

Womens Suffrage And The 19th Amendment Worksheet Answers

Name _____ Date _____

Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Women's suffrage was the name of the goal that women worked to achieve from the middle of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th. **Suffrage** is another word for the right to vote and participate in politics.

Before 1920, women had very few political or social rights. Women were not expected to work in politics or even participate in political discussions. Prior to suffrage, it was considered rude and unladylike for a woman to even speak her mind.

Women had been fighting for the right to vote almost since the United States was established. Though the constitution did not say women could not vote, individual states had laws that did not allow them to vote. Activists like Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Sojourner Truth began speaking up about equality for women in the earlier part of the 1800s. In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other well-known activists organized the Seneca Falls Convention, a two-day meeting of people who wanted to win voting rights for women. Throughout the two-day convention, attendees shared ideas on how to achieve their goal. Influential leaders like Lucretia Mott, Amelia Bloomer, and even Frederick Douglass attended the convention, and some of them spoke about the situation and what they could do to make it better. The convention was widely reported on, and news of the event inspired women all over the country to join the fight and demand change. Official groups were formed, and the women who joined them, called "suffragettes," went on to stage demonstrations, give speeches, and write about the struggle for women's rights.

By 1915, a few rights had been won. Some states allowed women to vote in state elections, but they still were not allowed to vote nationally. However, the work that women did on the homefront during World War I, combined with the perseverance suffragettes had shown over the last 70 years, caused many people to change their thinking about a woman's role in society. In 1920, the **19th Amendment**, which said that no one could be excluded from voting in an election because of their gender, was ratified.

Part 1: Reading Comprehension

1. Why were women not allowed to vote before 1920?
2. Describe an event that made a significant impact on the women's suffrage movement.
3. Why is it significant that Frederick Douglass attended the Seneca Convention?

Women's suffrage and the 19th Amendment worksheet answers provide an insightful look into a pivotal moment in American history. The struggle for women's suffrage, which culminated in the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, was a lengthy and arduous journey that involved countless activists, organizations, and protests. This article delves into the historical context, key figures, events leading up to the amendment, and the implications of its passage, as well as providing potential worksheet answers to facilitate understanding of this critical topic.

Historical Context of Women's Suffrage

The fight for women's suffrage in the United States began in the mid-19th century, rooted in broader movements for social reform, including abolition and temperance. Women began to recognize that gaining the right to vote was essential to achieving equality and addressing issues that affected their lives and communities.

Early Activism

- Seneca Falls Convention (1848): This convention marked the first organized women's rights gathering in the United States. The "Declaration of Sentiments," drafted by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, called for equal rights for women, including the right to vote.

- Formation of Organizations: The National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) was established in 1869 by Stanton and Susan B. Anthony to advocate for a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage. In contrast, the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA), led by Lucy Stone, focused on securing voting rights at the state level.

Key Figures in the Movement

Numerous women played vital roles in the suffrage movement, each contributing in unique ways:

1. Susan B. Anthony: A prominent leader who campaigned tirelessly for women's rights, co-founded the NWSA, and was instrumental in organizing campaigns and rallies.
2. Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Known for her oratory skills and writings, she was a key figure in articulating the demands of the suffrage movement.
3. Sojourner Truth: An African American abolitionist and women's rights activist, her famous speech "Ain't I a Woman?" highlighted the intersection of race and gender in the fight for equality.
4. Alice Paul: A younger generation leader who introduced more militant tactics, including picketing the White House and organizing the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession.

Major Events Leading to the 19th Amendment

The campaign for women's suffrage involved a series of events that built momentum over decades.

Key Milestones

- The Wyoming Territory Grants Suffrage (1869): Wyoming became the first territory to grant women the right to vote, setting a precedent for other states.
- The National American Woman Suffrage Association (1890): The NWSA and AWSA merged to form this organization, helping to unify the movement.
- Women's March on Washington (1913): This event, timed to coincide with Woodrow Wilson's inauguration, was a significant demonstration that brought national attention to the suffrage cause.
- World War I (1914-1918): Women's contributions to the war effort helped shift public opinion in favor of suffrage, highlighting women's capabilities and their role in society.

The 19th Amendment and Its Ratification

The culmination of the suffrage movement was the introduction and eventual ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Text of the 19th Amendment

"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."

Path to Ratification

1. Introduction to Congress: In 1919, the amendment was introduced in Congress, and after much debate, it passed both houses.
2. State Ratification Campaign: Following its passage in Congress, suffragists launched a campaign to secure ratification from three-fourths of the states.
3. Final Ratification: On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment, securing its place in the Constitution.

Implications of the 19th Amendment

The ratification of the 19th Amendment was a monumental victory but also marked a new beginning for the women's rights movement.

Short-term Impacts

- Increased Political Participation: Women began to vote in elections, and their participation influenced political platforms and policies.
- Emergence of New Organizations: Groups like the League of Women Voters formed to educate women on civic engagement and encourage voter participation.

Long-term Consequences

- Ongoing Struggles for Equality: While the amendment granted women the right to vote, it did not address racial discrimination in voting, leading to continued activism, especially among women of color.
- Expansion of Women's Rights: The suffrage movement laid the groundwork for future civil rights movements, influencing issues such as reproductive rights, workplace equality, and education.

Worksheet Answers for Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment

This section provides answers to common worksheet questions related to women's suffrage and the 19th Amendment, which can help students grasp the content more effectively.

Sample Worksheet Questions and Answers

1. Question: What was the primary goal of the women's suffrage movement?
- Answer: The primary goal was to secure the right to vote for women in the United States.
2. Question: What year was the 19th Amendment ratified?
- Answer: The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920.
3. Question: Name two key figures in the women's suffrage movement.
- Answer: Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.
4. Question: What was the significance of the Seneca Falls Convention?
- Answer: It was the first organized women's rights convention in the U.S. and marked the beginning of the formal suffrage movement.
5. Question: List one method that suffragists used to gain support for their cause.
- Answer: They organized protests and marches, such as the Women's March on Washington in 1913.

Conclusion

The journey toward women's suffrage and the ratification of the 19th Amendment was a profound chapter in American history, involving tireless advocacy, strategic organization, and unwavering determination. Understanding this movement is essential not only for recognizing the achievements of women who fought for their rights but also for acknowledging the ongoing struggles for equality that persist today. The legacy of the suffrage movement continues to inspire contemporary activism and reminds us of the vital importance of civic engagement and participation in democracy.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the primary goal of the women's suffrage movement?

The primary goal of the women's suffrage movement was to secure the right to vote for women.

When was the 19th Amendment ratified?

The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920.

What impact did the 19th Amendment have on women's rights?

The 19th Amendment significantly advanced women's rights by granting women the legal right to vote, empowering them to influence legislation and policy.

Who were some key figures in the women's suffrage movement?

Key figures in the women's suffrage movement included Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul.

What were some strategies used by suffragists to gain support for women's voting rights?

Suffragists used strategies such as organizing marches, lobbying legislators, and holding rallies to raise awareness and gain support for women's voting rights.

How did the 19th Amendment influence future civil rights movements?

The 19th Amendment set a precedent for future civil rights movements by highlighting the importance of voting rights and encouraging other marginalized groups to advocate for their rights.

What challenges did women face even after the ratification of the 19th Amendment?

Even after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, many women, particularly women of color, faced barriers such as literacy tests, poll taxes, and discriminatory laws that hindered their voting rights.

What role did the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) play in the suffrage movement?

The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) played a crucial role in organizing efforts, promoting the suffrage agenda, and uniting various women's organizations to push for voting rights.

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