



EXPANDING VOTING RIGHTS

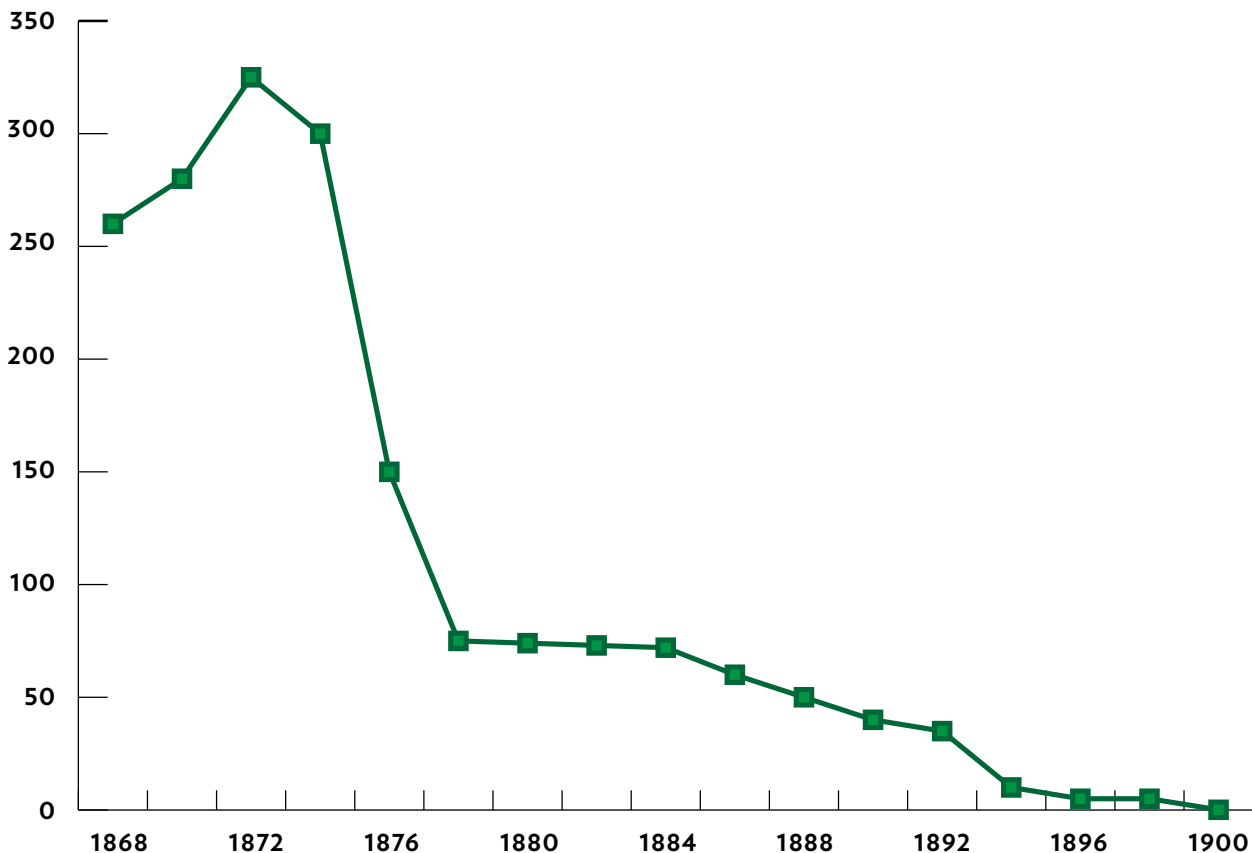
Number of Black Legislators in the South (1868-1900 and 1960-1992)

Another way to evaluate the success of the Voting Rights Act is to look at the number of black legislators elected in southern states.

1. Start with the first time period that the graph shows, 1868-1900. What do you notice about the number of black legislators elected during that time period? When did the number reach its peak? Based on what you know about American history, what do you think accounted for that peak?

2. Based on what you know about American history, what do you think caused the sharp decline that followed?

**BLACK LEGISLATORS IN THE SOUTH
1868-1900**



TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TOLERANCE.ORG

MIDDLE & UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY

3. Now look at the later time period, 1960-1992. When did the number of elected black legislators begin to rise? What do you think was the cause of that rise?

**BLACK LEGISLATORS IN THE SOUTH
1960-1992**

