

Promises Without Votes

Explain the gap between citizenship protections and women's voting rights.

11.4b "The 14th and 15th amendments failed to address the rights of women."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline constitutional protections. Circle limits on women's voting rights. Mark one way women challenged those limits.

Citizenship Without Suffrage

- ① The Fourteenth Amendment (1868) recognized citizenship for people born or naturalized in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction. It required states to provide equal protection, but did not guarantee women the vote. Section 2 linked reduced representation to denial of voting rights to eligible male citizens. Its use of "male" alarmed women's rights advocates. Women were not excluded from all Fourteenth Amendment protections; the central dispute was whether citizenship secured suffrage.
- ② The Fifteenth Amendment (1870) prohibited federal and state voting discrimination based on race, color, or previous servitude, but not sex. It protected Black men's voting rights without ending women's exclusion based on sex. Black women faced both racism and sex discrimination. Some women could vote under state or territorial laws, but neither amendment established a nationwide ban on sex-based voting discrimination.
- ③ Susan B. Anthony voted in Rochester in 1872, arguing that citizenship under the Fourteenth Amendment protected her right to vote. Her 1873 conviction rejected that claim. Activists continued organizing for suffrage and greater control over property. State laws expanded married women's property rights unevenly, without establishing equal political rights nationwide. The Nineteenth Amendment finally prohibited sex-based voting discrimination in 1920, but racist restrictions and other barriers still prevented many women from voting. Legal change required continued efforts to make rights effective.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two protections did the Fourteenth Amendment provide, and what right did it not establish for women?

2 How did the Fourteenth Amendment's use of the word "male" show a limit on women's political rights?

3 Why did the Fifteenth Amendment leave women without a federal constitutional guarantee of suffrage?

4 What did Susan B. Anthony's arrest and conviction show about the legal meaning of citizenship for women in 1873?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In three or four sentences, explain why citizenship did not secure women's voting equality. Use a detail from each amendment and Anthony's case.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline constitutional protections. Circle limits on women's voting rights. Mark one way women challenged those limits. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two protections did the Fourteenth Amendment provide, and what right did it not establish for women?	It provided citizenship and equal protection of the laws. It did not establish women's voting rights.
2	How did the Fourteenth Amendment's use of the word "male" show a limit on women's political rights?	Its representation provision referred to male citizens; women did not receive a guaranteed voting right through that provision.
3	Why did the Fifteenth Amendment leave women without a federal constitutional guarantee of suffrage?	It prohibited vote denial based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude, but it did not include sex.
4	What did Susan B. Anthony's arrest and conviction show about the legal meaning of citizenship for women in 1873?	They showed that the court did not accept citizenship as giving women the right to vote.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Fourteenth Amendment protected citizenship and equal protection but did not guarantee women suffrage. The Fifteenth prohibited racial voting discrimination without prohibiting sex discrimination. Anthony's conviction after voting in 1872 showed that the court rejected her claim that citizenship alone secured her vote.

Accept claims that accurately explain both expansion and exclusion, using evidence from both amendments and Anthony's case. Students may also note that state property-rights gains did not create a national constitutional right to vote.