

Topic: How did Jamaica achieve Independence?

Grade: 6

Name:

Instruction: Read the sources provided below and answer the questions which follow.

Universal Adult Suffrage – Source 1

Voting was a privilege for some Jamaicans before 1944. Jamaican land owners, 21 years or older were allowed to participate in the election process in Jamaica. George William Gordon, who was part of the Jamaican parliament in the 19th century, would sell his lands cheaply resulting in more Jamaicans being able to vote. Sir Alexander Bustamante and his cousin Norman Washington Manley worked assiduously to change the rules.

In 1944, the Universal Adult Suffrage was passed. This gave Jamaicans 18 and older the right to participate in the election process. They no longer needed to own lands. The first election under the UAS was held on December 12, 1944.

The two major political parties at the time were Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) formed by Sir Alexander Bustamante on July 8, 1943 and the People's National Party (PNP) formed by Norman Washington Manley on August 27, 1938.

Source 2

The Universal Adult Suffrage Act of 1944 gave every Jamaican, age 21 and over, the right to vote in an election regardless of race, sex, belief or social status. Before 1944, only landowners could vote. In 1976, the Government reduced the voting age to 18 years old. Jamaica was the first British colony to be granted Adult Suffrage.

Write yes below the source that speaks about each statement.

Questions	Source 1	Source 2	Both
Which source indicates who could vote in 1944?			

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Which source stated when the first election was held?			
Which source stated that both Alexander Bustamante and Norman Manley were cousins?			
Which source stated the party which won the first election under the UAS?			
Which source stated that Jamaica was the first British colony to be granted Adult Suffrage?			

1. Who is the Prime Minister of Jamaica today?

2. Which party won the last election?

3. Which political party has won most elections since 1944?

FINISH

LIVEWORKSHEETS