

A Century of Voting



If you’ve been keeping up with the news, you know that we have a presidential election coming up on Nov. 3. This year’s contest is different than in years past because of the coronavirus pandemic and other issues affecting Americans.

Even with these challenges, voting remains a crucial civic duty of all adult U.S. citizens.

An important centennial

The date Aug. 26 is special. It marks the 100th anniversary, or **centennial**, of the date that women gained **suffrage** (SUFF-ridge), or the right to vote.

On that date, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was approved. Women finally had full voting rights.

The amendment says, in part:
“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

Let’s learn more about how women gained the right to vote.

No constitutional right

The U.S. Constitution did not say that women could not vote. Each state had its own qualifications or laws for who could vote.

At first, only white males who owned property were allowed to vote in most states.

Women in most states were not allowed to vote in any elections. Many felt this was unfair.

Working for suffrage

From the 1850s on, women fought for the right to vote. After the Civil War ended, women continued working for voting rights. In 1869, Wyoming became the first territory (it was not yet a state) to allow women to vote. But not all women across the nation enjoyed that right — and not all women believed in suffrage.

But women kept working. They signed petitions. They met and talked with members of Congress to try to influence their vote. They wrote many letters and marched in the streets.



photos courtesy Library of Congress

A changing world

During World War I, many nations around the world saw how much women were doing while men were away fighting and gave women the right to vote. But suffrage bills in the U.S. Congress were defeated again and again.

Finally, in June 1919, both the House and the Senate passed the 19th Amendment, but it would not become law until Aug. 18, 1920, when three-fourths of the 48 states had ratified it.

On Aug. 26, the U.S. secretary of state made the law official in all 48 states.

Suffrage pioneers

In the presidential election of 2016, more women voted than men (55% to 45%). These modern women have some trailblazers to thank for their ability to help choose the president.



Susan B. Anthony



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Susan B. Anthony

Along with **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** (1815-1902), Anthony (1820-1906) founded the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. The 19th Amendment of 1920 was sometimes called the Susan B. Anthony Amendment.

Virginia Minor

In 1872, Virginia Minor (1824-1894) went to the polls and tried to vote. The man in charge of the polls would not let her.



Virginia Minor

Minor went to court about the matter. She took her case all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, which ruled that being a citizen did not give women the right to vote.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPsuffrage

At the library:

- “The Woman’s Hour: Our Fight for the Right to Vote” by Elaine Weiss

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of women’s suffrage are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AMENDMENT,
AMERICANS, ANTHONY,
CENTENNIAL, CIVIC,
CONSTITUTION, DUTY,
ELECTION, MARCH,
MINOR, PETITIONS,
RIGHTS, STANTON,
SUFFRAGE, VOTE,
WOMEN, WYOMING.

Y C E N T E N N I A L Z Q L X
V B R I H O U X G N I M O Y W
O J O C T W T N E M D N E M A
T E R N O I T U T I T S N O C
E A A M H D U D U T Y L H T S
M T E Q M I N O R N F J C M T
S N T B P M H N O I T C E L E
C I V I C W S N O I T I T E P
A M E R I C A N S R I G H T S
Y N O H T N A E G A R F F U S

Cook’s Corner

Chips and Oats Cookies

You’ll need:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups oatmeal
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 (6-ounce) bag chocolate chips



What to do:

1. Mix both sugars and butter in a large bowl until smooth and creamy.
2. Add remaining ingredients.
3. Place by teaspoonfuls on a greased baking sheet several inches apart.
4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 10 to 12 minutes. Makes about 7 dozen.

* You’ll need an adult’s help with this recipe.

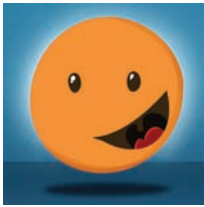
7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. house made of ice (5) _____
2. small stream (5) _____
3. famous sunken ship (7) _____
4. expensive, sparkly rock (7) _____
5. gas we need to breathe (6) _____
6. person attending school (7) _____
7. 12 o’clock a.m. (8) _____

BRO	OXY	NIC	DENT
STU	MID	AMO	OO
DI	IGL	GEN	GHT
NI	TITA	ND	OK

Answers: igloo, brook, Titanic, diamond, oxygen, student, midnight



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Mini Jokes



Susan: Why shouldn’t you borrow a dime from a football coach?

Stanley: Because he always wants a quarter back!

Eco Note



Wildlife experts in Botswana are baffled by the mysterious deaths of more than 350 elephants during the past two months in the northwest of the country. The elephants’ bodies have been found intact, leading officials to believe they were not hunted for their ivory. No evidence of poisoning has been found so far. Some elephants have been seen walking around in circles and falling down as they died.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for notices about the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

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