

Voting Rights Act History Quiz

1. Who was allowed to vote when the Constitution of the United States was first adopted?
 - a. All white people.
 - b. Only white men who owned property.
 - c. C. Only white, Christian men who owned property.
 - d. It varied depending on what state you lived in.
2. During the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877), which of the following events did NOT occur in the South?
 - a. Blacks elected many representatives to state legislatures throughout the South.
 - b. Fourteen black representatives and two black senators served in the U.S. Congress.
 - c. The integrated Southern state legislatures mandated the establishment of compulsory universal public education for the first time in the South.
 - d. The federal government provided each male, freed from slavery, with forty acres and a mule.
 - e. All of the above.
3. During most of the 20th century, African Americans were prevented from voting by:
 - a. Intimidation, economic retaliation, and violence.
 - b. "Poll taxes" that many poor people could not afford
 - c. Legal devices like the "grandfather clause."
 - d. Literacy tests.
 - e. All of the above.
4. Which of the following happened to Fannie Lou Hamer after she took the voter registration test in Mississippi in 1962?
 - a. She lost her job.
 - b. She was evicted from her home.
 - c. She was shot at.
 - d. She was beaten,
 - e. All of the above.
5. Which of the following individuals were murdered for pursuing their constitutional right to vote?
 - a. Herbert Lee
 - b. Rev. George W. Lee
 - c. Lamar Smith
 - d. Jimmie Lee Jackson
 - e. All of the above.

6. What role did the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) most consistently play with regards to the Civil Rights Movement, including the struggle for voting rights?

- a. They protected African Americans who pursued their constitutional right to vote, attend school, use public transportation, pray, and more.
- b. They collected information, spied on civil rights leaders (including Martin Luther King, Jr.), and spread misinformation.
- c. They collected information on the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party to prevent attacks on Civil Rights Movement activists.
- d. None at all.

7. The primary element enabling progress in full voting rights was:

- a. Grassroots activism and organizing.
- b. National civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. or Roy Wilkins of the NAACP.
- c. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.
- d. The federal government.

8. From the list below, the most commonly used strategy to organize for voting rights for African Americans in the south was:

- a. Sit-Ins
- b. Door-to-Door Canvassing
- c. Mass Demonstrations
- d. Boycotts

9. Which of the following women were central to the struggle to win voting rights for African-Americans?

- a. Amelia Boynton
- b. Marie Foster
- c. Colia Liddell Lafayette
- d. Prathia Hall
- e. Diane Nash
- f. All of the above

10. Which of the following groups has done the most to champion the concept of “one person, one vote,” regardless of race, class, or literacy.

- a. The “Founding Fathers”
- b. The Suffragettes
- c. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- d. The Black Panther Party

11. The Black Panther symbol was first used by the:

- a. The Oakland Civil Rights Movement
- b. NAACP
- c. Lowndes County Freedom Party in Alabama
- d. Malcolm X

12. How many people are currently legally denied the right to vote due to having been incarcerated?

- a. 1.1 Million
- b. 3.1 Million
- c. 6.1 Million
- d. 9.1 Million

13. Compared to other countries, how does the U.S. rank in terms of voter participation relative to the voting age population?

- a. Top fifth
- b. Second fifth
- c. Third fifth
- d. Fourth fifth
- e. Bottom fifth

14. What are some of the measures used today to discourage voting or politically disadvantage some populations?

- a. Voter ID laws
- b. Rolling back early voting laws
- c. Gerrymandering
- d. Denying the right to vote to the incarcerated or formerly incarcerated
- e. All of the above

15. In addition to African Americans, what other groups were fighting for equal rights and/or self-determination in the 1960s and 1970s?

- a. Chicano/Mexican Americans
- b. Native Americans
- c. Asian Americans
- d. Gays/lesbians
- e. All of the above