

Unit 4: Lesson 27: How Has the Right to Vote Expanded Since the Adoption of the Constitution?

Overview: This lesson examines how the right to _____ has been extended during the last 200 years.

What is the difference between civil and political rights?

Civil rights refer to those rights that we enjoy as private individuals and that protect us from the unwarranted interference of _____. Political rights refer to those rights that allow us to influence the actions of our government and to participate in government ourselves.

Those First Amendment rights that protect _____ in our private lives also give us the power to influence our government; therefore, the First Amendment freedoms are both _____ and _____ rights.

How has the right to vote become more inclusive in terms of economic status, gender and age?

The Constitution does not address who had the right to vote, it only states those _____ to vote for a state's _____ house, therefore, as a result many early battles about voting rights took place at the _____ level.

Extending the right to vote to all white men:

The author Thomas _____ (Common Sense) clearly believed that linking the right to vote with the ownership of _____ made no sense. Eliminating _____ requirements to vote began in the early 1800's (see pg. 141).

Extending the right to vote to African American males:

Although, in 1870 the ratification of the ____th Amendment to guaranteed the right to vote to African American _____, states in the South passed laws that made it almost impossible for these new voters to exercise that right. The ratification of the ____th Amendment prohibited the use of _____ taxes in _____ elections.

The Supreme Court ruled in Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections (1966)

http://www.oyez.org/cases/19601969/1965/1965_48 that the use of poll taxes in state elections was a violation of the ____th Amendment's _____ clause.

Extending the right to vote to women:

The struggle to extend voting rights to women was made especially difficult by _____ views held by many people about the proper role of women. The Supreme Court ruled in _____ v. Happersett (1875) that being a _____ does not automatically give a person the right to vote. It was not unconstitutional for states to deny the vote to women. In 1920 the ____th Amendment extended the right to vote to women.

Extending the right to vote to Native Americans:

Originally Native Americans were not considered citizens of the U.S. under the Constitution (Article I. "Indians not _____" were not counted for population for determining representation in the House of Reps. Following the _____ Act of 1924 all Native Americans were made U.S. citizens. Native Americans today enjoy the _____ citizenship of the U.S. and their individual tribe.

Extending the right to vote to 18 year olds:

Ratified in July, 1975 the _____th Amendment made it the law of the land that the right of citizens of the U.S., who are 18 years of age or older shall not be denied by the U.S. or by any State on account of age.

Is the United States more or less democratic today?

From a fraction of the country's population in 1789, "We the People" has grown to include nearly every American of voting age. As the nation's democratic opportunities have expanded, though, the willingness of American citizens to participate has _____. This decrease in voter turnout has resulted in an increased influence of _____ voters focusing on single issues or a single topic/right/concern).

Why has voter turnout decreased?? Why don't Americans vote??

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.