

## The Election Process

### Why should people vote?

Citizens of the United States are very lucky people. They have the right to vote for who they want to be the leader of their nation. The President of the United States makes very important decisions that affect the way we live. You should vote for the person you want to make decisions. If you don't, you are missing an opportunity to have your voice heard.

### What are candidates?

There are two main types of candidates people vote from. One is a democrat and the other is a republican. Candidates are people that are running for office. They sometimes disagree on what is right for the country. It is your choice, though, to choose which one you agree with.

### What are political party symbols?

Republican Party- The color red and the elephant are symbols of this political party.

Democratic Party- The color blue and the donkey are symbols of this political party.

### How does someone become a presidential candidate?

- The constitution says that we should elect a new president every four years. At least one year before the presidential election, anyone who wants to be the president and is 35 years or older and a citizen of the United States, will begin raising money to campaign.
- They then go all over the United States and talk to as many people as possible to try to get them to want to vote for them.
- In February of the election year, primary voting takes place. Voters, people who are at least 18 years old and a citizen of the United States, get to vote between all the different candidates to decide whom they want to run in the final election. The final election is between two people- one democrat and one republican.
- Each political party will then decide who they want to be their representative. The Democratic Party will pick one person they think will get more votes than the Republican and the Republican Party will do the same thing.

### What happens after there are only two candidates left?

- One democrat and one republican will make more speeches to more people about what they believe in and how they can make good changes for our country.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- In November of the election year, United States citizens will vote again between the two candidates. A group called the Electoral College will vote for who they want to be president, too.
- A winner will be declared after all the votes are in.
- In January, the following year, they will have a special ceremony for the president. This ceremony is called an inauguration. In this ceremony, the new president will promise to do what is right for the United States and that he will be honest.

### Questions for Reflection

1. What kind of president would you vote for?

---

---

---

2. Why do you think some people choose not to vote?

---

---

---

3. How old do voters have to be?

---

---

---

4. How old does someone have to be in order to run for president?

---

---

---

5. Why do you think it is law to be a certain age to vote and to be a president?

---

---

---

6. Why would you make a good president?

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Matching: Use the word bank to match the descriptions with the correct term. Some words will be used more than once.

Democrat	Inauguration	candidate	Republican
February	November	President	

7. This political party's animal symbol is an elephant \_\_\_\_\_
8. This is the month primary voting takes place \_\_\_\_\_
9. In January, following the Presidential Election, this ceremony takes place \_\_\_\_\_
10. This political party's animal symbol is a donkey \_\_\_\_\_
11. The color red is associated with this party \_\_\_\_\_
12. The color blue is associated with this party \_\_\_\_\_
13. This is the month the final Presidential Election takes place \_\_\_\_\_
14. A person that is running for election is called a \_\_\_\_\_
15. The leader of the United States is the \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine: Your class needs a president! You know you would be the best one for the job. On this sheet, draw a poster about yourself, telling everyone to vote for you! Choose a symbol and color that would represent you as a candidate.



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Answer Key:

1. opinion, answers will vary
2. opinion, answers will vary
3. 18
4. 35
5. opinion- using reasoning skills- answers will vary
6. opinion, answers will vary
7. Republican
8. February
9. Inauguration
10. Democrat
11. Republican
12. Democrat
13. November
14. Candidate
15. President