

# Day Four: Oregon Constitution



For this lesson, students will have the opportunity to examine a little bit of politicking before the creation of the Oregon Constitution and then they will have the opportunity to examine excerpts from the Oregon Constitution through a “Say, Means, Matters,” activity.

## Essential Questions

- ❖ In what ways did the Oregon Constitution discuss Black Americans?
- ❖ What were some of the things that Black Americans were unable to do in Oregon according to the Oregon Constitution?
- ❖ What were the original requirements to vote in Oregon?

## Materials

- |                                                                          |                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon Constitution excerpts         |                                                                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voting Rights in Oregon Constitution | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Say, Means, Matters: Oregon Constitution |

## Procedure

### 10 mins | Warm-Up

Have students respond to the question:

-Make a prediction: Oregon did not allow slavery. Do you think that the Oregon Constitution guaranteed free Black people equal rights? Why?

### 5 mins | Read “Voting Rights in Oregon Constitution”

### 7 mins | Class discussion

Discuss with the class the ways the Oregon Constitution discriminated against Black Americans.

### 7 mins | Read Oregon Constitution excerpts

Read the above act as a class. Answer any questions that students have along the way.

## 20 mins | Say, Means, Matters: Oregon Constitution

After reading the Oregon Constitution excerpts have the students analyze the selected quotes. The “says” column has the select quote. The “means” column is for students to analyze what the quote means and to put in their own words. The “matters” column is students extending the quote beyond the text and the students and how the quote impacts the world.

## 7 mins | Exit Ticket

Have students respond to the question:

-What is the lasting impact of not allowing black people to own property in Oregon?