Reform and Resistance

Read how people worked for change in the United States and Alabama.

SS24.5.2 "Describe Progressive Era political reforms in both the United States and Alabama. 2a Summarize how women in Alabama participated in the suffrage movement prior to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one U.S. reform, one action by Alabama women, and one prison reform. Circle two voting barriers, then label the cause of Alabama's 1901 voting rules 1 and one effect 2.

Who Gained a Voice?

1 During the Progressive Era, reformers sought fairer government across the United States. In 1913, a new amendment let voters, not state lawmakers, choose U.S. senators. Alabama women also pushed for voting rights. Pattie Ruffner Jacobs helped lead the Alabama Equal Suffrage Association. Members held meetings, gave speeches, and asked lawmakers to let women vote. The Nineteenth Amendment barred states from denying the vote because of sex in 1920.

2 The Populist Movement had brought together some Black and white farmers who wanted more political power. Alabama's powerful Democrats feared that these voters could challenge their control. At the 1901 constitutional convention, leaders wrote voting rules to weaken that challenge. A poll tax charged people to vote, and a literacy test checked their reading or writing. These barriers shut out many Black voters and white male small farmers and laborers.

3 Reformers also challenged Alabama's convict-lease system. Under this system, the state rented incarcerated people to businesses, where they often faced dangerous work and abuse. Julia Tutwiler visited prisons and called for better care, education, and separate spaces for women and young people. She also opposed convict leasing. Alabama finally ended the system in 1928, later than any other state. Ending leases did not end all prison labor.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1913 amendment change who chose U.S. senators?

2. What did Alabama women do to seek voting rights before the Nineteenth Amendment?

3. Why did Alabama's leaders write new voting rules in 1901, and who lost voting power as a result?

4. How did Julia Tutwiler seek to change prisons, and what happened to convict leasing?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum visitor says, “The Progressive Era made voting fair for everyone in Alabama.” Write four sentences that respond to this claim. Connect a national reform to Alabama women's work, explain a cause and effect of the 1901 voting rules, and describe one prison reform.

ANSWER KEY

Reform and Resistance

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one U.S. reform, one action by Alabama women, and one prison reform. Circle two voting barriers, then label the cause of Alabama's 1901 voting rules 1 and one effect 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1913 amendment change who chose U.S. senators?	**Voters chose U.S. senators instead of state lawmakers.**
2	What did Alabama women do to seek voting rights before the Nineteenth Amendment?	**They held meetings, gave speeches, and asked lawmakers to let women vote.**
3	Why did Alabama's leaders write new voting rules in 1901, and who lost voting power as a result?	**They feared that voters brought together by the Populist Movement could challenge their control. The rules shut out many Black voters and white male small farmers and laborers.**
4	How did Julia Tutwiler seek to change prisons, and what happened to convict leasing?	**She called for better care, education, and separate spaces for women and young people, and she opposed convict leasing. Alabama ended the system in 1928.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Alabama women held meetings and gave speeches for voting rights before the Nineteenth Amendment barred states from denying the vote because of sex. But voting was not fair for everyone in Alabama. Leaders who feared the political power of Populist voters used the 1901 constitution to set poll taxes and literacy tests that shut out many Black voters and white male small farmers and laborers. Julia Tutwiler also fought for change in prisons, and Alabama ended convict leasing in 1928.

Accept accurate wording that connects fear of Populist voters to the 1901 voting barriers and identifies people affected. Students should not claim that the Nineteenth Amendment removed Alabama's poll taxes or literacy tests.