

Module 10: Civil Unrest - The 1960s and the 1970s

Topic 3 Content: Civil Rights Legislation Notes

Introduction



The August 28, 1963 March on Washington led to many legislative changes in favor of equality for all people in the United States. Civil rights leaders took more risks to have their voices heard. Through the acts of non-violent protests and demonstrations, the Civil Rights Movement was successful in passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Twenty-five years after the Voting Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law. In this interactivity, learn about the different civil rights legislation that occurred after the March on Washington. Click **Next** to begin.

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Civil Rights Act 1964

Civil Rights Act 1964

- President Johnson played a vital role in the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- No discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, or national origin
- Desegregated public accommodations
- Created the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC)

President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act

Next

As vice president under President John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson served as the chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunities Committee. Johnson vowed to carry out his proposals for civil rights reform when he took over the presidency after Kennedy's assassination.

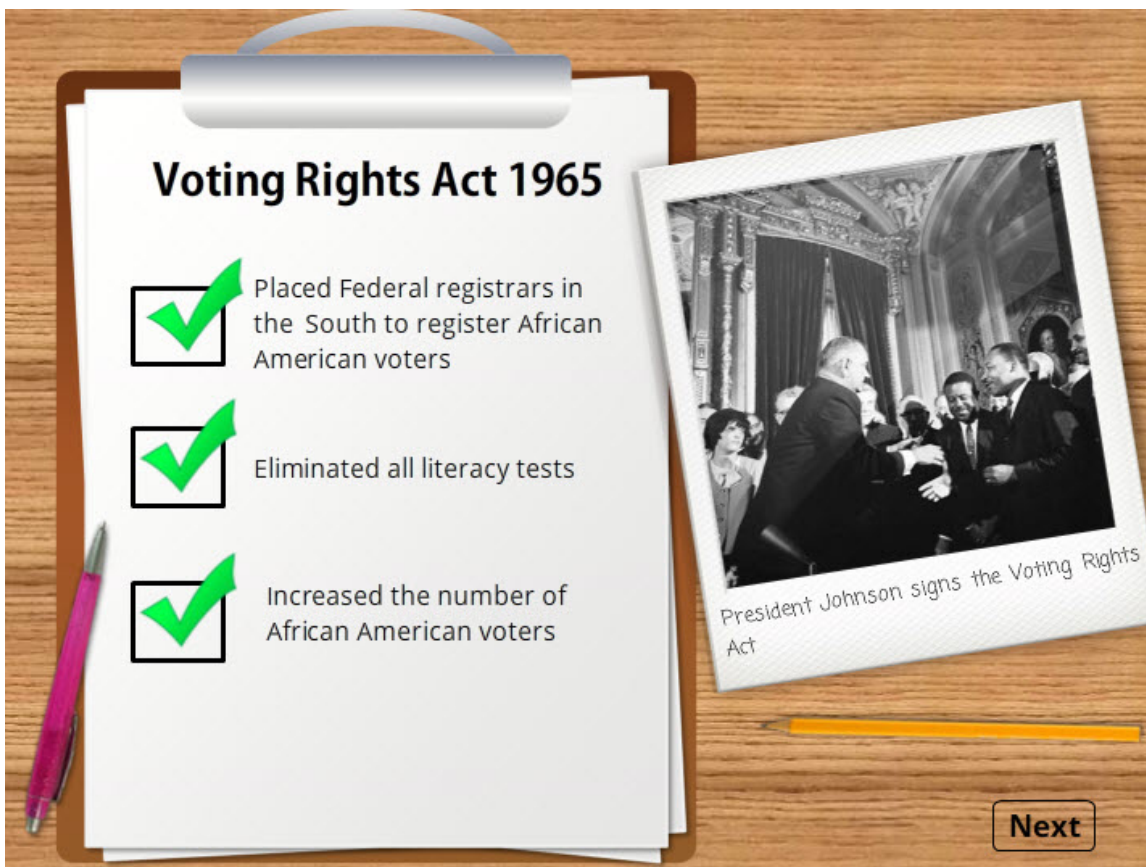
After facing tough opposition in the House and Senate, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. It was the first positive change in the fight for equal rights. This legislation said that no one could be discriminated against based on race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. The Act also desegregated public accommodations like hotels, restaurants, and courthouses.

Moreover, the civil rights movement of the 1940s through the 1960s paved the way for other groups to promote equality. For example, an Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC) was created as a clause to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Commission can file lawsuits on behalf of employees who feel discriminated against due to race, religion, nationality, or gender. Click **Next** to continue.

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Voting Rights Act of 1965



Voting Rights Act 1965

- Placed Federal registrars in the South to register African American voters
- Eliminated all literacy tests
- Increased the number of African American voters

President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act

Next

In addition, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was another important piece of legislation passed under the leadership of President Johnson. This Act was put into place to eliminate state and local obstacles that prevented African Americans from voting under the Fifteenth Amendment. For instance, it placed federal officers at voter registration locations in the South to ensure all African Americans could register to vote. Investigators also looked into the continued use of state and local poll taxes, which were already banned in 1964 for federal elections. In addition, the Voting Rights Act made literacy tests illegal. As a result of this legislation, the number of African American voters increased. Click **Next** to continue.

