

Name: _____

A Living Document

The creators of the U.S. Constitution knew that the document might have to be changed in the future. They even included the rules for making changes right in the Constitution. In all, the Constitution has been amended 27 times. This time line highlights some of the most important amendments. Use the time line to answer the questions that follow.

1865The 13th Amendment outlaws slavery in the U.S.

1868The 14th Amendment says that the Bill of Rights protects all citizens equally.

1870The 15th Amendment says that a person cannot be denied the right to vote because of race.

1920The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote.

1951The 22nd Amendment limits the President to two four-year terms in office before they could vote.

1967The 25th Amendment says that the President can appoint a new Vice President (with the approval of Congress) if the Vice President dies or leaves office.

1971The 26th Amendment lowers the voting age to 18.

1. When did the Constitution change to guarantee African- Americans the right to vote?

- (A) 1865 (B) 1868 (C) 1870 (D) 1920

2. For how many years have women had the right to vote in national elections?

- (A) 75 (B) 85 (C) 100 (D) 105

3. Which amendment lowered the voting age?

- (A) 14th (B) 19th (C) 24th (D) 26th

4. Which of these events happened first, according to the time line?

- (A) Eighteen-year-olds won the right to vote.
- (B) Women won the right to vote.
- (C) Slavery was abolished.
- (D) The President was limited to two terms in office.

5. Poll taxes were often used to keep African-Americans in the South from voting. How many years passed from the time blacks were guaranteed the right to vote to the time poll taxes were finally outlawed?

- (A) 14 (B) 66 (C) 82 (D) 94

6. Why do you think many Americans wanted to pass the 22nd Amendment? Do you believe Presidents should be allowed to serve for more than two terms if they are doing a good job? Why or why not?

