

The Right to Vote



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Our nation was founded on the principle that the people should control their government, this is done through citizens casting ballots during elections. Today all 18 year old US Citizens are eligible to vote, but this wasn't always the case. This lesson helps students understand how voting rights have been expanded and provides for an opportunity to discuss some of the major historical events related to voting rights.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

1. Understand historical events regarding voting rights in the United States.
2. Recognize the value of the right to vote.

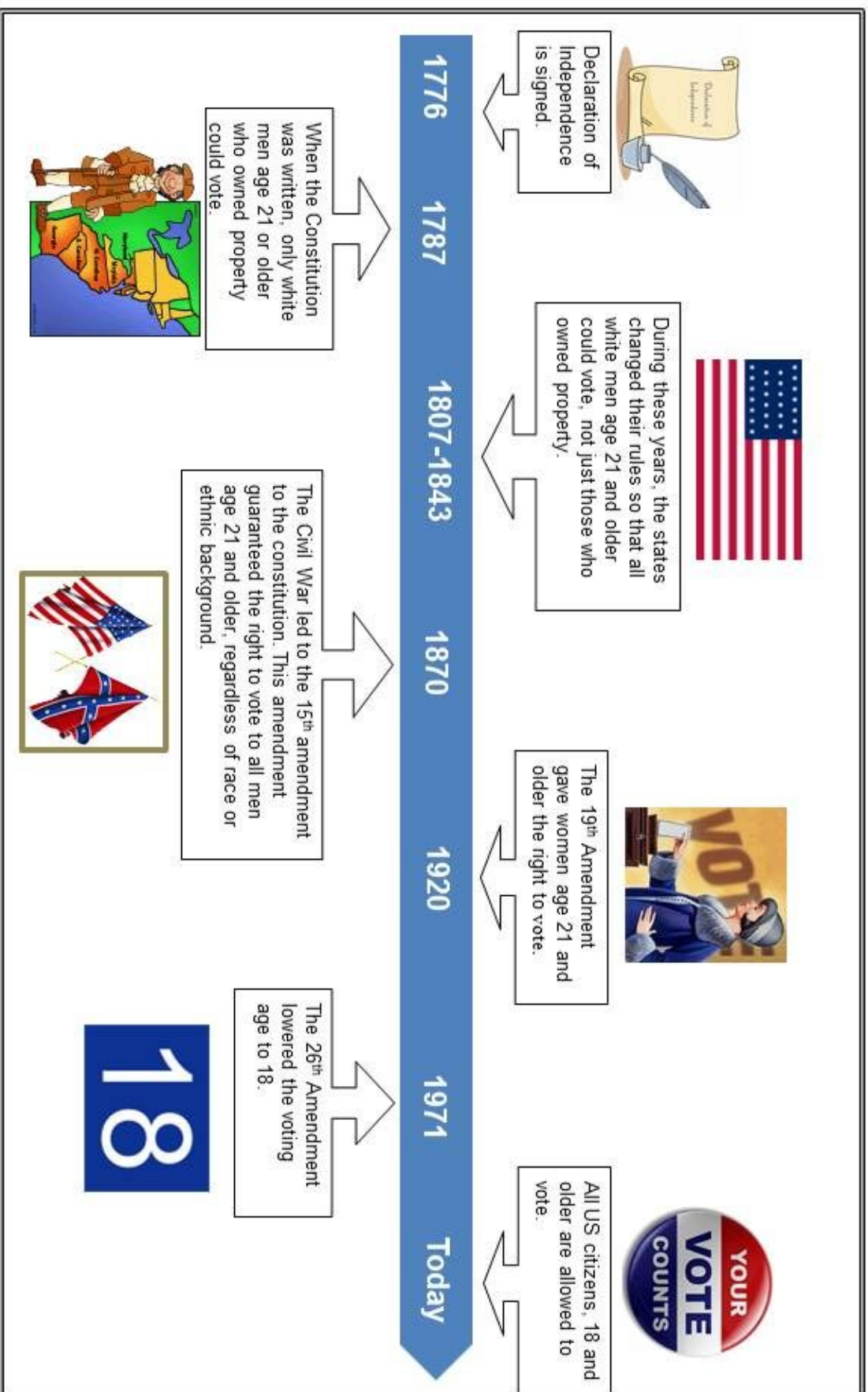
MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Voting rights timeline
2. Printed set of "You are a: _____" cards. At least one card for each class member.

ACTIVITY

Pass out a "You are a: _____" card to each member of your class. Have each class member read their card to understand what type of person they represent. Using the Voting Rights Timeline and beginning with the current year, ask all students to stand if they would be eligible to vote. Now working backwards through the Voting Rights Timeline have students sit down that would no longer be eligible to vote. In the end the only class members that remain standing will be those eligible to vote as of 1787. Have a discussion with the class about this activity. This activity may also be done in reverse working from 1787 to the present year.

Voting Rights Timeline



Your are a: _____ Cards

<p>You are a:</p> <p>Man Caucasian (White) Age - 18 You own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Man Caucasian (White) Age - 20 You own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Man Caucasian (White) Age - 50 You own land</p>
<p>You are a:</p> <p>Man Caucasian (White) Age - 21 You do not own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Man Caucasian (White) Age - 25 You do not own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Man Caucasian (White) Age - 30 You do not own land</p>
<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Caucasian (White) Age - 18 You own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Caucasian (White) Age - 20 You own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Caucasian (White) Age - 45 You own land</p>
<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Caucasian (White) Age - 22 You do not own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Caucasian (White) Age - 30 You do not own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Caucasian (White) Age - 60 You do not own land</p>

Your are a: _____ Cards

<p>You are a:</p> <p>Man Not Caucasian (White) Age - 18 You do not own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Man Not Caucasian (White) Age - 20 You do not own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Man Not Caucasian (White) Age - 50 You do not own land</p>
<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Not Caucasian (White) Age - 18 You own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Not Caucasian (White) Age - 20 You own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Not Caucasian (White) Age - 45 You own land</p>
<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Not Caucasian (White) Age - 18 You do not own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Not Caucasian (White) Age - 20 You do not own land</p>	<p>You are a:</p> <p>Woman Not Caucasian (White) Age - 45 You do not own land</p>