Voting in the South



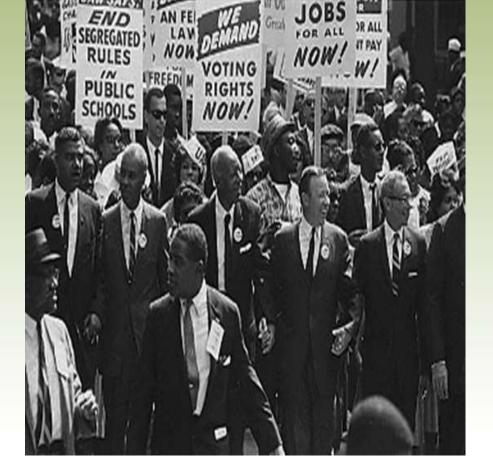
Alabama Literacy Test



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

24th Amendment

- <u>Abolished the</u>
 <u>poll tax for</u>
 <u>voting</u>
- <u>The poll tax</u>
 <u>made it difficult</u>
 <u>for African</u>
 <u>Americans to</u>
 vote



Freedom Summer Video

Mississippi Freedom Summer

- <u>Hundreds of people volunteered to spend</u> 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 <u>Mississippi to</u> register African Americans to





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.
- <u>21 suspects were tried in federal court for</u> <u>violating civil rights laws.</u>

Results

- <u>The Freedom Schools taught 3,000</u> <u>students.</u>
- More than 17,000 African Americans in Mississippi applied to vote.
- <u>State elections officials accepted only</u> <u>about 1,600 of the 17,000 applications.</u>
- 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.
- <u>The law banned discrimination in employment</u> and in public accommodations.

Voting Rights Act (1965)

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

Selma March

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

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 54mile 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.



Order of Operations

• Voting Rights Assignment