Woman Suffrage Movement in Mississippi

Objectives:
Students will examine primary resources and biographies to understand the difference between the National Woman Suffrage and Mississippi Suffrage Movements. Using data from multiple U.S. Census records students will gain a greater understanding of the importance of the Woman Suffrage Movement and how it led to the Civil Rights Movement and other equal rights movements in U.S. history.

This lesson is adaptable for grades 6–12.

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Materials: Rights by Laws documents and worksheets, Internet, butcher/roll paper, markers, scissors, glue sticks, historic images and documents, Woman Suffrage Timeline worksheet, Woman Suffrage Timeline Essay worksheet, By the Numbers: Voting Age Population of Mississippi handout, People and Tactics of the Woman Suffrage Movement handout and worksheet.

Procedures are adaptable for several grade levels and specific subject matter:

Activity One: Human Rights Outlined by the Laws and Society of the Early U.S.
1. Break the class into groups.
2. Distribute the Rights by Laws documents (one document per group) and worksheets (one worksheet per student).
3. Have students analyze the documents and complete the worksheets.
4. Discuss their findings as a class.

Activity Two: Timeline of Woman Suffrage Movement in the U.S.
2. Have students create a timeline on butcher paper using the dates on the Woman Suffrage Timeline worksheet.
3. Have students paste the historic images and documents onto the timeline.
4. Distribute the Woman Suffrage Timeline Essay worksheet to help the students research and write an essay on one of the events depicted on the timeline.
5. If time allows, have students dress in costume and act-out the events with short skits or speeches.
6. How does woman suffrage in the U.S. compare to that of other countries today? If time allows, have students use the Internet to research recent news events related to this topic and present their findings to the class.

Activity Three: By the Numbers: Voting Population of Mississippi
1. Distribute the By the Numbers: Mississippi’s Voting Age Population of Mississippi statistic table handout and worksheet.
2. Have the students use the information in the tables to find the percentages and create pie charts depicting the distribution of voting age Mississippians for each time period.
3. Have students use the information in Rights by Laws activity and the Woman Suffrage Timeline to interpret the information in the charts and discuss who was actually able to vote at each time and who controlled the government.
4. Discuss the findings as a class. Was everyone who was allowed to vote voting? Why or why not? Ask
students if they will vote when the reach voting age and why or why not?

Activity Four: The People and the Struggle for Woman Suffrage
1. Have the students use the People and Tactics of the Woman Suffrage Movement handout
to complete the People and Tactics of the Woman Suffrage worksheet
2. Break the students into three groups and assign them to one of the following topics:
   a. Anti-Suffrage
   b. States Rights – Suffrage amendment to State Constitutions
   c. National Woman– Suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution
3. Have each group take on the personalities and strategies of the people associated with one of the
   three movements and form an argument based on their real positions.
4. Have the three groups debate “their” positions.
5. Discuss what the students think would be the best tactic to take to obtain woman suffrage and relate
   it to an issue today. Would the same tactic used on woman suffrage still be effective today on modern
   issues such as gay marriage, equal pay, immigration reform, etc.?

Extension Activities:
1. Have students investigate the 24th and 26th Amendments to the United States Constitution (which
   respectively prohibit the payment of poll taxes and age discrimination at polls). Discuss their impact
   on the voters and voting process in America.
2. Mississippi finally ratified the 19th Amendment allowing women the right to vote on March 22, 1984.
   Discuss as a class the following questions:
   a. Why do you think it took so long to ratify this amendment?
   b. Even though Mississippi had not ratified the amendment it was still law in the country and
      state. How is that so?
   c. What other amendment to the U.S. Constitution was not ratified until the 1990s?
   d. Was suffrage a white women’s movement?
   e. What role did temperance play in connection to political activism?
3. View Eighteenth-Century Feminist. This film explores the life of Judith Sargent Murray, 1751-1820,
   sister to Winthrop Sargent, governor of the Mississippi Territory, who left a large collection of her
   published and unpublished essays, poetry, letters, and drama in a house in Natchez where she lived
   for a time. The papers, now accessioned in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History,
   reflect her erudition and her pioneering feminism--in, for example, her 1790 essay “On the Equality
   of the Sexes.” Her second husband was John Murray, credited as the founder of the American
   Universalism, but these papers show that Judith Murray in fact preceded him in print (under
   another name) with a catechism arguing the doctrines of Universalism. Produced by the Unitarian
   Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart, Indiana, 1996. 36 minutes, color, grades eight to twelve.

This film can be borrowed free of charge from the Mississippi History on Loan Collection. Go to
or contact the Outreach Programs Coordinator at 601-576-6997.
Rights by Laws Documents

Document A. *U.S. Constitution Bill of Rights*

Use the document below to answer the questions on the *Rights by Laws* handout.

Transcription of the 1789 Joint Resolution of Congress Proposing 12 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

Congress of the United States
begun and held at the City of New-York,
on Wednesday the fourth of March,
one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

*Article the first*... After the first enumeration required by the first article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred, after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred; after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons.
Article the second... No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

Article the third... Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article the fourth... A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article the fifth... No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article the sixth... The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article the ninth... In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article the tenth... Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article the eleventh... The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article the twelfth... The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

ATTEST,

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House of Representatives

John Adams, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate

John Beckley, Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Sam. A Otis Secretary of the Senate
Rights by Laws Documents

Document B. *Mississippi Married Women’s Property Act 1839*

Use the document below to answer the questions on the Rights by Laws handout.

![Image of the Mississippi Married Women’s Property Act 1839]

An Act for the protection and preservation of the rights and property of Married Women.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That any married woman may become seized or possessed of any property, real or personal, by direct bequest, devise, gift, purchase, or distribution, in her own name, and as of her own property: Provided, the same does not come from her husband after coverture.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That hereafter when any woman possessed of a property in slaves, shall marry, her property in such slaves and their natural increase shall continue to her, notwithstanding her coverture; and she shall have, hold, and possess the same, as her separate property, exempt from any liability for the debts or contracts of the husband.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That when any woman, during coverture, shall become entitled to, or possessed of, slaves by conveyance, gift, inheritance, distribution, or otherwise, such slaves, together with their natural increase, shall entitle and belong to the wife, in like manner as is above provided as to slaves which she may possess at the time of marriage.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the control and management of all such slaves, the direction of their labor, and the receipt of the productions thereof, shall remain to the husband, agreeably to the laws heretofore in force. All suits to recover the property or possession of such slaves, shall be prosecuted or defended, as the case may be, in the joint names of the husband and wife. In case of the death of the wife, such slaves descend and go to the children of her and her said husband, jointly begotten: and in case there shall be no child born to the wife during such her coverture, then such slaves shall descend and go to the husband and to his heirs.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the slaves owned by a feme covert under the provisions of this act, may be sold by the joint deed of husband and wife, executed, proved, and recorded, agreeably to the laws now in force in regard to the conveyance of the real estate of feme coverts, and not otherwise.

Approved, February 15, 1839.

*MDAH, Museum Division*
Rights by Laws Documents

Document C. 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Use the document below to answer the questions on the Rights by Laws handout.

AMENDMENT XIV

Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.

Note: Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

Section 1.
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.

Section 2.
Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3.
No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4.
The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5.
The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

*Changed by section 1 of the 26th Amendment.

Rights by Laws Documents

Document D. 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Use the document below to answer the questions on the Rights by Laws handout.

AMENDMENT XV

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869.  
Ratified February 3, 1870.

Section 1.  
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--

Section 2.  
The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Rights by Laws Documents

**Document E. 1890 Mississippi Constitution Article 12. Franchise**

Use the document below to answer the questions on the Rights by Laws handout.

**ARTICLE 12 – FRANCHISE**

**Sec. 240.** All elections by the people shall be by ballot.

**Sec. 241.** Every male inhabitant of this State, except idiots, insane persons and Indians not taxed, who is a citizen of the United States, twenty-one years old and upwards, who has resided in this State two years, and one year in the election district, or in the incorporated city or town, in which he offers to vote, and who is duly registered as provided in this article, and who has never been convicted of bribery, burglary, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy, and who has paid, on or before the first day of February of the year in which he shall offer to vote, all taxes which may have been legally required of him, and which he has had an opportunity of paying according to law, for the two preceding years, and who shall produce to the officers holding the election satisfactory evidence that he has paid said taxes, is declared to be a qualified elector; but any minister of the gospel in charge of an organized church shall be entitled to vote after six months residence in the election district, if otherwise qualified.

