



EXPANSION OF VOTING IN THE UNITED STATES

Learning objectives: The student will

1. Review key ideas dealing with the expansion of voting since the adoption of the Constitution.
2. Work cooperatively in groups to solve a puzzle.

TEKS: 8.16B, 8.22B, 8.24B, 11.5A & B, 11.8F, 11.9A, B, & F, Govt. 14D, Govt. 15A, & Govt. 17A

Materials Needed:

1. A set of puzzles for each group;
2. Desk or floor space for student groups to complete the puzzles.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four students each.
2. Provide each group with a set of the voting puzzle with the pieces cut apart. Hint: For students that have trouble with this type of activity, tell them to begin by turning all pieces of the puzzle with the symbols in the center facing the same way. They are to match the statements on the corresponding sides. The teacher can also display the sheet that is included with the finished puzzle shape.
3. Allow time for student groups to read, discuss and complete the puzzles.
4. After puzzles have been completed, culminate the activity with a discussion of the changes brought about by each expansion of the vote. Each student could prepare an exit ticket explaining their choice and reason for the change they feel has increased popular sovereignty the most.

Key:

15th Amendment—1870 Amendment which guaranteed the right to vote to male citizens previously enslaved

19th Amendment—1920 Amendment which guaranteed the right to vote to women

24th Amendment—1964 Amendment that abolished the poll tax for voting purposes

26th Amendment—1971 Amendment which guaranteed the right to vote to 18 year olds

Grandfather Clauses—Part of the laws passed in much of the South providing that citizens whose grandfathers could vote before the Civil War did not have to take literacy tests in order to vote

Voting Rights Act of 1965—Congressional Act passed to strengthen the protections of the right to vote for all U.S. citizens; abolished the use of literacy tests and English fluency as voting requirements

Suffrage—Name of the movement that demanded the expansion of the right to vote

Poll Tax—A tax that voters paid in order to exercise their right to vote; often used to prevent certain groups from voting

17th Amendment—1913 Amendment which provided for direct election of Senators by the citizens of the state

Literacy Tests—Reading tests used in Southern states as part of the voter registration process which often denied suffrage to certain groups

Amendment 14, Section 1—Part of an amendment that defined citizenship in the United States

