

CHAPTER
6
SECTION 3

READING COMPREHENSION

Suffrage and Civil Rights

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1. What was the purpose of the 15th Amendment?

2. List five "legal" devices that were used to prevent African Americans from voting even after the passage of the 15th Amendment.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
3. How did each of the following Supreme Court cases affect the voting rights of African Americans?
 - a. *Smith v. Allwright* _____
 - b. *Gomillion v. Lightfoot* _____
4. Briefly explain how each of the following laws helped enforce the 15th Amendment.
 - a. Civil Rights Act of 1957 _____

 - b. Civil Rights Act of 1960 _____

 - c. Civil Rights Act of 1964 _____

 - d. Voting Rights Act of 1965 _____

5. What is the purpose of preclearance? What types of laws are most likely to have preclearance problems?

6. How can a State or county be removed from the voter-examiner and preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act?

7. Briefly describe each of the following amendments to the Voting Rights Act:
 - a. 1970 _____
 - b. 1975 _____
 - c. 1982 _____
 - d. 1992 _____

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Directions: Write your answer to each of the following questions.

1. Complete the following sentence:

The 15th Amendment gave the right to vote to _____

2. List four ways African Americans were kept from voting even after the passage of the 15th Amendment.

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____

3. Describe the Supreme Court's decision in each of the following cases:

a. *Smith v. Allwright*

b. *Gomillion v. Lightfoot*

4. In the chart below, summarize how each of the following laws helped to enforce the 15th Amendment.

Law	How it helped enforce 15th Amendment
Civil Rights Act of 1957	
Civil Rights Act of 1960	
Civil Rights Act of 1964	
Voting Rights Act of 1965	

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CORE WORKSHEET

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Examine the data below and then answer the questions that follow.

African American Members in the U.S. Congress

Congress	Year	Total African American Members of Congress	Total African American House Members	Total African American Senate Members
41st	1869-1871	3	2	1
42nd	1871-1873	5	5	—
43rd	1873-1875	7	7	—
44th	1875-1877	8	7	1
45th	1877-1879	4	3	1
46th	1879-1881	1	—	1
47th	1881-1883	2	2	—
48th	1883-1885	2	2	—
49th	1885-1887	2	2	—
50th	1887-1889	—	—	—
51st	1889-1891	3	3	—
52nd	1891-1893	1	1	—
53rd	1893-1895	1	1	—
54th	1895-1897	1	1	—
55th	1897-1899	1	1	—
56th	1899-1901	1	1	—
57th	1901-1903	—	—	—
58th	1903-1905	—	—	—
59th	1905-1907	—	—	—
60th	1907-1909	—	—	—
61st	1909-1911	—	—	—
62nd	1911-1913	—	—	—
63rd	1913-1915	—	—	—
64th	1915-1917	—	—	—
65th	1917-1919	—	—	—
66th	1919-1921	—	—	—
67th	1921-1923	—	—	—
68th	1923-1925	—	—	—
69th	1925-1927	—	—	—
70th	1927-1929	—	—	—
71st	1929-1931	1	1	—
72nd	1931-1933	1	1	—
73rd	1933-1935	1	1	—
74th	1935-1937	1	1	—

CORE WORKSHEET (continued)**Suffrage and Civil Rights****3**

Congress	Year	Total African American Members of Congress	Total African American House Members	Total African American Senate Members
75th	1937–1939	1	1	—
76th	1939–1941	1	1	—
77th	1941–1943	1	1	—
78th	1943–1945	1	1	—
79th	1945–1947	2	2	—
80th	1947–1949	2	2	—
81st	1949–1951	2	2	—
82nd	1951–1953	2	2	—
83rd	1953–1955	2	2	—
84th	1955–1957	3	3	—
85th	1957–1959	4	4	—
86th	1959–1961	4	4	—
87th	1961–1963	4	4	—
88th	1963–1965	5	5	—
89th	1965–1967	6	6	—
90th	1967–1969	6	5	1
91st	1969–1971	11	10	1
92nd	1971–1973	14	13	1
93rd	1973–1975	17	16	1
94th	1975–1977	18	17	1
95th	1977–1979	18	17	1
96th	1979–1981	17	17	—
97th	1981–1983	19	19	—
98th	1983–1985	21	21	—
99th	1985–1987	21	21	—
100th	1987–1989	23	23	—
101st	1989–1991	24	24	—
102nd	1991–1993	27	27	—
103rd	1993–1995	40	39	1
104th	1995–1997	41	40	1
105th	1997–1999	40	39	1
106th	1999–2001	39	39	—
107th	2001–2003	39	39	—
108th	2003–2005	39	39	—
109th	2005–2007	43	42	1
110th	2007–2009	43	42	1

The numbers here reflect the highest number of black Members to serve in the House at any one time during a Congress. For example, a record number of 43 black Members were elected to the 104th Congress, but only 40 served at any one time during that Congress.

CORE WORKSHEET (continued)

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1. What event or events might help explain the data in the table for the years 1870 to 1879?

2. What event or events might help explain the portion of the table between 1880 and the 1960s?

3. What event or events might help explain the portion of the table from the 1960s to the present?

4. What is the significance, if any, to the fact that African Americans' electoral success has been largely confined to the House of Representatives?

5. How do you think the success of African Americans in gaining seats in Congress is likely to affect the future success of African American candidates?