**Sec. 242.** The legislature shall provide by law for the registration of all persons entitled to vote at any election, and all persons offering to register shall take the following oath or affirmation: "I________________, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am twenty-one years old, (or I will be before the next election in this county) and that I will faithfully support the constitution of the United States and the State of Mississippi, and will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. So help me God." In registering voters in cities and towns, not wholly in one election district, the name of such city or town may be substituted in the oath for the election district. Any willful and corrupt false statements in said affidavit, or in answer to any material question propounded as herein authorized, shall be perjury.

**Sec. 243.** A uniform poll tax of two dollars, to be used in aid of the common schools, and for no other purpose, is hereby imposed on every male inhabitant of this State between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years, except persons who are deaf and dumb or blind, or who are maimed by loss of hand or foot; said tax to be a lien only upon taxable property. The board
of supervisors of any county may, for the purpose of aiding the common schools in that county, increase the poll tax in said county, but in no case shall the entire poll tax exceed in any one year three dollars on each poll. No criminal proceedings shall be allowed to enforce the collection of the poll tax.

Sec. 244. On and after the first day of January, A. D., 1892, every elector shall, in addition to the foregoing qualifications, be able to read any section of the constitution of this State; or he shall be able to understand the same when read to him, or give a reasonable interpretation thereof. A new registration shall be made before the next ensuing election after January the first, A.D., 1892.

Sec. 245. Electors in municipal elections shall possess all the qualifications herein prescribed, and such additional qualifications as may be provided by law.

Sec. 246. Prior to the first day of January, A.D., 1896, the elections by the people in this State shall be regulated by an ordinance of this convention.

Sec. 247. The legislature shall enact laws to secure fairness in party primary elections, conventions or other methods of naming party candidates.

Sec. 248. Suitable remedies by appeal or otherwise shall be provided by law, to correct illegal or improper registration and to secure the elective franchise to those who may be illegally or improperly denied the same.

Sec. 249. No one shall be allowed to vote for members of the legislature or other officers who has not been duly registered under the constitution and laws of this State, by an officer of this State, legally authorized to register the voters thereof. And registration under the constitution and laws of this State by the proper officers of this State is hereby declared to be an essential and necessary qualification to vote at any and all elections.

Sec. 250. All qualified electors and no others shall be eligible to office as otherwise provided in this constitution.

Sec. 251. Electors shall not be registered within four months next before any election at which they may offer to vote; but appeals may be heard and determined and revision take place at any time prior to the election; and no person who, in respect to age and residence, would become entitled to vote, within the said four months, shall be excluded from registration on account of his want of qualification at the time of registration.

Sec. 252. The term of office of all elective officers under this constitution shall be four years, except as otherwise provided herein. A general election for all elective officers shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, A.D., 1895, and every four (4) years thereafter; provided, the legislature may change the day and date of general elections to any day and date in October, November or December.

Sec. 253. The legislature may by a two-thirds vote of both houses, of all members elected, restore the right of suffrage to any person disqualified by reason of crime; but the reasons therefor shall be spread upon the journals, and the vote shall be by yeas and nays.
Rights by Laws Documents

Document F. 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Use the document below to answer the questions on the Rights by Laws handout.

AMENDMENT XIX


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.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Rights by Laws Documents

Document G. 1965 Voting Rights Act

Use the document below to answer the questions on the Rights by Laws handout.

AN ACT To enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act shall be known as the “Voting Rights Act of 1965.”

SEC. 2. No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.

SEC. 3. (a) Whenever the Attorney General institutes a proceeding under any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in any State or political subdivision the court shall authorize the appointment of Federal examiners by the United States Civil Service Commission in accordance with section 6 to serve for such period of time and for such political subdivisions as the court shall determine is appropriate to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment (1) as part of any interlocutory order if the court determines that the appointment of such examiners is necessary to enforce such guarantees or (2) as part of any final judgment if the court finds that violations of the fifteenth amendment justifying equitable relief have occurred in such State or subdivision: Provided, That the court need not authorize the appointment of examiners if any incidents of denial or abridgement of the right to vote on account of race or color (1) have been few in number and have been promptly and effectively corrected by State or local action, (2) the continuing effect of such incidents has been eliminated, and (3) there is no reasonable probability of their recurrence in the future.

(b) If in a proceeding instituted by the Attorney General under any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in any State or political subdivision the court finds that a test or device has been used for the purpose or with the effect of denying or abridging the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color, it shall suspend the use of tests and devices in such State or political subdivisions as the court shall determine is appropriate and for such period as it deems necessary.

(c) If in any proceeding instituted by the Attorney General under any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in any State or political subdivision the court finds that violations of the fifteenth amendment justifying equitable relief have occurred within the territory of such State or political subdivision, the court, in addition to such relief as it may grant, shall retain jurisdiction for such period as it may deem appropriate and during such period no voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting different from that in force or effect at the time the proceeding was commenced shall be enforced unless and until the court finds that such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure does not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color: Provided, That such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure may be enforced if the qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure has been submitted by the chief legal officer or other appropriate official of such State or subdivision to the Attorney General and the

Voting Rights Act - Our Docs.gov
Attorney General has not interposed an objection within sixty days after such submission, except that neither the court's finding nor the Attorney General's failure to object shall bar a subsequent action to enjoin enforcement of such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure.

SEC. 4. (a) To assure that the right of citizens of the United States to vote is not denied or abridged on account of race or color, no citizen shall be denied the right to vote in any Federal, State, or local election because of his failure to comply with any test or device in any State with respect to which the determinations have been made under subsection (b) or in any political subdivision with respect to which such determinations have been made as a separate unit, unless the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in an action for a declaratory judgment brought by such State or subdivision against the United States has determined that no such test or device has been used during the five years preceding the filing of the action for the purpose or with the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color: Provided, That no such declaratory judgment shall issue with respect to any plaintiff for a period of five years after the entry of a final judgment of any court of the United States, other than the denial of a declaratory judgment under this section, whether entered prior to or after the enactment of this Act, determining that denials or abridgments of the right to vote on account of race or color through the use of such tests or devices have occurred anywhere in the territory of such plaintiff. An action pursuant to this subsection shall be heard and determined by a court of three judges in accordance with the provisions of section 2284 of title 28 of the United States Code and any appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court. The court shall retain jurisdiction of any action pursuant to this subsection for five years after judgment and shall reopen the action upon motion of the Attorney General alleging that a test or device has been used for the purpose or with the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

If the Attorney General determines that he has no reason to believe that any such test or device has been used during the five years preceding the filing of the action for the purpose or with the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color, he shall consent to the entry of such judgment.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall apply in any State or in any political subdivision of a state which (1) the Attorney General determines maintained on November 1, 1964, any test or device, and with respect to which (2) the Director of the Census determines that less than 50 percent of the persons of voting age residing therein were registered on November 1, 1964, or that less than 50 percent of such persons voted in the presidential election of November 1964.

A determination or certification of the Attorney General or of the Director of the Census under this section or under section 6 or section 13 shall not be reviewable in any court and shall be effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

(c) The phrase “test or device” shall mean any requirement that a person as a prerequisite for voting or registration for voting (1) demonstrate the ability to read, write, understand, or interpret any matter, (2) demonstrate any educational achievement or his knowledge of any particular subject, (3) possess good moral character, or (4) prove his qualifications by the voucher of registered voters or members of any other class.

(d) For purposes of this section no State or political subdivision shall be determined to have engaged in the use of tests or devices for the purpose or with the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color if (1) incidents of such use have been few in number and have been promptly and effectively corrected by State or local action, (2) the continuing effect of such incidents has been eliminated, and (3) there is no reasonable probability of their recurrence in the future.

(e) (1) Congress hereby declares that to secure the rights under the fourteenth amendment of persons educated in American-flag schools in which the predominant classroom language was other than English, it is necessary to prohibit the States from conditioning the right to vote of such persons on ability to read, write, understand, or interpret any matter in the English language.