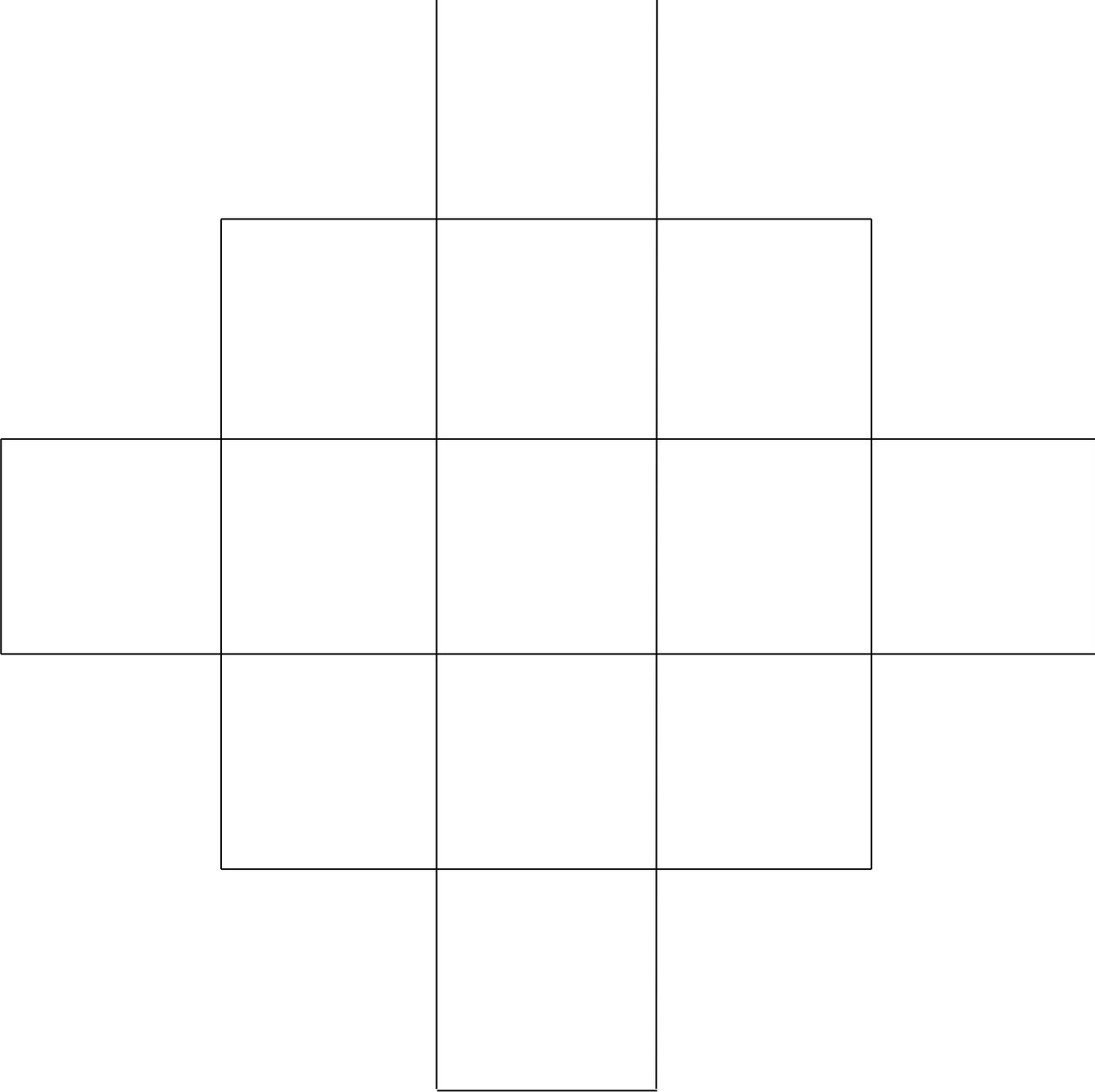
Frederick Douglass--Abolitionist who participated at the meeting at Seneca Falls, N.Y to support the women's suffrage movement

Gerrymandering—Drawing the boundaries of an electoral district to favor a political party

Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments—1848 document, following the form of the Declaration of Independence, written to support women's suffrage

Popular Sovereignty—Ultimate authority to govern rests with the people

Susan B. Anthony—Prominent leader of the suffrage movement who went to the polls in 1872 insisting on exercising the right to vote



VOTING REGULARITIES p. 1

A tax that voters paid in order to exercise their right to vote; often used to prevent certain groups from voting

15th Amendment



19th Amendment

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Congressional Act passed to strengthen the protections of the right to vote for all U.S. citizens; abolished the use of literacy tests and English fluency as voting requirements

1920 Amendment which guaranteed the right to vote to women



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The name of the movement that demanded the expansion of the right to vote

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Amendment 14, Sec 1



24th Amendment

Frederick Douglass

VOTING REGULARITIES p. 2

Drawing the boundaries of an electoral district to favor a political party

Literacy Tests



Grandfather Clauses

26th Amendment

Prominent leader of the suffrage movement who went to the polls in 1872 insisting on exercising the right to vote

Poll Tax



Part of an Amendment that defined citizenship in the United States

17th Amendment



Part of the laws passed in much of the South providing that citizens whose grandfathers could vote before the Civil War did not have to take literacy tests in order to vote

1964 Amendment to the Constitution that abolished the poll tax for voting purposes



VOTING REGULARITIES p. 3

Suffrage



Reading tests used in Southern states as part of the voter registration process which often denied suffrage to certain groups

1848 document, following the form of the Declaration of Independence, written to support women's suffrage



Abolitionist who participated at the meeting at Seneca Falls, N.Y. to support the women's suffrage movement



1971 Amendment which guaranteed the right to vote to 18 year olds



VOTING REGULARITIES p. 4



1870 Amendment to the Constitution which guaranteed the right to vote to male citizens previously enslaved