

VOTING “CHAIN OF EVENTS” TIMELINE CARDS

Directions: Cut apart the cards. Tape a piece of string or yarn to the timeline link. Select students to attach each event card (vertically) under the correct decade.

<p>1699 The Virginia legislature formally excludes women from voting.</p>	
<p>1723 The Virginia Legislature, in response to growing fears of a slave insurrection, passes a law explicitly prohibiting free blacks, mulattos, and Indians from voting.</p>	<p>1776 Abigail Adams writes to her husband, John, who is attending the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. She asks that he and the other men working on the Declaration of Independence “remember the ladies.” John responds with humor. The Declaration’s wording specifies that “all men are created equal.”</p>
<p>1787 The U.S. Constitution is adopted. In Article II, the founding fathers, or “framers,” describe the process—including the creation of the Electoral College—the country will use to elect its president and vice-president.</p>	<p>1848 The first women’s rights convention in the United States is held in Seneca Falls, New York. Many participants sign a “Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions” that outlines the main issues and goals for the emerging women’s movement. Thereafter, women’s rights meetings are held on a regular basis.</p>
<p>1850 A group of anti-immigrants forms a new political party, the Know-Nothings. As part of their platform, they support a literacy test, which requires an individual who wishes to vote to prove that he can read and write English. Since few immigrants and blacks (both free and enslaved) are literate, literacy tests prevent members of these groups from voting.</p>	<p>1866 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony form the American Equal Rights Association, an organization for white and black women and men dedicated to the goal of universal suffrage.</p>

<p>1868 The Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, extending to all citizens the protections of the Constitution. This amendment is the first to define “citizens” and “voters” as male.</p>	<p>1870 The Fifteenth Amendment is ratified, stating, “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.”</p>
<p>1876 The highest percentage of voter turnout in American History is recorded at 83%.</p>	<p>1920 The Nineteenth Amendment is ratified, giving women the right to vote.</p>
<p>1964 Even though blacks had been granted right to vote in 1870, Jim Crow laws kept most southern blacks from voting through the early twentieth century. With the ratification of the Twenty-Fourth Amendment, states are prohibited from using poll taxes to keep minorities from voting.</p>	<p>1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act. This federal law reiterated the rights granted under the Fifteenth Amendment, but went further by protecting blacks, Native Americans, and other minorities from any other state-supported obstacles, such as literacy tests and complicated ballot boxes, that could keep them from voting.</p>
<p>1971 The Twenty-Sixth Amendment is ratified, lowering the minimum voting age from 21 to 18. This minimum age applies to all federal, state, and local elections.</p>	<p>1993 The National Voter Registration Act regulates purges of voter rolls and increases levels of voter participation, especially among the young and the poor, by allowing people to vote by mail and in government offices such as departments of motor vehicles.</p>