(2) No person who demonstrates that he has successfully completed the sixth primary grade in a public school in, or a private school accredited by, any State or territory, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in which the predominant classroom language was other than English, shall be denied the right to vote in any Federal, State, or local election because of his inability to read, write, understand, or interpret any matter in the English language, except that, in States in which State law provides that a different level of education is presumptive of literacy, he shall demonstrate that he has successfully completed an equivalent level of education in a public school in, or a private school accredited by, any State or territory, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in which the predominant classroom language was other than English.

SEC. 5. Whenever a State or political subdivision with respect to which the prohibitions set forth in section 4(a) are in effect shall enact or seek to administer any voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting different from that in force or effect on November 1, 1964, such State or subdivision may institute an action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for a declaratory judgment that such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure
does not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color, and unless and until the court enters such judgment no person shall be denied the right to vote for failure to comply with such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure: Provided, That such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure may be enforced without such proceeding if the qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure has been submitted by the chief legal officer or other appropriate official of such State or subdivision to the Attorney General and the Attorney General has not interposed an objection within sixty days after such submission, except that neither the Attorney General’s failure to object nor a declaratory judgment entered under this section shall bar a subsequent action to enjoin enforcement of such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure. Any action under this section shall be heard and determined by a court of three judges in accordance with the provisions of section 2284 of title 28 of the United States Code and any appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court.

SEC. 6. Whenever (a) a court has authorized the appointment of examiners pursuant to the provisions of section 3(a), or (b) unless a declaratory judgment has been rendered under section 4(a), the Attorney General certifies with respect to any political subdivision named in, or included within the scope of, determinations made under section 4(b) that (1) he has received complaints in writing from twenty or more residents of such political subdivision alleging that they have been denied the right to vote under color of law on account of race or color, and that he believes such complaints to be meritorious, or (2) that, in his judgment (considering, among other factors, whether the ratio of nonwhite persons to white persons registered to vote within such subdivision appears to him to be reasonably attributable to violations of the fifteenth amendment or whether substantial evidence exists that bona fide efforts are being made within such subdivision to comply with the fifteenth amendment), the appointment of examiners is otherwise necessary to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment, the Civil Service Commission shall appoint as many examiners for such subdivision as it may deem appropriate to prepare and maintain lists of persons eligible to vote in Federal, State, and local elections. Such examiners, hearing officers provided for in section 9(a), and other persons deemed necessary by the Commission to carry out the provisions and purposes of this Act shall be appointed, compensated, and separated without regard to the provisions of any statute administered by the Civil Service Commission, and service under this Act shall not be considered employment for the purposes of any statute administered by the Civil Service Commission, except the provisions of section 9 of the Act of August 2, 1939, as amended (5 U.S.C. 118i), prohibiting partisan political activity: Provided, That the Commission is authorized, after consulting the head of the appropriate department or agency, to designate suitable persons in the official service of the United States, with their consent, to serve in these positions. Examiners and hearing officers shall have the power to administer oaths.

SEC. 7. (a) The examiners for each political subdivision shall, at such places as the Civil Service Commission shall by regulation designate, examine applicants concerning their qualifications for voting. An application to an examiner shall be in such form as the Commission may require and shall contain allegations that the applicant is not otherwise registered to vote.

(b) Any person whom the examiner finds, in accordance with instructions received under section 9(b), to have the qualifications prescribed by State law not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States shall promptly be placed on a list of eligible voters. A challenge to such listing may be made in accordance with section 9(a) and shall not be the basis for a prosecution under section 12 of this Act. The examiner shall certify and transmit such list, and any supplements as appropriate, at least once a month, to the offices of the appropriate election officials, with copies to the Attorney General and the attorney general of the State, and any such lists and supplements thereto transmitted during the month shall be available for public inspection on the last business day of the month and, in any event, not later than the forty-fifth day prior to any election. The appropriate State or local election official shall place such names on the official voting list. Any person whose name appears on the examiner’s list shall be entitled and allowed to vote in the election district of his residence unless and until the appropriate election officials shall have been notified that such person has been removed from such list in accordance with subsection (d): Provided, That no person shall be entitled to vote in any election by virtue of this Act unless his name shall have been certified and transmitted on such a list to the offices of the appropriate election officials at least forty-five days prior to such election.

(c) The examiner shall issue to each person whose name appears on such a list a certificate evidencing his eligibility to vote.

(d) A person whose name appears on such a list shall be removed therefrom by an examiner if (1) such person has been successfully challenged in accordance with the procedure prescribed in section 9, or (2) he has been determined by an examiner to have lost his eligibility to vote under State law not inconsistent with the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

SEC. 8. Whenever an examiner is serving under this Act in any political subdivision, the Civil Service Commission may assign, at the request of the Attorney General, one or more persons, who may be officers of the United States, (1) to enter and attend at any place for holding an election in such subdivision for the purpose of observing whether persons who are entitled to vote are being permitted to vote, and (2) to enter and attend at any place for tabulating the votes cast at any election held in such subdivision for the purpose
of observing whether votes cast by persons entitled to vote are being properly tabulated. Such persons so assigned shall report to an examiner appointed for such political subdivision, to the Attorney General, and if the appointment of examiners has been authorized pursuant to section 3(a), to the court.

SEC. 9. (a) Any challenge to a listing on an eligibility list prepared by an examiner shall be heard and determined by a hearing officer appointed by and responsible to the Civil Service Commission and under such rules as the Commission shall by regulation prescribe. Such challenge shall be entertained only if filed at such office within the State as the Civil Service Commission shall by regulation designate, and within ten days after the listing of the challenged person is made available for public inspection, and if supported by (1) the affidavits of at least two persons having personal knowledge of the facts constituting grounds for the challenge, and (2) a certification that a copy of the challenge and affidavits have been served by mail or in person upon the person challenged at his place of residence set out in the application. Such challenge shall be determined within fifteen days after it has been filed. A petition for review of the decision of the hearing officer may be filed in the United States court of appeals for the circuit in which the person challenged resides within fifteen days after service of such decision by mail on the person petitioning for review but no decision of a hearing officer shall be reversed unless clearly erroneous. Any person listed shall be entitled and allowed to vote pending final determination by the hearing officer and by the court.

(b) The times, places, procedures, and form for application and listing pursuant to this Act and removals from the eligibility lists shall be prescribed by regulations promulgated by the Civil Service Commission and the Commission shall, after consultation with the Attorney General, instruct examiners concerning applicable State law not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States with respect to (1) the qualifications required for listing, and (2) loss of eligibility to vote.

(c) Upon the request of the applicant or the challenger or on its own motion the Civil Service Commission shall have the power to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of documentary evidence relating to any matter pending before it under the authority of this section. In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena, any district court of the United States or the United States court of any territory or possession, or the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, within the jurisdiction of which said person guilty of contumacy or refusal to obey is found or resides or is domiciled or transacts business, or has appointed an agent for receipt of service of process, upon application by the Attorney General of the United States shall have jurisdiction to issue to such person an order requiring such person to appear before the Commission or a hearing officer, there to produce pertinent, relevant, and nonprivileged documentary evidence if so ordered, or there to give testimony touching the matter under investigation, and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by said court as a contempt thereof.

SEC. 10. (a) The Congress finds that the requirement of the payment of a poll tax as a precondition to voting (i) precludes persons of limited means from voting or imposes unreasonable financial hardship upon such persons as a precondition to their exercise of the franchise, (ii) does not bear a reasonable relationship to any legitimate State interest in the conduct of elections, and (iii) in some areas has the purpose or effect of denying persons the right to vote because of race or color. Upon the basis of these findings, Congress declares that the constitutional right of citizens to vote is denied or abridged in some areas by the requirement of the payment of a poll tax as a precondition to voting.

(b) In the exercise of the powers of Congress under section 5 of the fourteenth amendment and section 2 of the fifteenth amendment, the Attorney General is authorized and directed to institute forthwith in the name of the United States such actions, including actions against States or political subdivisions, for declaratory judgment or injunctive relief against the enforcement of any requirement of the payment of a poll tax as a precondition to voting, or substitute therefor enacted after November 1, 1964, as will be necessary to implement the declaration of subsection (a) and the purposes of this section.

