

Name:

Date:

Homeroom:

# Heritage Fair

## Taking Notes

### The History of Canadian Voting Rights

**Instructions:** Read the following article. When you are done, you will highlight the important words in the reading. Then you will decide on what the three themes discussed are, and for each theme, record the key words. Finally, write your own brief summary of what you have read.

In Canada, the right to vote has changed a lot over the years. In the early years of Canadian history, voting was limited to wealthy men who owned property. It wasn't until 1918 that most women in Canada were allowed to vote. However, it took even longer for Indigenous people and people of African descent to gain the same rights. Women like Nellie McClung and other suffragists fought for years to ensure women's voices were heard in politics.

Indigenous people faced many barriers to voting. Until 1960, most Indigenous people were not allowed to vote in federal elections without giving up their status as "Indians" under the Indian Act. This was a difficult choice for many, as losing their status would mean losing certain rights. Leaders like Mary Two-Axe Earley worked hard to remove these barriers, and finally, Indigenous people could vote without losing their status.

People of African descent also struggled for voting rights. Discriminatory laws and practices kept many Black Canadians from voting, even though slavery had been abolished in Canada in 1834. It wasn't until the mid-20th century that many of these laws were challenged and removed. People like Viola Desmond, whose fight against segregation became a symbol for civil rights, helped pave the way for more equal treatment.

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#### Highlight or Circle Key Words

Read the article again. As you read, highlight or circle the most important words or phrases that help you understand the main ideas. Look for names, dates, and important actions or events.

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To complete the worksheet, organize your important words into jot notes. To do this, identify three themes, and record your highlighted words for each. Finally, write a summary in your own words about what you read.

**Theme 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Important Words:

Summary:

**Theme 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Important Words:

Summary:

**Theme 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Important Words:

Summary: