The Final Step

Trace how a vote became statehood.

OKH.C.4.5 "Trace the final steps toward statehood from the adoption of the Oklahoma constitution by a vote of the people to presidential proclamation on November 16, 1907."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action that moved Oklahoma toward statehood. Number the actions in order to trace what happened between the vote and the proclamation.

From Voters to Statehood

1. On September 17, 1907, voters in Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory faced a decision with national consequences. They voted on a proposed constitution for a state that would unite the two territories. The constitution had been written by delegates at a convention in Guthrie. Voters approved it, and they also chose officers for the planned state, including Charles N. Haskell as governor. Those election results showed that voters wanted the proposed government. They did not, by themselves, turn the territories into a state. The 1906 Enabling Act set a federal process that still had to be completed.

2. After the vote, the approved constitution and news of the election results reached Washington. The Enabling Act required the president to determine whether the new constitution met the conditions Congress had set for admission. President Theodore Roosevelt reviewed the document against those requirements before he could announce statehood. This step mattered because a local vote expressed the people's choice, but Congress had set terms for joining the Union. The proposed state was therefore in a waiting period: its constitution had won voter support, yet federal action was still needed to complete its admission.

3. On November 16, 1907, Roosevelt issued the presidential proclamation admitting Oklahoma to the Union as the forty-sixth state. The proclamation was the final step required by the Enabling Act, not another vote on the constitution. At that point, Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory became one state under the constitution voters had approved. The officers chosen in September could now serve in a state government; Haskell became Oklahoma's first governor. The sequence shows two different decisions working together: voters accepted the plan for their government, and the president's proclamation made admission official under the process Congress had established.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did voters do on September 17, and why did those actions not finish the path to statehood?

2. After the vote, what reached Washington, and what did Roosevelt need to determine before announcing statehood?

3. Why did federal review come between voter approval and the proclamation?

4. What changed when Roosevelt issued the proclamation on November 16? Include both the territories and the elected officers.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence news brief dated November 16, 1907. Trace the September 17 vote, the federal review, and the presidential proclamation in order, explain why the vote alone did not create a state, and state what changed when the proclamation was issued.

ANSWER KEY

The Final Step

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.4.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each action that moved Oklahoma toward statehood. Number the actions in order to trace what happened between the vote and the proclamation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did voters do on September 17, and why did those actions not finish the path to statehood?	**Voters approved the constitution and elected officers, but the Enabling Act still required federal action before admission.**
2	After the vote, what reached Washington, and what did Roosevelt need to determine before announcing statehood?	**The approved constitution and news of the election results reached Washington. Roosevelt needed to determine whether the constitution met Congress's conditions for admission.**
3	Why did federal review come between voter approval and the proclamation?	**Voter approval showed local support, but Congress had set conditions for admission that the president had to check before issuing a proclamation.**
4	What changed when Roosevelt issued the proclamation on November 16? Include both the territories and the elected officers.	**The two territories became one state, Oklahoma. The officers elected in September could serve in its state government.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

November 16, 1907: Oklahoma has joined the Union. On September 17, voters in Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory approved a constitution and chose officers for the proposed state. Their vote did not create a state because the Enabling Act still required federal action. President Theodore Roosevelt reviewed the constitution to determine whether it met Congress's conditions for admission. Today, his proclamation admitted Oklahoma as the forty-sixth state, joined the two territories into one state, and allowed its elected officers to serve in a state government.

Accept equivalent wording that keeps voter approval, federal review, and the November 16 proclamation in order. Responses should distinguish approval of a proposed state government from official admission to the Union.