(c) The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction of such actions which shall be heard and determined by a court of three judges in accordance with the provisions of section 2284 of title 28 of the United States Code and any appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court. It shall be the duty of the judges designated to hear the case to assign the case for hearing at the earliest practicable date, to participate in the hearing and determination thereof, and to cause the case to be in every way expedited.

(d) During the pendency of such actions, and thereafter if the courts, notwithstanding this action by the Congress, should declare the requirement of the payment of a poll tax to be constitutional, no citizen of the United States who is a resident of a State or political subdivision with respect to which determinations have been made under subsection (b) and a declaratory judgment has not been entered under subsection (a), during the first year he becomes otherwise entitled to vote by reason of registration by State or local officials or listing by an examiner, shall be denied the right to vote because of failure to pay a poll tax if he tenders payment of such tax for the current year to an examiner or to the appropriate State or local official at least forty-five days prior to election, whether or not such tender would be timely or adequate under State law. An examiner shall have authority to accept such payment from any person authorized by this Act to make an application for listing, and shall issue a receipt for such payment. The examiner shall transmit promptly any such poll tax pay-
ment to the office of the State or local official authorized to receive such payment under State law, together with the name and address of the applicant.

SEC. 11. (a) No person acting under color of law shall fail or refuse to permit any person to vote who is entitled to vote under any provision of this Act or is otherwise qualified to vote, or willfully fail or refuse to tabulate, count, and report such person’s vote.

(b) No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for voting or attempting to vote, or intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for urging or aiding any person to vote or attempt to vote, or intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for exercising any powers or duties under section 3(a), 6, 8, 9, 10, or 12(e).

(c) Whoever knowingly or willfully gives false information as to his name, address, or period of residence in the voting district for the purpose of establishing his eligibility to register or vote, or conspires with another individual for the purpose of encouraging his false registration to vote or illegal voting, or pays or offers to pay or accepts payment either for registration to vote or for voting shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both: Provided, however, That this provision shall be applicable only to general, special, or primary elections held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting or electing any candidate for the office of President, Vice President, presidential elector, Member of the United States Senate, Member of the United States House of Representatives, or Delegates or Commissioners from the territories or possessions, or Resident Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(d) Whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of an examiner or hearing officer knowingly and willfully falsifies or conceals a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

SEC. 12. (a) Whoever shall deprive or attempt to deprive any person of any right secured by section 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, or 10 shall violate section 11(a) or (b), shall be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(b) Whoever, within a year following an election in a political subdivision in which an examiner has been appointed (1) destroys, defaces, mutilates, or otherwise alters the marking of a paper ballot which has been cast in such election, or (2) alters any official record of voting in such election tabulated from a voting machine or otherwise, shall be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(c) Whoever conspires to violate the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section, or interferes with any right secured by section 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, or 11(a) or (b) shall be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(d) Whenever any person has engaged or there are reasonable grounds to believe that any person is about to engage in any act or practice prohibited by section 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, or subsection (b) of this section, the Attorney General may institute for the United States, or in the name of the United States, an action for preventive relief, including an application for a temporary or permanent injunction, restraining order, or other order, and including an order directed to the State and State or local election officials to require them (1) to permit persons listed under this Act to vote and (2) to count such votes.

(e) Whenever in any political subdivision in which there are examiners appointed pursuant to this Act any persons allege to such an examiner within forty-eight hours after the closing of the polls that notwithstanding (1) their listing under this Act or registration by an appropriate election official and (2) their eligibility to vote, they have not been permitted to vote in such election, the examiner shall forthwith notify the Attorney General if such allegations in his opinion appear to be well founded. Upon receipt of such notification, the Attorney General may forthwith file with the district court an application for an order providing for the marking, casting, and counting of the ballots of such persons and requiring the inclusion of their votes in the total vote before the results of such election shall be deemed final and any force or effect given thereto. The district court shall hear and determine such matters immediately after the filing of such application. The remedy provided in this subsection shall not preclude any remedy available under State or Federal law.

(f) The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction of proceedings instituted pursuant to this section and shall exercise the same without regard to whether a person asserting rights under the provisions of this Act shall have exhausted any administrative or other remedies that may be provided by law.

SEC. 13. Listing procedures shall be terminated in any political subdivision of any State (a) with respect to examiners appointed pursuant to clause (b) of section 6 whenever the Attorney General notifies the Civil Service Commission, or whenever the District Court for the District of Columbia determines in an action for declaratory judgment brought by any political subdivision with respect to which the Director of the Census has determined that more than 50 percent of the nonwhite persons of voting age residing therein are registered to vote, (1) that all persons listed by an examiner for such subdivision have been placed on the appropriate voting registration
roll, and (2) that there is no longer reasonable cause to believe that persons will be deprived of or denied the right to vote on account of race or color in such subdivision, and (b), with respect to examiners appointed pursuant to section 3(a), upon order of the authorizing court. A political subdivision may petition the Attorney General for the termination of listing procedures under clause (a) of this section, and may petition the Attorney General to request the Director of the Census to take such survey or census as may be appropriate for the making of the determination provided for in this section. The District Court for the District of Columbia shall have jurisdiction to require such survey or census to be made by the Director of the Census and it shall require him to do so if it deems the Attorney General’s refusal to request such survey or census to be arbitrary or unreasonable.

SEC. 14. (a) All cases of criminal contempt arising under the provisions of this Act shall be governed by section 151 of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (42 U.S.C.1995).

(b) No court other than the District Court for the District of Columbia or a court of appeals in any proceeding under section 9 shall have jurisdiction to issue any declaratory judgment pursuant to section 4 or section 5 or any restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction against the execution or enforcement of any provision of this Act or any action of any Federal officer or employee pursuant hereto.

(c) (1) The terms “vote” or “voting” shall include all action necessary to make a vote effective in any primary, special, or general election, including, but not limited to, registration, listing pursuant to this Act, or other action required by law prerequisite to voting, casting a ballot, and having such ballot counted properly and included in the appropriate totals of votes cast with respect to candidates for public or party office and propositions for which votes are received in an election. (2) The term “political subdivision” shall mean any county or parish, except that, where registration for voting is not conducted under the supervision of a county or parish, the term shall include any other subdivision of a State which conducts registration for voting.

(d) In any action for a declaratory judgment brought pursuant to section 4 or section 5 of this Act, subpoenas for witnesses who are required to attend the District Court for the District of Columbia may be served in any judicial district of the United States: Provided, That no writ of subpoena shall issue for witnesses without the District of Columbia at a greater distance than one hundred miles from the place of holding court without the permission of the District Court for the District of Columbia being first had upon proper application and cause shown.

SEC. 15. Section 2004 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C.1971), as amended by section 131 of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (71 Stat. 637), and amended by section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (74 Stat. 90), and as further amended by section 101 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 241), is further amended as follows:

(a) Delete the word “Federal” wherever it appears in subsections (a) and (c);

(b) Repeal subsection (f) and designate the present subsections (g) and (h) as (f) and (g), respectively.

SEC. 16. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Defense, jointly, shall make a full and complete study to determine whether, under the laws or practices of any State or States, there are preconditions to voting, which might tend to result in discrimination against citizens serving in the Armed Forces of the United States seeking to vote. Such officials shall, jointly, make a report to the Congress not later than June 30, 1966, containing the results of such study, together with a list of any States in which such preconditions exist, and shall include in such report such recommendations for legislation as they deem advisable to prevent discrimination in voting against citizens serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

SEC. 17. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to deny, impair, or otherwise adversely affect the right to vote of any person registered to vote under the law of any State or political subdivision.

SEC. 18. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC 19. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of the provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Approved August 6, 1965.

Transcription courtesy of the Avalon Project at Yale Law School.
In March of 1972, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) had passed through Congress and was sent to the individual states for ratification. Twenty-two (almost half) if the states ratified the amendment in 1972 but by the final deadline in 1982 the goal of 3/4 of the states had not been reached. Only three states short of ratification it became a part of history. To this day the ERA is introduced into each session of Congress, but it has never been able to gain the support it had in 1972.
Rights by Laws

Use the Rights by Laws Information handouts and Internet connection to answer the questions below.

