Name: Date:

Voting Rights in Australia Timeline



Directions: Write the correct year next to each voting rights milestone. Notice that 1902 appears twice!

1843	1856	1856	1872	1893	1894	1899	
1902	1902	1903	1905	1908	1911	1924	
	1949	1962	1965	1973	1984		

Women aged 21 years and older given right to vote in New South Wales;
men of the same age allowed vote in Tasmania.
Commonwealth Electoral Act allows Aboriginal peoples who had served in
the military to vote in federal elections.
Compulsory enrolment for eligible voters enacted.
Men 21 years and older—excluding Aboriginal peoples—are allowed to vote in Western Australia.
South Australia gives men 21 years and older right to vote.
Enrolment and federal voting made compulsory for Aboriginal peoples.
Western Australian women 21 years and older allowed to vote.
First colony gives women the right to vote. BONUS: Name it!
Legal voting age moved to 18 from 21.
Tasmanian women 21 years and older given the vote.
Final state permits women to vote. BONUS: Name it!
Men 21 years and older given right to vote in Queensland – unless they
were of Aboriginal descent.
Male landowners allowed to vote in Legislative Council elections in New South Wales.
All Aboriginal peoples entitled to vote in federal elections.
Queensland becomes last state to eliminate plural voting, and allows women the right to vote.
Voting in federal elections made compulsory.
Last state allows voting rights for Aboriginal peoples. BONUS: Name it!
South Australia and Victoria introduce the secret ballot (now called the Australian ballot).
Franchise Act passed; extends voting rights to non-landowners, eliminated multiple votes by one person in one election.

Voting Rights in Australia Timeline

Answer Key

1843	Male landowners allowed to vote in Legislative Council elections in New South Wales
1856	South Australia and Victoria introduce the secret ballot (now called the
	Australian ballot)
1856	South Australia gives men 21 years and older right to vote
1872	Men 21 years and older given right to vote in Queensland – unless they were
	of Aboriginal descent.
1893	Men 21 years and older—excluding Aboriginal peoples—are allowed to vote in
	Western Australia.
1894	First colony gives women the right to vote. (South Australia)
1899	Western Australian women 21 years and older allowed to vote.
1902	Franchise Act passed; extends voting rights to non-landowners, eliminated
	multiple votes by one person in one election
1902	Women aged 21 years and older given right to vote in New South Wales; men
	of the same age allowed vote in Tasmania.
1903	Tasmanian women 21 years and older given the vote
1905	Queensland becomes last state to eliminate plural voting, and allows women
	the right to vote.
1908	Final state permits women to vote (Victoria)
1911	Compulsory enrolment for eligible voters enacted
1924	Voting in federal elections made compulsory
1949	Commonwealth Electoral Act allows Aboriginal peoples who had served in the
	military to vote in federal elections
1962	All Aboriginal peoples entitled to vote in federal elections
1965	Last state allows voting rights for Aboriginal peoples (Queensland)
1973	Legal voting age moved to 18 from 21
1984	Enrolment and federal voting made compulsory for Aboriginal peoples