Who Could Vote?

Use two kinds of sources to investigate voting rights in 1920.

7.P.4.2 "Engage in authentic research to acquire, refine, and share knowledge through written presentations and products. Refine and formulate viable research questions related to social studies investigations..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Part 1 READ AND MARK: Underline the focused research question, circle a phrase quoted from the amendment, and number the two source formats 1 and 2 to track how the evidence differs.

A Voting Promise and Its Limits

1. Imagine creating a museum label about voting rights in 1920. A starting question, "Did women get the vote?", is too broad. A sharper question asks, "Did the Nineteenth Amendment give every woman in the United States a fair chance to vote in 1920?" One primary source is the amendment itself, available as a scanned document through the National Archives. It states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This law addressed one barrier: sex.

2. A National Park Service online history article offers a different kind of source: a modern explanation of who could actually vote. Many Native American women were not recognized as United States citizens in 1920. A federal law granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States in 1924, but some states still kept Native Americans from voting. The article also describes barriers Black women faced, especially in Southern states, including unfair registration rules and threats. These details complicate a simple claim that the amendment opened every polling place to every woman.

3. A careful researcher does not treat a legal promise as proof that everyone could use it. A claim for the museum label might be: "The amendment removed sex as a legal reason to deny a citizen's vote, but other barriers remained." To support this idea, the writer could quote the amendment, paraphrase the park service article in fresh words, and name each source. The label should include both the federal rule and the experiences of people who faced other barriers. That balance shows why one short answer is not enough.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Part 2 QUESTIONS: How does the focused research question improve on “Did women get the vote?”

2. Which source would you quote to show exactly what federal law said? Why quote it instead of relying only on a summary?

3. Paraphrase one finding from the National Park Service article about a barrier to voting.

4. A museum label claims that every woman could vote freely in 1920. What detail from each source would help you test that claim?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Part 3 YOUR TURN: Write a five-sentence museum label for classmates about what changed, and what did not, for Native American women voters between 1920 and 1924. Begin with a focused research question, make a claim, quote the amendment, paraphrase the National Park Service article, and name both sources.

ANSWER KEY

Who Could Vote?

GRADE 7 · 7.P.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Part 1 READ AND MARK: Underline the focused research question, circle a phrase quoted from the amendment, and number the two source formats 1 and 2 to track how the evidence differs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Part 2 QUESTIONS: How does the focused research question improve on "Did women get the vote?"	**It asks whether every woman had a fair chance to vote in 1920, rather than asking only whether women gained voting rights.**
2	Which source would you quote to show exactly what federal law said? Why quote it instead of relying only on a summary?	**Quote the Nineteenth Amendment in the National Archives scanned document. Its exact words show that the rule applies to citizens and forbids denying a vote on account of sex.**
3	Paraphrase one finding from the National Park Service article about a barrier to voting.	**Accept, for example: Many Native American women were not recognized as United States citizens in 1920, so the amendment did not remove that barrier for them.**
4	A museum label claims that every woman could vote freely in 1920. What detail from each source would help you test that claim?	**The amendment protects citizens from being denied a vote on account of sex. The National Park Service article reports that many Native American women lacked citizenship in 1920 and that Black women faced registration barriers and threats.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Did the 1924 citizenship law make the Nineteenth Amendment's voting protection available to all Native American women? The National Archives records that the amendment barred denying citizens a vote "on account of sex." Yet many Native American women were not recognized as United States citizens in 1920, according to the National Park Service online history article. The article also explains that some states still kept Native Americans from voting after a federal law granted citizenship in 1924. Citizenship extended the amendment's protection, but it did not end every barrier at the polls.

For Part 3, accept labels that distinguish the amendment's rule from access to voting, use an accurate direct quote, paraphrase the article, and name both sources. The research question and claim may differ from the sample.