U. S. Constitution Bill of Rights
1. When was the original Bill of Rights written and by whom? ________________________________

2. Why was the Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments) added to the original U.S. Constitution?  

_______________________________________________________________________________________  

_______________________________________________________________________________________  

3. What pronouns are used to describe the people in the amendments? ____________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

4. Explain what basic rights are guaranteed in the Bill of Rights to the people of the U.S. ______________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

Mississippi Married Woman’s Property Act, 1839 (Coverture=married)
5. What items are considered “property” in 1839? ________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

6. Explain what this act does in your own words. ________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

7. Why do you think that this law was passed in Mississippi in 1839? ________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________
8. Women’s rights in the mid-19th century Mississippi

Circle the rights that women held in mid-19th century Mississippi.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Could be granted a divorce</th>
<th>Would keep custody of her children if divorce occurs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Could vote</td>
<td>Could run for public office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could serve on juries</td>
<td>Could write her own will and have it followed by law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible for higher education</td>
<td>Could travel between states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serve in charity organizations</td>
<td>Married women could keep ownership of property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many opportunities for paid employment</td>
<td>Unmarried women could be employed as teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serve in the military</td>
<td>Own businesses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution - Grants citizenship and equal protection under the law.

9. When was this amendment ratified? _______________________________________________________

10. Explain in your own words what this amendment to the Constitution does and does not do?___________
    ______________________________________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________________________________

15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution - Protects the right to vote.

11. When was this amendment passed? _________________________________________________________

12. Explain this amendment in your own words. _________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________________________________

13. Who does this amendment not mention? ____________________________________________________

1890 Mississippi Constitution Article 12. Franchise

14. What does franchise mean? ______________________________________________________________________

15. Explain this part of the Mississippi Constitution. _______________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________________________________
16. Who does this law state as excluded from voting? ________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

17. The Constitution outlines two qualifications to vote in Mississippi. Why do you think that this has made such an impact on voting in Mississippi and other southern states?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

18. Who specifically does this amendment exclude from the rights outlined in it? ______________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

19th Amendment U.S. Constitution - Gives women the right to vote.

19. What is suffrage? _____________________________________________________________________

20. The 19th Amendment was ratified on ______________________________________________________

21. How many states had to ratify the amendment to make it a law? ________________________________

22. This amendment was passed through Congress in1919 but was not ratified until August 18, 1920. Explain why you think that happened.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

23. When did Mississippi ratify this amendment? ________________________________________________

24. Why do you think it took so long for Mississippi to address woman suffrage? _________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

21
1965 Voting Rights Act
25. The Voting Rights Act was ratified on ______________________________________________________

26. Whose rights did the Voting Rights Act protect? _______________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

27. Explain why the passage of this act was necessary. ______________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

29. How do you think this affects voting today? ___________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Equal Rights Amendment of 1972
30. What was the purpose of the Equal Rights Amendment? ______________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

31. Was it passed into law? What do you think were the factors in its fate? ________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Rights by Laws

Use the Rights by Laws Information handouts and Internet connection to answer the questions below.

U. S. Constitution Bill of Rights
1. When was the original Bill of Rights written and by whom?  __1789, U.S. Congress__

2. Why was the Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments) added to the original U.S. Constitution?

   The conventions held by the states to ratify the U.S. Constitution expressed a desire to prevent wrongful interpretation or abuse of powers.

3. What pronouns are used to describe the people in the amendments?  **People, person, his, their.**

4. Explain what basic rights are guaranteed in the Bill of Rights to the people of the U.S.  **Freedom of religion, keep and bear arms, no forced housing of soldiers, right not to incriminate self, due process, speedy trial and public trial, protection of property by law, no excessive bail or punishments, other rights of people, and powers reserved for the states.**

Mississippi Married Woman’s Property Act, 1839 (Coverture=married)
5. What items are considered “property” in 1839?  **Land, slaves, other inheritances.**

6. Explain what this act does in your own words.  **It allows a married woman to retain ownership of her property.**

7. Why do you think that this law was passed in Mississippi in 1839?  **To give married women the ability to retain ownership of their property.**
8. Women's rights in the mid-19th century Mississippi

Circle the rights that women held in mid-19th century Mississippi.

- Could be granted a divorce
- Could vote
- Could serve on juries
- Eligible for higher education
- Serve in charity organizations
- Many opportunities for paid employment
- Serve in the military
- Would keep custody of her children if divorce occurs
- Could run for public office
- Could vote if divorce occurs
- Could write her own will and have it followed by law
- Could travel between states
- Married women could keep ownership of property
- Unmarried women could be employed as teachers
- Many opportunities for paid employment
- Serve in the military
- Eligible for higher education
- Serve in charity organizations

14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution - Grants citizenship and equal protection under the law.
9. When was this amendment ratified? 

July 9, 1868

10. Explain in your own words what this amendment to the Constitution does and does not do?

It gives U.S. citizenship to any person born or naturalized in the U.S. and it forbids denying life, liberty or property without due process of the law. Native Americans (non-taxed) do not have same rights.

15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution - Protects the right to vote.
11. When was this amendment passed? 

February 3, 1870

12. Explain this amendment in your own words.

The right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude (such as slaves or indentured servants).

13. Who does this amendment not mention? 

Females

1890 Mississippi Constitution Article 12. Franchise
14. What does franchise mean? 

The right to vote.

15. Explain this part of the Mississippi Constitution?

It details who is allowed to vote and the needed qualifications for voting; establishes a poll tax of $2.00; and states that voters must be able to read and explain a section of the state Constitution.
16. Who does this law state as excluded from voting? Ex-convicts, non-taxed Indians, any voter who cannot pay the poll tax, men who cannot read, write and translate a portion of the Constitution, and those un-registered to vote - “the idiots and the insane.”

17. The Constitution outlines two qualifications to vote in Mississippi. Why do you think that this has made such an impact and legacy on voting in Mississippi and other southern states?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

18. Who specifically does this amendment exclude from the rights outlined in it? Women, non-taxed Indians, ex-convicts, and the uneducated.

19th Amendment U.S. Constitution - Gives women the right to vote.

19. What is suffrage? The right to vote

20. The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920

21. How many states had to ratify the amendment to make it a law? Thirty-six (3/4s of the 48 states)

22. This amendment was passed through Congress in 1919 but was not ratified until August 18, 1920. Explain why you think that happened.

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

23. When did Mississippi ratify this amendment? March 22, 1984

24. Why do you think it took so long for Mississippi to address woman suffrage? ____________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
1965 Voting Rights Act
25. The Voting Rights Act was ratified on **August 6, 1965**

26. Whose rights did the Voting Rights Act protect? **All voting age citizens of the United States.**

27. Explain why the passage of this act was necessary. **To help combat the unfair treatment of African American voters especially in the Southern states.**

28. How do you think the Voting Rights Act affected Mississippi and its voting practices? **It made the practice of poll taxes and literacy tests illegal, opening up voting to the entire voting age population of Mississippi.**

29. How do you think this affects voting today? 

Equal Rights Amendment of 1972
30. What was the purpose of the Equal Rights Amendment? **To guarantee equal rights under law regardless of gender.**

31. Was it passed into law? What do you think were the factors in its fate? **No.**
Timeline of Woman Suffrage in the United States (DATES)

Put the events below in chronological order and then match the images to the events. Create a timeline using the events below. Paste the historic images and documents in their appropriate place along the timeline.

1972 - Equal Rights Amendment passed by the U.S. Congress. Twenty states (less than half) ratify it.

1916 - First female member of Congress, Jeanette Rankin of Montana, is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

1924 - Belle Kearney is elected the first female member of the Mississippi State Senate.

1890 - Mississippi passes its newest state constitution which not only disenfranchises African Americans and poor white voters, but also does not mention voting rights for women.

1923 - Nellie Nugent Sommerville is elected the first female member of the Mississippi State House of Representatives.

1868 - 14th Amendment guaranteeing due process and equal protection under the law is passed.

1870 - 15th Amendment prohibits denying anyone the right to vote based on race or color is passed.

1913 - The National Woman’s Party is formed as the Congressional Union For Woman Suffrage.

August 1917 - Ten women from the National Woman’s Party are arrested for demonstrating outside the White House. By November, 281 female protesters have been arrested for obstructing sidewalk traffic.

1946 - Evelyn Gandy is elected as the first female Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi.

1965 - Voting Rights Act passed to prohibit denying anyone the right to vote based on race or color.