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Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973



Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- Addressed discrimination against people with disabilities
- Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in federal programs and in organizations that receive federal money
- Public schools cannot discriminate based on disabilities

Next

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which President Lyndon B. Johnson had played an important role in helping become a law, addressed a wide array of discriminations. However, it did not cover discrimination against people with disabilities. Not until the passage of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 would discrimination against people with disabilities be addressed in the United States. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in any federal program, and by any organization that receives federal money. If you attend public school, your school likely receives federal financial assistance. Because of Section 504, public schools cannot discriminate on the basis of disability.

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Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- Addressed discrimination against people with disabilities
- Children with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education
- Children with disabilities are educated in the least restrictive environment

George H.W. Bush

Next

In 1990, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush. Building on previous legislation, this law also addressed discrimination of people with disabilities. IDEA requires all children with disabilities to receive a free and appropriate public education in the environment that is least restrictive for that student. This law also impacts students who have an Individual Education Plan, or IEP.

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Americans with Disabilities Act



Americans with Disabilities Act 1990

- Protected disabled people in the workplace
- Employers have to provide reasonable accommodations
- Complaints can be filed with the EEOC

President Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act

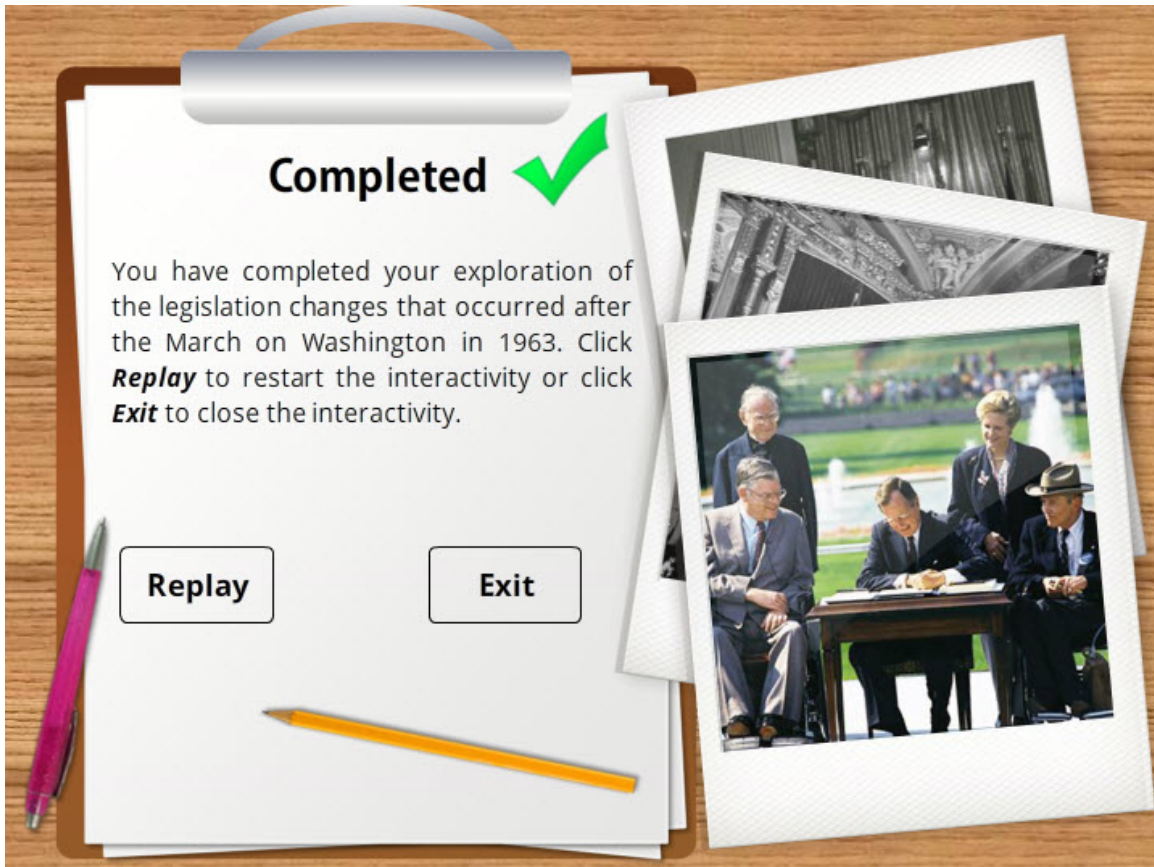
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Similarly, Congress introduced the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990 to protect anyone diagnosed with a disability from discrimination in the workplace. The ADA considers a disability a physical or mental condition that limits one's ability to walk, stand, talk, see, hear, or learn; having a history of a disability; or having a minor mental or physical impairment that will likely last more than six months. Examples of employees or prospective employees having the right to reasonable accommodations through the ADA include interviewing for a job, getting hired or fired, receiving a promotion, determining wages, obtaining benefits, and becoming trained. If employees feel discriminated against in the workplace, they can file a complaint with the EEOC. Click **Next** to continue.

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Completed



You have completed your exploration of the legislation changes that occurred after the March on Washington in 1963. Click **Replay** to restart the interactivity or click **Exit** to close the interactivity.