

THE AMENDMENTS

1798-1870: Amendments XI-XV

(See Amendments XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV)

After the Bill of Rights became part of the Constitution, other changes were made by other amendments.

The Eleventh Amendment was added to the Constitution in 1798. Under the amendment, people in one state, or foreigners, cannot sue another state in a Federal court.

The Twelfth Amendment, concerning presidential elections, was ratified in 1804. Before the Twelfth Amendment, the man who received the most votes was the President, and the man with the second most votes was the Vice President. But by the election of 1800, political parties had developed, and it was clear that having two men from different parties was not a good leadership situation. The Twelfth Amendment allowed voters to vote for the President and Vice President on separate ballots so that members of the same political party would not be running against each other for the presidency.

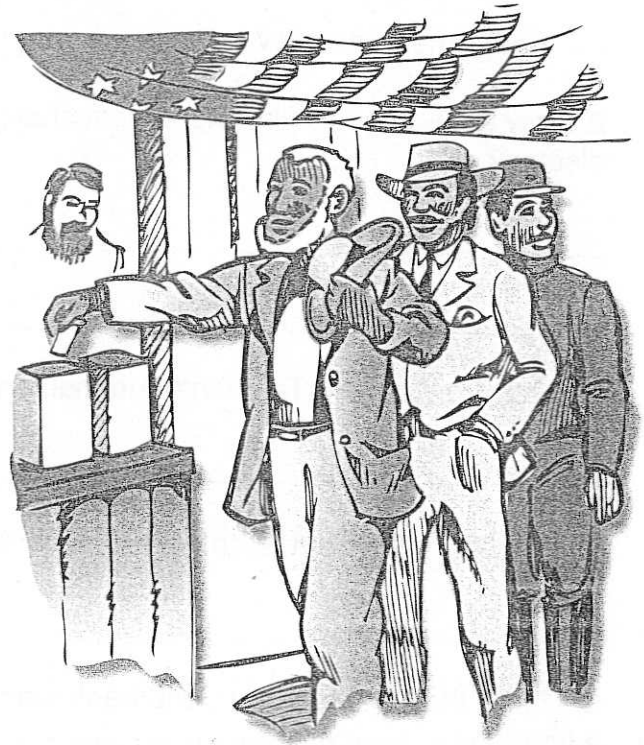
The Thirteenth Amendment was a result of the Civil War. Passed in 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery. Slavery had been a part of the United States since the 1600s, and it took a civil war to end the practice.

The Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, was part of the Reconstruction Era. Under this amendment, all Americans, regardless of race, were guaranteed the rights listed in the Constitution. This amendment also included blacks in population counts for the census. Finally, the Fourteenth

Amendment prohibited Confederate officers from holding government positions and refused to pay Confederate war debts or reimburse owners for their now-freed slaves.

Finally, the Fifteenth Amendment, ratified in 1870, gave blacks *suffrage*, or the right to vote. Before 1870, many states had prohibited blacks from voting. But with the end of the Civil War and the passage of the Fourteenth Amendment, the next step was to give black males the right to vote.

Between 1791 and 1870—eighty years—only five changes had been made to the Constitution. In the next lesson you will study the changes made from 1900 to 1950.



The Fifteenth Amendment gave blacks the right to vote.

THE AMENDMENTS

1798-1870: Amendments XI-XV

≈ Challenges ≈

1. In what years were the following amendments ratified?

a) Amendment XI _____

b) Amendment XII _____

c) Amendment XIII _____

d) Amendment XIV _____

e) Amendment XV _____

2. How does the Twelfth Amendment change how the President and Vice President are elected?

3. What war was the Thirteenth Amendment a result of? _____

4. What does the Thirteenth Amendment abolish? _____

5. Under the Fourteenth Amendment, who is guaranteed the rights listed in the Constitution?

6. What is suffrage? _____

7. Who was given suffrage with the Fifteenth Amendment? _____

8. Between what years were the Eleventh to Fifteenth Amendments ratified? _____

THE AMENDMENTS

1900-1950: Amendments XVI-XXI

(See Amendments XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI)

This next group of amendments was ratified during the first half of the 1900s. This group of amendments also made specific changes to the American system.

The Sixteenth Amendment, ratified in 1913, gave Congress the power to establish an income tax. Before 1913, the only way the government made money was through *tariffs* (taxes on imports). With the Sixteenth Amendment, the government could now tax people's incomes. Each person was taxed according to the amount of money he or she made.

Also in 1913, the Seventeenth Amendment was added to the Constitution changing the way senators were elected. Article I of the Constitution stated that the senators were to be elected by the state legislatures. The Seventeenth Amendment allowed the American people to directly elect their senators, just like other elected officials.

During the first two decades of the twentieth century, a movement in the United States to ban the use of alcohol was gaining strength. Many people saw the "evils of drinking" and felt that the production, sale, and use of alcoholic beverages should be prohibited. So, in 1919, the Eighteenth Amendment was ratified, and the United States entered the *Prohibition Era*.

Another reform movement sweeping the United States during this time concerned women and their right to vote. Previously, American women were not given the right to vote. The Fifteenth Amendment had given black males the right to vote. Women's groups had been fighting since the mid-1800s for suffrage, or the right to vote. In 1920, with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, women were given the right to vote.