1918 - President Woodrow Wilson addresses the U.S. Senate asking for passage of a federal woman suffrage amendment.

1939 - Married Women’s Property Act passed by the Mississippi Legislature.

1963 - President John F. Kennedy signs the Equal Pay Act protecting the rights of men and women from sex-based wage discrimination.

July 1848 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott call the Seneca Falls Convention in New York to “discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of women.”

1919 - The U.S. Congress passes the federal suffrage amendment which has to be ratified by 36 (3/4ths) of the states in order to become law; the 19th Amendment is passed in August, 1920.

1848 - The first women’s rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York.

1926 - Alice Harden is the first African American woman elected to the Mississippi State Senate.

1839 - Married Women’s Property Act passed by the Mississippi Legislature.

1913 - The National Woman’s Party is formed as the Congressional Union For Woman Suffrage.

August 1917 - Ten women from the National Woman’s Party are arrested for demonstrating outside the White House. By November, 281 female protesters have been arrested for obstructing sidewalk traffic.

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Timeline of Woman Suffrage in the United States (IMAGES)


7. Evelyn Gandy. PI/STA/G/36/7/3. MDAH, Archives and Records Services.

8. 1890 Constitutional Convention Composite. PI/STA/C66/7/3. MDAH, Archives and Records Services.


16. Belle Kearney sketch. PI/KER/43/7/1. MDAH, Archives and Records Services.


20. Alice Harden from 1993 Mississippi House of Representatives Composite. MDAH, Archives and Record Services.
Timeline of Woman Suffrage in the United States

Put the events below in chronological order and then match the images to the events. Create a time line using the events below. Paste the historic images and documents in their appropriate place along the timeline.

1839 - Married Women’s Property Act passed by the Mississippi Legislature. Image #4

July 1848 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott call the Seneca Falls Convention in New York to “discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of women.” Image #5

1868 - 14th Amendment guaranteeing due process and equal protection under the law is passed. Image #15

1870 - 15th Amendment prohibits denying anyone the right to vote based on race or color is passed. Image #12

1890 - Mississippi passes its newest state constitution which not only disenfranchises African American and poor white voters, but also does not mention voting rights for women. Image #8

1913 - The National Woman’s Party is formed as the Congressional Union For Woman Suffrage. Image #14

1916 - First female member of Congress, Jeanette Rankin of Montana, is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Image #11

August 1917 - Ten women from the National Woman’s Party are arrested for demonstrating outside the White House. By November, 281 female protesters have been arrested for obstructing sidewalk traffic. Image #13

1918 - President Woodrow Wilson addresses the U.S. Senate asking for passage of a federal woman suffrage amendment. Image #10

1919 - The U.S. Congress passes the federal suffrage amendment which has to be ratified by 36 (3/4ths) of the states in order to become law; the 19th Amendment is passed in August, 1920. Image #17

1923 - Nellie Nugent Sommerville is elected the first female member of the Mississippi State House of Representatives. Image #19

1924 - Belle Kearney is elected the first female member of the Mississippi State Senate. Image #16

1963 - President John F. Kennedy signs the Equal Pay Act protecting the rights of men and women from sex-based wage discrimination. Image #18

1964 - The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is enacted. Title IV bans discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion and sex. Image #3

1965 - Voting Rights Act passed to prohibit denying anyone the right to vote based on race or color. Image #1

1972 - Equal Rights Amendment passed by the U.S. Congress. Twenty states, (less than half) ratified it. Image #6

1976 - Unita Blackwell of Mayersville is elected the first female African American mayor in Mississippi. Image #2

1976 - Evelyn Gandy is elected as the first female Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi. Image #7

1988 - Alice Harden is the first African American woman elected to the Mississippi State Senate. Image #20

1987 - Alyce G. Clarke is the first African American woman elected to the Mississippi State House of Representatives. Image #9
By the Numbers: Voting Age Population of Mississippi

Take the statistics below and create a series of pie charts to illustrate the voting age population of Mississippi, then examine the percentage of who actually held the ability to vote.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1840 Mississippians of Voting Age</strong></th>
<th><strong>Group</strong></th>
<th><strong>Number</strong></th>
<th><strong>Can vote</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Males</td>
<td>43,385</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Females</td>
<td>30,424</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Black Males</td>
<td>419</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Black Females</td>
<td>394</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slave Males</td>
<td>58,703</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slave Females</td>
<td>57,869</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1870 Mississippians of Voting Age</strong></th>
<th><strong>Group</strong></th>
<th><strong>Number</strong></th>
<th><strong>Can vote</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Males</td>
<td>174,845</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Females*</td>
<td>195,283</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Males</td>
<td>80,926</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Females*</td>
<td>226,477</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Males**</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Females</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Males**</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Females*</td>
<td>409</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* These totals are the totals for the state; the number of voting age females was not tracked.
** This section of the population is supposed to be able to vote, but were subject to discrimination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1900 Mississippians of Voting Age</strong></th>
<th><strong>Group</strong></th>
<th><strong>Number</strong></th>
<th><strong>Can vote</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Males</td>
<td>1,326,710</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Females</td>
<td>814,490</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Males**</td>
<td>453,381</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Females</td>
<td>454,246</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Males**</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Females</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Males**</td>
<td>1,188</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Females</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
** This section of the population is supposed to be able to vote, but were subject to discrimination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1920 Mississippians of Voting Age</strong></th>
<th><strong>Group</strong></th>
<th><strong>Number</strong></th>
<th><strong>Can vote</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Males</td>
<td>214,621</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Females</td>
<td>221,428</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Males**</td>
<td>233,287</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Females**</td>
<td>239,697</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Males** – “Indian, Chinese, Japanese and all other”</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Females** – “Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and all other”</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
** This section of the population is supposed to be able to vote, but were subject to discrimination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1960 Mississippians of Voting Age</strong></th>
<th><strong>Group</strong></th>
<th><strong>Number</strong></th>
<th><strong>Can vote</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Males</td>
<td>372,090</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Females</td>
<td>394,139</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Non-White” Males** – Black, Native American, Chinese, and others</td>
<td>198,966</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Non-White” Females** – Black, Native American, Chinese, and others</td>
<td>236,012</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
** This section of the population is supposed to be able to vote, but were subject to discrimination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>2010 Mississippians of Voting Age</strong></th>
<th><strong>Group</strong></th>
<th><strong>Number</strong></th>
<th><strong>Can vote</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Males</td>
<td>1,055,477</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Females</td>
<td>1,156,265</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By the Numbers: Voting Age Population of Mississippi

Take the statistics from the tables and create a series of pie charts to illustrate the voting age population of Mississippi, and then examine the percentage of who actually held the ability to vote.

1840 Mississippian of Voting Age

\[
\frac{43,385}{191,194} = .2269 = 23\%
\]

1870 Mississippian of Voting Age

1900 Mississippian of Voting Age
By the Numbers: Voting Age Population of Mississippi

Take the statistics from the tables and create a series of pie charts to illustrate the voting age population of Mississippi, and then examine the percentage of who actually held the ability to vote.

1840 Mississippians of Voting Age

- **Slave Males**: 31%
- **Slave Females**: 30%
- **White Males**: 23%
- **White Females**: 16%
- **Free Black Males**: 0%
- **Free Black Females**: 0%

1870 Mississippians of Voting Age

- **Native American Males****: 0%
- **Chinese Males**: 0%
- **Black Males**: 12%
- **Black Females**: 33%
- **White Males**: 28%
- **White Females**: 27%

1900 Mississippians of Voting Age

- **Native American Males**: 0%
- **Chinese Males**: 0%
- **Black Males**: 15%
- **Black Females**: 15%
- **White Males**: 43%
- **White Females**: 27%
1920 Mississippian of Voting Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Males**</th>
<th>Females**</th>
<th>Total Males</th>
<th>Total Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1960 Mississippian of Voting Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Males**</th>
<th>Females**</th>
<th>Total Males</th>
<th>Total Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010 Mississippian of Voting Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Males**</th>
<th>Females**</th>
<th>Total Males</th>
<th>Total Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>104%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>104%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
People and Tactics of the Woman Suffrage Movement

After reading the biographies place the following people in the box based on their approach to the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States.

