

Voting American

School Name _____

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Date ____ / ____ /20 ____

Per. ____

Fill in the blanks with the following words:

Civil

individual

women

elections

polls

From the founding of the new nation, one institution that has survived good times and bad times is the process of free _____. When George Washington was named president, no political parties had yet formed, nor was the process of voting truly democratic. In most places, the only people who could cast a ballot were white male property owners.

Political parties began to develop almost immediately. The first was the Federalist, Washington's party, which favored a strong central government. In opposition to that was the Anti-Federalist or Democratic Republican party, which was more inclined toward _____ freedoms.



The 1800s were years of social change and movement in the United States; ensuing rivalries in the nation finally led to the _____ War. But the electoral system kept working. By mid-century, most States had eliminated property qualifications for voters, although neither _____ nor slaves were allowed to participate. Those who could vote openly voiced their opinions and flocked to hear speeches given by candidates of the newly formed Democratic and Republican national parties. Then, they went to the _____ to cast their vote, setting the course for the nation.

Questions:

1. Why was the first voting only open to property holders?
2. When did women begin to vote in public elections?
3. How did the *Voting Rights Act of 1965* help improve access to the ballot box? Who benefited from this law? How did this law interact with the 15th Amendment?