Votes and Voices

Research voting rights through two amendments

4.P.4.2 "Engage in authentic research to acquire, refine, and share knowledge through written presentations and products. Formulate a viable research question related to expanding knowledge of social studies concepts..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each quotation from an amendment, circle the amendment's name, and write 1 or 2 beside each matching name and quotation so you can keep track of your sources.

Two Changes to Voting Rules

1. A class is researching how voting rules changed in the United States. Their guiding question is, "How did two changes to the Constitution protect voting rights?" A useful research question can be answered with evidence, not just yes or no. The class reads the Fifteenth Amendment and the Nineteenth Amendment as two separate sources. Both are changes, called amendments, to the Constitution.

2. Source 1, the Fifteenth Amendment, was added in 1870. It says that a citizen's right to vote cannot be denied "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." This rule followed the Civil War, when slavery had ended. For years afterward, unfair tests and other barriers still kept many Black citizens from voting, even though the amendment protected their right.

3. Source 2, the Nineteenth Amendment, was added in 1920. It says a citizen's right to vote cannot be denied "on account of sex." This change followed years of work by people seeking voting rights for women. The class puts each quotation beside its source name. It checks copied words against the source. Its final report must use both sources and make clear which words are quoted.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a research question that both sources can help answer. Do not copy the class's question.

2. Copy the exact words from Source 1 that name the reasons a citizen's vote cannot be denied. Use quotation marks and name the source.

3. Write one note about Source 2 in your own words. Name the source in your note.

4. Use evidence from both sources to answer the research question you wrote in question 1. Name both amendments.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label titled “Voting Rights on Paper and in Life.” Give the year and voting protection for each amendment, include one exact quotation with its source named, and explain why the Fifteenth Amendment did not end all barriers to voting.

ANSWER KEY

Votes and Voices

GRADE 4 · 4.P.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each quotation from an amendment, circle the amendment's name, and write 1 or 2 beside each matching name and quotation so you can keep track of your sources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a research question that both sources can help answer. Do not copy the class's question.	**Which reasons for denying a citizen the vote did the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments each ban?**
2	Copy the exact words from Source 1 that name the reasons a citizen's vote cannot be denied. Use quotation marks and name the source.	**Fifteenth Amendment: "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."**
3	Write one note about Source 2 in your own words. Name the source in your note.	**The Nineteenth Amendment banned denying a citizen the vote because of sex.**
4	Use evidence from both sources to answer the research question you wrote in question 1. Name both amendments.	**The Fifteenth Amendment banned denying the vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, while the Nineteenth Amendment banned denying it because of sex.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Voting Rights on Paper and in Life

In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment banned denying citizens the vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. In 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment banned denying citizens the vote "on account of sex." Together, these amendments protected voting rights for more citizens. Yet unfair tests and other barriers still kept many Black citizens from voting after 1870.

Accept other research questions that both sources can help answer and accurate summaries in students' own words. Check that copied words match the passage exactly, appear in quotation marks, and are credited to the correct amendment.