

# Summary: Working for Progress

## Laws to Protect People

In the early 1900s, many Florida children worked long hours in dangerous factories and mines. Lawmakers called Progressives ended child labor. They also passed laws that made children go to school. Progressives wanted to protect other workers from dangerous jobs and unfair treatment too.

These changes did not help everyone. African American workers still had the lowest paying jobs. Segregation kept African American children out of good schools that white children attended.

## Great Achievements

In the early 1900s, African Americans faced prejudice. The government did not protect their civil rights. One important civil right is the right to vote. People vote for officials who make laws. Floridians had to pay a tax to vote. This tax was unfair because many African Americans were too poor to pay it.

Some groups threatened African Americans who tried to vote. Because of the tax and threats, few African Americans voted. It was hard for African Americans to change the way people treated them because they could not elect leaders who would help them.

Many African Americans worked to make things change. A. Philip Randolph helped African Americans demand better working conditions. Mary McLeod Bethune opened a school for African American children. James Weldon Johnson helped start the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a group that led the fight for civil rights.

## Women's Rights

Women also fought for suffrage, or the right to vote. Voting could help them get the same opportunities and rights as men. Suffrage leaders gave speeches, wrote articles, and worked in political organizations. In 1919, U.S. lawmakers added an amendment to the Constitution. It gave suffrage to women in the United States.



### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**segregation** *noun*, the separation of people based on race

**prejudice** *noun*, a strong negative opinion about a group that is formed without knowing the facts

**civil rights** *noun*, the rights guaranteed to individuals by the government

**amendment** *noun*, a change to the Constitution



### After You Read

**REVIEW** What did Progressives want?

Underline three sentences that tells what Progressives did and who they wanted to protect.

**REVIEW** In what way were African Americans' civil rights not protected? Circle two sentences that tell why few African Americans voted.

**REVIEW** Why was the right to vote so valuable to women? What could voting help women to get? Highlight the sentence that tells the answer.