**People**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southern Rejection League</th>
<th>Pauline van de Graaf Orr</th>
<th>Nellie Nugent Sommerville</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan B. Anthony</td>
<td>Belle Kearney</td>
<td>Lily Wilkinson Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida B. Wells-Barnett</td>
<td>Frances E. Willard</td>
<td>Governor James K. Vardaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Theodore Bilbo</td>
<td>Stephen D. Lee</td>
<td>President Woodrow Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie Chapman Catt</td>
<td>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</td>
<td>William A. Winter &amp; Mississippi Legislators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tactics**

The Woman Suffrage Movement was slow to take hold in the American South. Several factors were the cause of this, including the tradition of gentility in the South, a grudge held against the Federal government as a remnant of the Civil War, and a hesitancy to address the issue of women’s rights for fear of drawing the Federal government’s attention to the disenfranchisement of the African American population. There were three very different approaches to woman suffrage at play in Mississippi:

**National Woman Suffrage Amendment** - Favored by the National Woman Suffrage Association and a small minority of progressive, liberated southerners, this approach advocated for an amendment to be added to the United States Constitution. This approach would give women across the nation the right to vote.

**State Woman Suffrage Amendment** - This approach was favored by most southerners who wanted women to have the right to vote by letting individual states adapt a woman suffrage amendment. This track would overcome the argument that the federal government is telling the states how to run their government. Also it was a more personal and controlled approach which would not bring the eyes of the federal government into the state and its affairs.

**Anti-Suffrage Movement** - This was the “do nothing” camp preferred by conservative southerners. This group was opposed to woman suffrage for various reasons, including beliefs that women didn't belong in the world of politics because they were too fragile or that they needed to be pure and untainted because they were taking care of families at home. Other reasons were unstated, but implied men in the government were wary that women might try to change business practices such as child labor laws, and other reforms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Woman Suffrage Amendment</th>
<th>State Woman Suffrage Amendment</th>
<th>Anti-Suffrage Movement</th>
</tr>
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People and Tactics of the Woman Suffrage Movement

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**People**

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  - Susan B. Anthony
  - Ida B. Wells-Barnett
  - Governor Theodore Bilbo
  - Carrie Chapman Catt
- Pauline van de Graaf Orr
- Belle Kearney
- Frances E. Willard
- Stephen D. Lee
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Nellie Nugent Sommerville
- Lily Wilkinson Thompson
- Governor James K. Vardaman
- President Woodrow Wilson
- William A. Winter & Mississippi Legislators

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<table>
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<tr>
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<th>State Woman Suffrage Amendment</th>
<th>Anti-Suffrage Movement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Susan B. Anthony</td>
<td>• Governor Theodore Bilbo</td>
<td>• Southern Rejection League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ida B. Wells-Barnett</td>
<td>• Belle Kearney</td>
<td>• William A. Winter and other Mississippi legislators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Carrie Champan Catt</td>
<td>• Frances E. Willard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• President Woodrow Wilson</td>
<td>• Governor James K. Vardaman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>• Governor James K. Vardaman</td>
<td>• Nellie Nugent Sommerville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Frances E. Willard</td>
<td>• Pauline van de Graaf Orr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nellie Nugent Sommerville</td>
<td>• Lily Wilkinson Thompson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

39
People and Tactics of the Woman Suffrage Movement

Read the brief biographies below. Determine where they would fall in the argument for the Woman Suffrage Movement on the worksheet.

Stephen D. Lee

Stephen D. Lee (1833–1908) served as a general for the Confederate Army in the Civil War, became a Mississippi State Senator in 1878, and served as the first president of Mississippi A&M (Mississippi State University) from 1880-1899. He was also a delegate to the 1890 Mississippi Constitutional Convention in Jackson. During the Convention Lee lobbied against measures such as a poll tax and literacy test that were under consideration and eventually passed to disenfranchise African Americans across the state. He saw that it would not only interfere with the voting rights of African Americans, but also all the poor and under-educated white farmers and sharecroppers of the state. He also advocated to members of the Convention to give women the right to vote in the new state constitution. His call to stop the disenfranchisement of African Americans and give suffrage to women fell on deaf ears.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett

Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862–1931) was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, to slaves. Once her parents were free they established their family in Holly Springs, encouraging their children to attend school and learn as much as they could. In 1878, a yellow fever epidemic killed her parents, leaving her to raise her younger siblings. After attending Rust College she became a teacher. In 1887 Wells was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in a first class train car. She became a part owner of the newspaper *Free Speech and Headlight* in Memphis, leading the charge of an anti-lynching campaign across the South. Although she is best known as a civil rights activist, she was also a leader in women's rights. She founded the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago, the first black suffrage organization in 1913, witnessing the state's suffrage movement. She pushed for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution with the National American Woman Suffrage Association. She agreed the nation as a whole should recognize women voters, white as well as black. During the 1913 NAWSA parade in Washington D.C. she realized their goal of woman suffrage did not extend to African American women, who were segregated to the back of the parade. In protest she sat out the parade, drawing the attention of the *Chicago Daily Tribune*.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815–1902) was a part of the abolitionist movement and an early leader of the American Woman Suffrage Movement in New York. She, with several other women, held the Seneca Falls Convention in July of 1848, where attendants drew up its “Declaration of Sentiments” involving women's rights including suffrage. As a part of her work she traveled to give lectures and speeches on woman suffrage to gain support of women across the nation. She helped form the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869 and was its first president. She held that position until the group merged into the National American Woman Suffrage Association. She served as president of the new organization until 1892. Stanton and her organizations lobbied to have a national amendment addressing woman suffrage passed through U.S. Congress. She died in 1902, seventeen years before her goal was realized.
Governor James K. Vardaman

James Kimble Vardaman (1861–1930) of LeFlore County was the thirty-sixth governor of Mississippi. A lawyer and editor of the Winona Advance and the Greenwood Enterprise, his primary goal was to become part of Mississippi politics. He was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives and served as speaker of the house. He took time away from politics to serve in the Spanish-American War. He was elected Mississippi governor in 1904. Although he is known as “the White Chief” and remembered more for his racism, he considered himself a Southern Progressive. He fought big industries such as the railroad companies, and even took a strong stance against the lease of convicts to the railroads and plantation owners. He also fought for child labor laws in the state and nationally. As a U.S. Senator he supported women suffrage and he was the only Mississippi Senator to vote in support of an amendment to grant women the right to vote.

Southern Rejection League

Southern states did not lead the anti-suffrage charge thinking that the status quo would not change. As the Woman Suffrage Movement began to take hold across the country, the need for an anti-suffrage group in the south became apparent. After the passage of the Susan B. Anthony amendment, better known today as the 19th Amendment, the strategy in the south changed. Starting as the Alabama State Association of the Southern Women's Anti-Ratification League in 1919, the group became the Southern Women's League for the rejection of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment or the Southern Rejection League. Their goal was to discourage the passage of the amendment across the southern states there by killing the amendment. Mississippi anti-suffragists called for representatives from the organization to speak against the amendment in Mississippi but saw no need to develop a state organization.

Lily Wilkinson Thompson

Lily Wilkinson Thompson (18__–1942) was born in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, and graduated from Whitworth College in Brookhaven. She later married Charles Henri Thompson, a prominent insurance man in Jackson. Thompson served as a vice-president under Nellie Nugent Somerville in the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association and later became its president. She is known as one of the pioneer organizers of the state and was chosen as one of the few women of Mississippi who addressed the state legislature in the interest of a bill proposing to grant full suffrage for Mississippi women through the state constitution. Her contributions to newspapers on social and political questions were widely read.

Nellie Nugent Somerville

Nellie Nugent Somerville (1863–1952) of Greenville came from a family who held considerable political clout in post-reconstruction Mississippi. Somerville first became part of the Woman's Christian Temperance Movement and after listening to Frances Willard she was convinced that to make progress on the temperance front, women would have to address suffrage. Somerville was recruited by the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and soon became president of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association. She had been upset at the national organization pushing into Mississippi without the local women's support. She and other southern suffragists worked together to campaign for a woman's right to vote, and she became intolerant of the excuses that were given against suffrage. She took the approach that only women of quality and means should be given the right to vote, trying to dispel the fear of African American woman voters. She split from the other southern groups who pushed for a state's rights approach and supported of a federal amendment which she saw as the only way to get the right to vote.

