

Literacy Tests

Some states required people to take literacy tests in order to vote. These tests were difficult for most black men because they did not have a chance to get an education. The tests were also given unfairly so that even educated blacks would fail while whites who could not read would pass.

Grandfather Clauses

Some states made laws that allowed people who could not pass a literacy test to vote if their grandfathers had the right to vote. Whites could qualify because their grandfathers had the right to vote. However, no blacks could qualify because none of their grandfathers, who had been slaves, had been allowed to vote.

Poll Taxes

Some states charged a poll tax. Since most former slaves were very poor, they could not pay the tax and therefore could not vote.

