

Votes and Change

Trace how Jackson's election reshaped political participation.

8.5.G “explain the impact of the election of Andrew Jackson, including expanded suffrage; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show who gained political power, circle details that show who was left out, and number three effects of Jackson's election on campaigns or government.

A New Kind of Election

- ① When Andrew Jackson won the presidency in 1828, many Americans saw the result as a shift in national politics. Jackson was a war hero from Tennessee, not a member of the long-established Virginia and Massachusetts political families that had produced several earlier presidents. His supporters presented him as a champion of the “common man.” The election showed that candidates could build broad support among white male voters in many states, using rallies, newspapers, and local party workers.
- ② By 1828, many states had removed property-owning requirements for white men who wanted to vote. As a result, far more white men could take part in elections than in the early republic. This expanded suffrage did not mean that every adult could vote. Women could not vote, enslaved people had no political rights, and free Black men faced restrictions or exclusion in many states. The new voting rules were made by state governments, but Jackson's victory became a powerful symbol of this wider white male electorate.
- ③ Jackson's election also changed how politicians competed for power. Campaigns increasingly appealed directly to large groups of voters instead of relying mainly on elite leaders. Jacksonian Democrats built local organizations that registered support, spread messages, and turned out voters. Once in office, Jackson replaced some federal officeholders with loyal supporters, a practice opponents criticized as the spoils system. His presidency did not create democracy for all Americans, yet it helped make mass participation by white men and organized party campaigning central features of national politics.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What voting requirement had many states removed by 1828, and what was the result of that change?

2 Why did Jackson's 1828 victory become a symbol of expanded suffrage?

3 How did campaigns change as politicians tried to reach more voters? Give two methods from the passage.

4 Why does the passage say Jackson's presidency did not create democracy for all Americans?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining how Jackson's election reflected expanded suffrage and changed politics. Include one fact about voting access, one campaign or government change, and one sentence naming a limit on democracy.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show who gained political power, circle details that show who was left out, and number three effects of Jackson's election on campaigns or government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What voting requirement had many states removed by 1828, and what was the result of that change?	Many states removed property-owning requirements for white men. As a result, far more white men could vote.
2	Why did Jackson's 1828 victory become a symbol of expanded suffrage?	His victory showed that a candidate could gain broad support from the wider white male electorate.
3	How did campaigns change as politicians tried to reach more voters? Give two methods from the passage.	Campaigns appealed directly to large groups of voters and used methods such as rallies, newspapers, local party workers, and party organizations.
4	Why does the passage say Jackson's presidency did not create democracy for all Americans?	Women could not vote, enslaved people had no political rights, and free Black men faced restrictions or exclusion in many states.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jackson's 1828 victory reflected expanded suffrage because many states had ended property-owning requirements for white men. Politicians then used local party organizations and direct appeals to reach large groups of voters. However, women, enslaved people, and many free Black men still could not vote.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect wider white male voting access to Jackson's victory and to more direct, organized campaigning. For the limit, students may name women, enslaved people, free Black men, or more than one excluded group.