests like the students just attempted, requiring people to pay to vote, etc.).

**Divide the class into 6 groups** and provide each group with a copy of one of the amendments provided (Handout B), chart paper, and markers. Students should read and illustrate their assigned amendment and include:

- The year the amendment was ratified
- A summary of the amendment in their own words

Once completed, students should work together to place the amendments on the wall in chronological order. Have one representative from each group present their poster.

**Continue with the PowerPoint presentation** which will outline each amendment as well as federal legislation (acts) that have impacted minority participation in the political process. This will include the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The presentation will also highlight movements for social change including the Women's Rights movement, the Civil Rights movement, and efforts to change to voting age to 18.

**Divide students into pairs.** Ask students if they can identify any social movements in the last year and what issues were brought to the attention of the public as a result of the movement. Discuss briefly. How has social media impacted social movements today? Working in pairs, students should research current events to identify social movements (movements for social change) and the ways individuals were directly engaged in the movement. How did the participants exercise their rights in these movements (voting, petitioning the government, peaceful assemblies, etc.)? Some examples of current social movements would include the Occupy movement, #BlackLivesMatter, equal pay for women in the workplace, environmental causes, fair wages, and more. Students should complete Handout C and highlight the social movement they researched by providing the name of the movement, an explanation of the mission/purpose, and the types of political participation the group engages in. Students do not need to identify with the movement, but explore the purpose behind various social movements and how they exercise their rights.

**Check for Understanding** The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask student to explain how they made their decision.

## Voter Literacy Test

### From the 1965 Alabama Literacy Test

1. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Public Education  
\_\_\_\_\_ Employment  
\_\_\_\_\_ Trial by Jury  
\_\_\_\_\_ Voting
2. If a person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If a vacancy occurs in the U.S. Senate, the state must hold an election, but meanwhile the place may be filled by a temporary appointment made by \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A U.S. senator is elected for a term of \_\_\_\_\_ years.
5. Appropriation of money for the armed services can be only for a period limited to \_\_\_\_\_ years.
6. The Constitution protects an individual against punishments which are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. If no candidate for President receives a majority of the electoral vote, who decides who will become President?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Congress passes laws regulating cases which are included in those over which the U.S. Supreme Court has \_\_\_\_\_ jurisdiction.
9. Name two things which the states are forbidden to do by the U.S. Constitution.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How many votes must a person receive in order to become President if the election is decided by the U.S. House of Representatives? \_\_\_\_\_

From the 1964 Louisiana Literacy Test

Spell backwards, forwards.

Print the word "vote" upside down but in correct order.

Print a word that looks the same whether it is printed forwards or backwards.

Write right from the left to the right as you see it spelled here.

Write every other word in the first line and print every third word in the same line, but capitalize the fifth word that you write.

**From the 1965 Alabama Literacy Test**

**Potential voters were required to take Alabama’s 68 question literacy test in order to be eligible to vote. If test-takers missed more than seven questions, they would be ineligible to vote.**

1. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?

\_\_\_\_ Public Education

\_\_\_\_ Employment

**X Trial by Jury**

\_\_\_\_ Voting

2. If a person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has.

**Habeus corpus (immediate presentation of charges); lawyer, speedy trial, protection from self-incrimination, jury trial, protection from double jeopardy, etc.; Amendments V & VI**

3. If a vacancy occurs in the U.S. Senate, the state must hold an election, but meanwhile the place may be filled by a temporary appointment made by **the governor**.

**U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 3**

4. A U.S. senator is elected for a term of **6 (six)** years.

**U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 3**

5. Appropriation of money for the armed services can be only for a period limited to **2 (two)** years.

**U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8 – “To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years”**

6. The Constitution protects an individual against punishments which are **cruel** and **unusual**.

**Amendment 8 of the U.S. Constitution**

7. If no candidate for President receives a majority of the electoral vote, who decides who will become President?  
**House of Representatives (Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution; “...if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse \* by Ballot one of them for President.”**

8. Congress passes laws regulating cases which are included in those over which the U.S. Supreme Court has **co-appellate** jurisdiction.

9. Name two things which the states are forbidden to do by the U.S. Constitution.

**Coin money; make treaties with foreign nations; keep troops in time of peace, engage in war (Article I, Section 10)**

10. How many votes must a person receive in order to become President if the election is decided by the U.S. House of Representatives? **26 (twenty-six); majority of the states**

**Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution – “But in chusing\* the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each state having one Vote”**

\*Text taken directly from the U.S. Constitution

From the 1964 Louisiana Literacy Test

**\*Answers were left to the discretion of the test administrator.**

Spell backwards, forwards.

Print the word "vote" upside down but in correct order.

Print a word that looks the same whether it is printed forwards or backwards.

Write right from the left to the right as you see it spelled here.

Write every other word in the first line and print every third word in the same line, but capitalize the fifth word that you write.

### **The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment - United States Constitution**

*Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.*

The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified by the states on December 6, 1865.

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### **The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment - United States Constitution**

*All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.*

Ratified on July 9, 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship to “all persons born or naturalized in the United States,” which included former slaves recently freed.

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### **The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment - United States Constitution**

*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.*

The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified on February 3, 1870.

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### **The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment - United States Constitution**

*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.*

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920.

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### **The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment - United States Constitution**

*The right of citizens of the United States to vote...shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.*

The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified on January 23, 1964.

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### **The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment - United States Constitution**

*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.*

The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment was added to the Constitution on July 1, 1971.

## All Part of the Process

### Current Social Movements

Directions: Research current social movements in the news and complete the chart below. Be sure to cite any sources you use for information.

Name of the social movement	
Purpose/mission of the movement	
What group(s) of people are impacted by this social movement?	
How is this group participating in the political process? What rights are they exercising to advance their mission?	
Sources	