Copyright 2015. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.
Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906) was an activist involved in several social issues. She was a staunch supporter of the abolitionist movement where she met Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Anthony was also passionate about the Temperance Movement and its mission to ban the production and sale of alcohol. During a temperance convention when Anthony was not allowed to address the assemblage because of her gender, she became inspired to fight for women's rights. She and Stanton founded the New York State Woman's Rights Committee, starting petitions for women's right to own property and to vote. Anthony was tireless in her efforts to promote woman suffrage and even voted illegally in the 1872 presidential election, for which she was arrested and fined. In 1906, she met with President Theodore Roosevelt to lobby for a woman suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Governor Theodore Bilbo

Theodore G. Bilbo (1877–1947) was the thirty-ninth and forty-third governor of Mississippi. A former school teacher from Pearl River County, he became a life-long politician serving as state senator, lieutenant governor, governor, and U.S. Senator. He has been remembered for his controversial views and comments. He was also instrumental in the creation of the term “redneck,” that identified his supporters who could be spotted by the red neckties they wore. Throughout his controversial career Bilbo focused on educational reform as well as reform to make life better for poor white farmers and workers. He was a supporter of woman suffrage, and his wife Linda Bilbo campaigned for him in 1915. She may have been the first woman to actively participate in a statewide election. Even as he was leaving office for the first time in 1920, recognizing the force of the movement, he addressed the woman suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution saying, “woe to the man who raises his voice or hand against the onward sweep of this great cause.”

Belle Kearney

Belle Kearney (1863–1939) of Madison County began her career in politics at the age of twenty-six with the Temperance Movement. After hearing Frances Willard speak, Kearney started a local temperance union. She later took a larger role in the national movement speaking across the south and the nation in the support of temperance. While in Massachusetts she attended a meeting regarding women's rights. At the time she was interested in women's rights but did not believe they should ask for the right to vote. Staying one evening in the home of Susan B. Anthony, she changed her mind and began to pursue woman's rights as well as woman suffrage in her home state of Mississippi. Kearney became a leader in the MWSA alongside Sommerville and Thompson. Her approach to suffrage and criticism of the movement was to see it as a way to “promote the political supremacy of Anglo-Saxonism in the South.” This was a common stance of white southern suffragettes, taken to garner the support of the white-male controlled legislatures and get an amendment to the state constitution on the table.

Frances E. Willard

Frances E. Willard (1839-1898) of Wisconsin was an educator, president of Evanston College for Ladies, and the first Dean of Women at Northwestern University. She gave up her career in education to become the national corresponding secretary of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of which she later served as the national president. Not only was she the WCTU president, but she was also an activist for women's rights in general, equal pay for equal work, an eight-hour work day and suffrage. She was a persuasive national speaker and traveled the nation promoting the WCTU views and agenda as well as the need for a suffrage movement. She came to Mississippi on a Temperance lecture tour and influenced two of Mississippi's most famous woman's rights activist, Nellie Nugent Somervillle and Belle Kearney. In 1895 Susan B. Anthony introduced Willard to the U.S. Congress Senate Committee as “a general with an army of 250,000.”
Pauline Van de Graaf Orr

Pauline Van de Graaf Orr (1861–1955) of Chickasaw County led the English and Literature Department at the Industrial Institute and College for the Education of White Girls (now Mississippi University for Women) in Columbus. On many occasions, there was pressure for the curriculum to be focused on a more traditional female education, but Orr stood by her standards, requiring the students to keep up with the women's colleges in the Northeast and Europe. Retiring after twenty-eight years at the II&C, Orr became a member of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association and devoted her efforts to woman suffrage. Orr addressed the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1914 for an amendment to the state constitution, stating that women's interests needed to be protected and that the only way for that to happen was for them to receive the right to vote. Her influence over former students helped to bolster the number of Mississippi women in favor of woman suffrage. During her tenure as president of the MWSA (1916–1917) she began to favor federal amendment and would not push for a state amendment unless to support a bill proposed by a legislative member.

President Woodrow Wilson

Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924) of Virginia became the twenty-eighth president of the United States in 1913. Although best remembered for his leadership during World War I, he was also in office during the height of the Woman Suffrage Movement. When elected he was not considered a friend of the suffrage movement. That changed in 1917 when suffragists picketed outside the White House, leading to several arrests of the female demonstrators. When Wilson heard of their harsh treatment while jailed, he was shocked. He joined his daughter, Jessie Woodrow Wilson Sayre, a leading suffragist, as a voice for woman suffrage. He spoke before Congress in 1918 in support of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution stating, “We have made partners of the women in this war... Shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege and right?”

Carrie Chapman Catt

Carrie Chapman Catt (1859–1947) was born Carrie Lane in Wisconsin in 1859. She put herself through college at Iowa State College despite her father's reluctance. She worked with her first husband at a newspaper in San Francisco until his death when she moved to another paper. Upon returning to Iowa in 1887 she became a leader in the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association. She later became president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. She briefly left and was later called upon to help the organization regain its footing. Catt told the NAWSA members that they needed to focus solely on the issue of suffrage and the passage of a federal amendment. She also helped to establish the League of Woman Voters to encourage women to use their right to vote even before the 1920 Amendment was passed. She is credited with coming up with the “winning plan” to get women the right to vote.

William A. Winter and other Mississippi Legislators

William A. Winter (1872–1952) state representative from Grenada Mississippi and father of future Mississippi governor, William F. Winter, was one of the many state legislators against woman suffrage. Introducing a resolution to reject the ratification of the 19th Amendment, he stated that the amendment was an “unwarranted, unnecessary, and dangerous interference” with Mississippi's rights as a state. The House of Representatives proceeded to pass the resolution with a 106-25 vote thereby rejecting the amendment and stopping its progress in Mississippi. The Mississippi Senate followed suit and voted 14-29 to reject the amendment. After one last attempt in the House of Representatives, Mississippi did not ratify the amendment, and the state of Tennessee became the thirty-sixth state to ratify the amendment, making it a federal law. William A. Winter went on to serve other terms in the house and the state senate.
People and Tactics of the Woman Suffrage Movement (IMAGES)

Stephen D. Lee. Mississippi Hall of Fame portrait. MDAH, Museum Division.


Nellie Nugent Somerville. Mississippi Hall of Fame portrait. MDAH, Museum Division.


Theodore Bilbo. Mississippi Hall of Governors portrait. MDAH, Museum Division.

Belle Kearney sketch. PI/KER/43/7/1. MDAH, Archives and Records Services.


Pauline Van deGraaf Orr. MDAH, Archives and Records Services.


Mississippi State Capitol and car. 103720-01. MDAH, Archives and Records Services.
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY LESSON PLANS
TEACHER EVALUATION
COMPLETE BOTH SIDES AND PLEASE MAIL OR FAX TO THE ADDRESS ON THE NEXT PAGE. THANK YOU!

TEACHER NAME ____________________________________________________________

SCHOOL NAME & ADDRESS __________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
EMAIL (OPTIONAL) __________________________________________________________________

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS_________ GRADE LEVEL ________________________________

LESSON TITLE  Woman Suffrage Movement in Mississippi ________________________________

1. In your opinion, did this unit elicit better than average student response; if so, how?

2. Which segments of the unit exceeded your students’ attention span?

3. Will this unit be of assistance to you in developing future classroom activities; if so, how?

4. How did this unit add to your earlier teaching on the same subject?

5. Would this teaching unit be handier to use as a:
   ___multi-day unit   ___multi-week unit   ___other

6. Were the activities and lessons appropriate for your students? How?
Please rate the following lesson materials and activities by circling the appropriate number.  
4=excellent, 3=good, 2=average, 1=inadequate

Directions and Notes 4 3 2 1  
Curricular Connections 4 3 2 1  
Student Worksheets 4 3 2 1  
Interactive Activities 4 3 2 1  
Historic Images 4 3 2 1  
References and Resources 4 3 2 1  
Activity One 4 3 2 1  
Activity Two 4 3 2 1  
Activity Three 4 3 2 1  
Activity Four 4 3 2 1  
Extension Activities 4 3 2 1  
Overall Lesson 4 3 2 1  

We would appreciate any additional comments on this teaching unit and any suggestions for improvement. Comments may be entered in the space below.