



Guaranteeing Other Rights

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

Other amendments to the Constitution expanded the civil rights of Americans.

Reading Focus

1. How did the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments extend civil rights?
2. Which amendments extended Americans' voting rights?

Key Terms

civil rights, p. 118
suffrage, p. 119
poll tax, p. 122

hmhsocialstudies.com
TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the amendments that extended civil rights and voting rights to Americans.



This Reconstruction-era painting shows African Americans voting after the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment.

CIVICS IN PRACTICE

The right to vote is one of the greatest privileges you have as a U.S. citizen. However, when the United States held its first presidential election in 1789, the only Americans who could vote were white, male property-owning citizens. As the nation grew, people's ideas about fairness changed. Over time, the Constitution has been changed to extend the right to vote to almost everyone 18 years old and older. The strength of the Constitution is that it can be changed when society's attitudes change.

Amendments Extend Civil Rights

Americans have certain rights simply by being members of society. Rights guaranteed to all U.S. citizens are called **civil rights**. The U.S. Constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights, is the foundation for civil rights in this country.

In the first decades of the country's history, the job of guarding people's civil rights was left largely to the individual states. It took the Civil War to trigger the addition of a series of new amendments to the Constitution that would extend civil rights in the United States.

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.

PRIMARY SOURCE

HISTORIC DOCUMENT

The Fifth and the Fourteenth Amendments

In 1833 the Supreme Court ruled that the Bill of Rights applied to the federal government but not to state governments. As a result, many states denied citizenship and basic rights to African Americans. Following the Civil War, the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified, defining citizenship and preventing states from interfering in the rights of U.S. citizens.

"No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

"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 . . ."

The Fifth Amendment calls for due process for all citizens.

The Fourteenth Amendment prevents states from denying basic civil rights granted in the Bill of Rights.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

How did the Fourteenth Amendment extend civil rights to African Americans?

Thirteenth Amendment

In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The order banned slavery in the areas controlled by the Confederate army. Yet, while it marked a great step in American history, the Emancipation Proclamation did not free all the slaves. For example, in the state of Delaware slavery remained legal because Delaware had not joined the Confederacy. The Thirteenth Amendment, ratified in 1865, outlawed slavery in all states and in all lands governed by the United States.

Amendment guarantees every citizen within a state equal protection under the laws.



Summarizing Why did Congress pass the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments?

Amendments Extend Voting Rights

Voting is one of the most basic principles of citizenship. However, in the British colonies, only free, white men who owned property could vote. Some states' constitutions expanded the right to vote to include any white man who paid taxes. However, in every state, the right to hold public office was limited. Only landowners could hold office.

Originally, the Constitution mentioned nothing about voting rights. As a result, many state and local laws prevented women, African Americans, poor people, and other groups from voting. Between 1870 and 1971, a series of six constitutional amendments extended suffrage, or the right to vote, to all U.S. citizens.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

principles: a basic belief, rule, or law

Fourteenth Amendment

Another key amendment is the Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868. First, it granted full citizenship to African Americans. Second, it declared that no state could take away a citizen's "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." That clause echoes the Fifth Amendment in the Bill of Rights, which prohibits such actions by the federal government. Finally, the Fourteenth

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.



FOCUS ON Hiram Revels (1822-1901)

In 1870 Hiram Revels became the first African American member of the U.S. Congress. Revels was born in 1822 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. His heritage was a mixture of African and Croatan Indian. When his brother died, Revels

became manager of the family barbershop.

Eventually, Revels left home to pursue an education. He became a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He preached in many states, settling in Baltimore, Maryland. There he became the principal of a school for African Americans. When the Civil War began in 1861, Revels supported the Union by organizing regiments of troops from Maryland and Missouri. He became a chaplain and the provost marshal of Vicksburg, a strategically important town in Mississippi.

After the war, Revels settled in Mississippi. There he continued to preach and earn the respect of local citizens, who eventually elected him to the state senate. In 1860 he filled the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Jefferson Davis, who had left a decade earlier to become president of the Confederacy. Following his term in office, Revels returned to public work in Mississippi.

