Primary Source

Voting Rights Act, 1965

To what extent did Founding principles of liberty, equality, and justice become a reality for African Americans during the civil rights movement?

☐ I can interpret primary sources related to Founding principles of liberty, equality, and justice in the civil rights movement

☐ I can explain how laws and policy, courts, and individuals and groups contributed to or pushed back against the quest for liberty, equality, and justice for African Americans.

☐ I can create an argument using evidence from primary sources.

☐ I can analyze issues in history to help find solutions to present-day challenges.

Building Context

The Voting Rights Act was signed into law on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon Johnson. It outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting.

Voting Rights Act, 1965

Source: https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=100&page=transcript

	Notes
SEC. 2. No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color. SEC. 3. (a) Whenever the Attorney General institutes a proceeding under any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in any State or political subdivision the court shall authorize the appointment of Federal examiners	

by the United States Civil Service Commission in accordance with section 6 to serve for such period of time and for such political subdivisions as the court shall determine is appropriate to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment	

Comprehension and Analysis Questions

1. Who was charged with enforcing this legalization?

2. This act was passed 95 years after the Fifteenth Amendment was ratified. What conclusions can you draw from this prolonged timeline?

BILL *of* RIGHTS
INSTITUTE