

Voting in the South





Alabama Literacy Test



The Main Idea

- During the 1960's voting rights for African Americans became a focal point of the Civil Rights Movement.

24th Amendment

- Abolished the poll tax for voting
- The poll tax made it difficult for African Americans to vote



Freedom Summer Video





Mississippi Freedom Summer

- Hundreds of people volunteered to spend their summers registering African Americans to vote.
- SNCC, CORE, and other groups founded the Voter Education Project (VEP) to register southern African Americans to vote.
 - Was successful
- Opposition to African American suffrage was great.

Mississippi Freedom Summer

- White northern upper middle class and college students made their way to Mississippi to register African Americans to vote.





Mississippi Freedom Summer

- Andrew Goodman, a Freedom Summer volunteer, and two CORE workers went missing on June 21, 1964.
 - Had gone to inspect a church that had recently been bombed.
- President Johnson ordered a massive hunt for the three men. Their bodies were discovered near Philadelphia, Mississippi.
- 21 suspects were tried in federal court for violating civil rights laws.



Results

- The Freedom Schools taught 3,000 students.
- More than 17,000 African Americans in Mississippi applied to vote.
- State elections officials accepted only about 1,600 of the 17,000 applications.
- This helped show that a federal law was needed to secure voting rights for African Americans.



The Civil Rights Act of 1964

- President Johnson supported passage of a strong civil rights bill.
 - Some southerners in Congress fought hard to kill his bill.
 - Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law on July 2, 1964.
- The law banned discrimination in employment and in public accommodations.



Voting Rights Act (1965)

- Made it easier for African Americans to vote.
- Literacy tests, poll taxes and other such requirements that were used to restrict black voting were made illegal.

Selma March

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM-tfj6lp6w>

Selma Campaign



- King organized marches in Selma, Alabama, to gain voting rights for African Americans.
- King and many other marchers were jailed.
- Police attacked a march in Marion.
- King announced a four-day march from Selma to Montgomery.

Selma March

- 600 African Americans began the 54-mile march.
- City and state police blocked their way out of Selma.
- TV cameras captured the police using clubs, chains, and electric cattle prods on the marchers.



NEEDED
LEGISLATION

LIBERAL
CONGRESSMEN

CIVIL
RIGHTS
EXPRESS

EXTREME
ADDITIONS

RFK

Baldu



Order of Operations

- Voting Rights Assignment