The Twentieth Amendment, passed in 1933, changed the dates when elected officials took office. In 1787 when the Constitution was written, travel was very slow, and news traveled even slower. Because of this, the President and Congress were given many months between their elections and the time when they were sworn in. The old officials were known as "lame ducks" because they did not have much time or power left. This amendment shortened the President's "lame duck" period from March 4 to January 20. Congress begins its terms and meetings on January 3.

Finally, also in 1933, the Twenty-first Amendment was passed repealing the Eighteenth Amendment. This amendment ended the Prohibition Era. The Eighteenth Amendment failed because of a lack of enforcement, and too many Americans were opposed to Prohibition.



Government agents destroyed alcohol outlawed by the Eighteenth Amendment.

THE AMENDMENTS

1900-1950: Amendments XVI-XXI

≈ Challenges ≈

1. Define:

Prohibition: _____

2. In what years were the following amendments ratified?

a) Amendment XVI _____

b) Amendment XVII _____

c) Amendment XVIII _____

d) Amendment XIX _____

e) Amendment XX _____

f) Amendment XXI _____

3. The Sixteenth Amendment gave Congress the power to _____

4. Who elected the senators before the Seventeenth Amendment? _____

Who elects our senators now? _____

5. Why did many Americans support the Eighteenth Amendment? _____

6. Which amendment repealed the Eighteenth Amendment? _____

7. Which group of Americans was given suffrage with the Nineteenth Amendment? _____

8. What does the Twentieth Amendment change? Why? _____

THE AMENDMENTS

1950-Present: Amendments XXII-XXVII

(See Amendments XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII)

This final group of amendments focuses on the President and other American civil rights.

The Twenty-second Amendment, ratified in 1951, limited the amount of terms a President could serve. The Constitution did not put a limit on the number of terms a President could serve. President George Washington had only served two terms, or eight years. Because of his example, or precedent, other presidents only served a maximum of two terms. This changed when Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to a third term in 1940, and a fourth term in 1944. The Twenty-second Amendment limited the President to two terms of office.

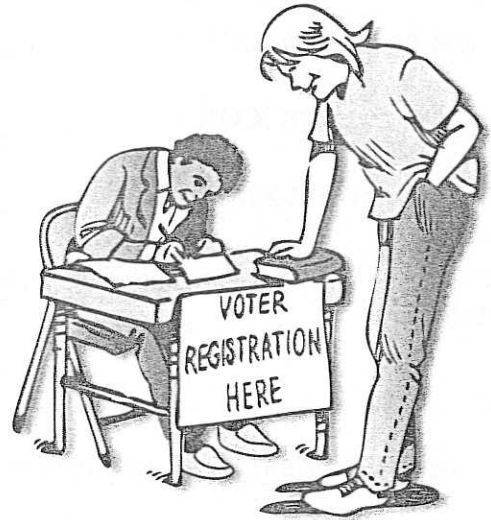
Before 1961, citizens of the District of Columbia had no voice in elections, and by the 1960s, the District had a large population that was left out. The Twenty-third Amendment, passed in 1961, gave citizens who lived in the District of Columbia the right to vote in national elections.

In 1964, the Twenty-fourth Amendment was added to the Constitution. Before this amendment, many states would place a tax on voting. In order to vote in an election, you would be forced to pay a poll tax. This amendment prohibited the poll tax.

With the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, the nation was made more aware of who takes over in the event of an emergency. Lyndon Johnson, Kennedy's Vice President, took over as President, but there was no Vice President to take over in the event Johnson died. The Twenty-fifth Amendment, passed in 1967, allowed the new President to appoint a Vice President. The Congress would have to approve of this new Vice President by a majority vote of both houses. If a President becomes ill, he may temporarily give his powers to the Vice President until he has recovered. This amendment was used in 1973 and 1974 with the resignations of Vice President Agnew and President Nixon. Nixon appointed Gerald Ford to replace Agnew in 1973, then Ford became President in 1974 when Nixon resigned, and he appointed Nelson Rockefeller to be Vice President.

The Twenty-sixth Amendment, ratified in 1971, was aimed at the young people of the United States. Many Americans felt that the voting age should be lowered from 21 to 18. So, in 1971, 18-year-olds were given the right to vote.

The final amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified on May 7, 1992. The Twenty-seventh Amendment tells senators and representatives that any changes in their salaries will not take effect until after the next election. This amendment was originally part of the Bill of Rights of 1789, but was not ratified along with the others. It was not until 1992 that it became part of the Constitution!



The Twenty-sixth Amendment made it possible for those eighteen years old to vote.

Date _____ Name _____

THE AMENDMENTS

1950-Present: Amendments XXII-XXVII

≈ Challenges ≈

1. In what years were the following amendments ratified?

a) Amendment XXII _____

b) Amendment XXIII _____

c) Amendment XXIV _____

d) Amendment XXV _____

e) Amendment XXVI _____

f) Amendment XXVII _____

2. According to the Twenty-second Amendment, for how many terms can one be elected as President?

3. Who was given the right to vote by the Twenty-third Amendment? _____

4. What group was given suffrage with the Twenty-sixth Amendment? _____

5. What practice was outlawed by the Twenty-fourth Amendment? _____

6. If a President dies and the Vice President takes over, what must happen to get a new Vice President?

7. What amendment authorizes the above situation? _____

8. What does the Twenty-seventh Amendment say about the salaries of senators and representatives?

9. How long did it take the Twenty-seventh Amendment to be ratified? _____