SS.912.A.2 - Civil War and Reconstruction – Example 5 Answer

The most direct effect of poll taxes and literacy tests on African Americans was to:

a. prevent them from voting  
b. limit their access to public facilities  
c. block their educational opportunities  
d. deny them economic advancements

Answer

a. Prevent them from voting

Poll taxes were taxes charged to people in order to place their vote. Literacy tests were tests requiring voters to read a segment of a document before they were able to cast their ballot. These practices purposefully targeted the poor and uneducated. Specifically they were designed to stop the voting of recently freed slaves in the South from being able to vote.