Draw Conclusions How did the life of Hiram Revels reflect the changes brought by civil rights laws?

Fifteenth Amendment

The Fifteenth Amendment, ratified in 1870, stated that no one could be denied suffrage because of race or color. It was a step in the right direction. However, women still could not vote. The amendment applied only to African American men.

Despite the Fifteenth Amendment, many former Confederate states passed laws to keep African Americans from voting. Some people who dared to challenge these laws suffered violence. It was not until the 1960s, after decades of divisive battles, that the U.S. Congress finally passed civil rights laws to guarantee voting rights for African Americans.

Seventeenth Amendment

Under Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, citizens of each state did not elect their senators. Instead, each state's legislature elected that state's senators. This was the case until 1913 when the country adopted the Seventeenth Amendment, which called for the direct election of senators. Eligible voters of each state could now choose their senators directly. This amendment strengthened the principle of direct representation. It made senators answerable to the voters and not to other politicians.

Nineteenth Amendment

Less than a century ago, many Americans, both men and women, believed that letting women vote would be dangerous. Some people argued that women were not wise enough to choose a candidate or smart enough to understand the issues. It took a long, bitter battle to challenge these opinions. Courageous women such as Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton led the women's suffrage movement that began in the mid-1800s.

Reconstruction Amendments

QUICK
FACTS

1865

13th Amendment

Banned slavery throughout the United States

1868

14th Amendment

Granted citizenship to all people born in the United States (except for Native Americans)

1870

15th Amendment

Gave African American men the right to vote

FOCUS ON

Eight years after women won the right to vote, Floridians elected Miami's Ruth Bryan Owen to Congress. She was the first congresswoman to represent a southern state.

Wyoming became the first state to give women the right to vote when it entered the Union in 1890. Gradually, other states passed women's suffrage laws. The battle for a national suffrage law finally succeeded in 1920 with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave all women the right to vote.

Twenty-third Amendment

Ratified in 1961, the Twenty-third Amendment gave citizens living in the District of Columbia—the district of the nation's capital—the right to vote for president and vice president. Residents there had not been able to vote in national elections since the late 1700s.

Twenty-fourth Amendment

Some states tried to keep some African Americans from voting by requiring citizens to pay a poll tax. A **poll tax** is a tax a person had to pay to register to vote. Because some Americans could not afford to pay the tax, they could not vote. In 1964 the Twenty-

fourth Amendment banned the use of poll taxes as requirements for voting in national elections. In 1966 the Supreme Court also outlawed poll taxes in state elections.

Twenty-sixth Amendment

Many young men from the age of 18 fought in the Vietnam War. Many people at the time believed that if 18-year-olds are old enough to go to war, they are old enough to vote. As a result, the Twenty-sixth Amendment, ratified in 1971, lowered the voting age in all elections to 18.

As a result of the six amendments you have just read about, no one can be denied the right to vote because of their gender, the color of their skin, or their religion. No one has to own land or pay money in order to vote. Voting is one of our most important rights. Every citizen should exercise that right when he or she has the chance.

READING CHECK

Analyzing Information How has the right to vote expanded over time?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

hmhsocialstudies.com
ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- Define** Write a brief definition for the term **civil rights**.
 - Explain** What was the basic purpose of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments?
 - Elaborate** If you were asked to write an amendment protecting or guaranteeing a civil right today, what right would your amendment cover? Write your amendment in four or five sentences.
- Define** Write a brief definition for the terms **suffrage** and **poll tax**.
 - Sequencing** Beginning with the ratification of the Constitution, list in order the groups of people to whom the right to vote has been given.
 - Evaluate** Do you think that the right to vote should be extended to people ages 14 to 16? Why or why not?

Critical Thinking

- Categorizing** Copy the chart, then use your notes to fill in the information about amendments that have extended Americans' right to vote.

Extending Voting Rights		
Amendment	Year Ratified	Group Benefiting from Amendment
	1870	
Nineteenth	1920	
Twenty-third		
	1971	

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Identifying Points of View** Write a brief narrative from the perspective of a person who has just received the right to vote. Make sure that your narrative explains the importance of the right.