Voters and Voter Behavior

Chapter 6

You Can Make a Difference

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The Right to Vote

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act, which aimed to override the effects of previous discriminatory practices in the South that had disenfranchised millions of African Americans. This act prohibited states from imposing voting qualifications that discriminated against minorities. In 1973, the Supreme Court further clarified that the Voting Rights Act protected individuals from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any aspect of the electoral process.

The National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, Alabama, serves as a testament to the struggle for voting rights. It features exhibits that chronicle the history of voting rights and the pivotal events that have shaped American democracy.Visitors can learn about the strategies used to overcome obstacles such as literacy tests, poll taxes, and violence. The museum’s exhibits also highlight the role of everyday citizens in the fight for voting rights.

The extension of the Voting Rights Act in 1982 further strengthened protections for minority voters. This extension required states with a history of discrimination to obtain preclearance from federal courts before implementing any changes to their electoral systems. This provision was designed to prevent states from enacting new voting laws that might discriminate against minority voters.

The Voting Rights Act of 1992 further expanded protections for minority voters. This act broadened the preclearance requirement to include elections for local, state, and federal offices. It also provided funding to help minority communities organize and become more involved in the political process.

The United States has made significant progress in expanding voting rights, but challenges remain. Efforts to suppress voter turnout through voter suppression, such as restrictive ID laws, are ongoing. Advocates continue to work towards ensuring that all citizens have equal access to the ballot box, recognizing that the right to vote is a fundamental democratic principle that is essential to the health of American democracy.
Casting Your Vote

Skills for Life

The Power to be Holding

Citizenship

Activity Pack

Casting Your Vote

At every level, from local to national, our decisions as voters are critical to the future of our country.

1. **Voting Rights**
   - The right to vote is a fundamental right in a democracy.
   - Voting allows citizens to participate in the decision-making process of their communities.

2. **Voter Eligibility**
   - To vote in federal elections, you must be a citizen of the United States.
   - You must be at least 18 years old on Election Day.

3. **Voting by Mail**
   - In many states, you can vote by mail if you are unable to vote in person.
   - This option is available to those who are elderly, disabled, or absent on Election Day.

4. **Voter Registration**
   - Register to vote in your county to cast a ballot in your local elections.
   - If you are not registered, you can register to vote on election day.

5. **Identify Yourself at the Polls**
   - Bring a form of identification to the polling place on Election Day.
   - Acceptable forms of ID include a driver’s license, state ID card, or passport.

6. **Understand the Ballot**
   - Read the ballot carefully before voting to ensure you are making an informed decision.
   - In some states, you can vote on issues like school bonds or property tax levies.

7. **Cast Your Vote**
   - Take your time and review your choices to make sure you are voting for the candidates or issues that align with your values.
   - Once you have completed your ballot, go to your polling place to cast your vote.

In conclusion, voting is a crucial responsibility of citizenship.

*Remember, voting is not just for presidential elections. Local elections matter too. Get out there and vote!*
The Enduring Constitution

The Voting Rights Act of 1965

The Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Equal Rights Amendment

Education and Equal Opportunity

The Affordable Care Act

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The effects of environmental factors on the behavior of animals have been extensively studied. These factors can include temperature, light, and food availability. For instance, changes in temperature can affect the activity patterns of animals. In general, animals tend to be more active during warmer temperatures. However, the specific effects of environmental factors depend on the species and the type of behavior being considered.

One interesting example is the way that temperature affects the sleep patterns of animals. Studies have shown that animals living in colder environments tend to sleep more during the day and less at night, while those living in warmer environments tend to do the opposite. This is likely because animals need to conserve energy in colder environments, while they can afford to be more active in warmer conditions.

Another example is the way that food availability affects the behavior of animals. When food is scarce, animals may have to spend more time searching for it, which can affect their activity patterns and even their social behavior. For instance, in some species, males may become more aggressive when food is limited, as they compete for access to females and resources.

In addition to these examples, there are many other ways that environmental factors can affect the behavior of animals. For instance, changes in light intensity and quality can affect circadian rhythms and reproductive behavior. Overall, the effects of environmental factors are complex and multifaceted, and the specific effects depend on the species and the context.

Environmental factors can also affect the behavior of animals in more subtle ways. For instance, the presence of predators can change the way that animals interact with each other. In some cases, animals may avoid certain behaviors that would attract predators, such as displaying certain courtship rituals or engaging in risky behaviors.

In conclusion, the effects of environmental factors on the behavior of animals are complex and multifaceted. By understanding how these factors affect animal behavior, we can gain insights into the mechanisms that govern the behavior of animals in nature.

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Who decides who may vote?

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