

★ Freedom is Calling ★

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



We the CIVICS Kids



ARCADIA UNIVERSITY
— SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES —
KING OF PRUSSIA CAMPUS

Lesson 3



STUDENT INTRODUCTION

Dear Students,

First, let us introduce ourselves. We are the Civics Kids....Carla, Ira, Vicky, Isabella, Chris, and Sam. More important than the fact that our names spell out the word *civics* is our goal to promote civic engagement. We do so by helping students everywhere build their basic civic knowledge and learn about all the ways they can be active participants in their home and school environment.

This note welcomes students to Election 2012 Civics Kids' style. The *We the Civics Kids Election 2012* material will help you understand why we have a President and not a King or Queen, and what the role of our President is. The materials will also provide a guide to running for President, and will take you on a journey from the vote to the oath of office. And, after you find out about the election process, you can all look forward to more *We the Civics Kids* magazines designed to help every student become an active citizen.

The Civics Kids encourage each of you to take the opportunity to better understand the election process and how you can become a change agent in your classroom, school, home and community. Remember...someday one of you could become President of the United States.

Carla 

Ira 

Vicky 

Isabella 

Chris 

Sam 

LESSON 3

The Vote

Grades 3-5

Objectives:

1. Students will share their understanding of the importance of voting by designing a T-shirt.
2. Students will better understand the concept of the Electoral College by participating in a mock Electoral College vote.

Materials:

We the Civics Kids student magazine for Lesson Three “The Vote”

Lesson Resources

Get Out the Vote t-shirt design

Mock Electoral College Vote Tally Sheet

Election Crossword Puzzle

Lesson Procedures: Part 1 – The Voting Process

1. Introduce this situation to the class
 - a. “We are going to turn back the clock 100 years. It is 1912 instead of 2012. You are adults, not school children. The country is getting ready for a presidential election, just as we are now. Three men are running for president: Woodrow Wilson, the Democrat; William Taft, the Republican; and Theodore Roosevelt of the new Progressive Party. However, only _____ people (*the number of boys*) in the class will be able to vote in the election. Do you know why?”
 - b. Share with students information regarding the women’s vote movement – the Suffragettes
 - i. Women did not get the right to vote until August 1920 with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.
 - ii. It took over 50 years of petitions, marches, hunger strikes, and even jail time for women to receive their voting rights.
 - iii. Additional information available at PBS Kids http://pbskids.org/wayback/civilrights/features_suffrage.html . Literacy to reinforce the subject: *If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights* by Anne Kamma: *Ballot Box Battle* by Emily McCully.
 - c. Ask the class to comment on how they would feel if they were denied the right to participate in selecting their leaders.
2. Distribute the **We the Civics Kids** student magazine “The Vote”
3. Discuss the title and illustrations
4. Read and discuss the magazine narrative – the voting process.
 - a. Discuss the Electoral College vs. the popular vote in determining the presidential winner.
 - b. Talk about the importance of voting – having your voice heard.
5. Introduce the “Get Out the Vote” T-shirt activity.
 - a. Show students some of the graphics from the “Get Out the Vote” Campaign <http://www.aiga.org/get-out-the-vote/>
 - b. Ask students to design a graphic that they will present on a t-shirt.
 - c. Once the design is complete, distribute the T-Shirt Template worksheet for students to complete.



LESSON 3

The Vote Continued

Grades 3-5

Lesson Conclusion:

Display t-shirts in a bulletin board or hang with clothes pins from a clothesline.

*Collect the *We the Civics Kids* magazines if you will be completing Part 2 of the lesson at a later time.

Lesson Procedures: Part 2

1. On the Monday before the election, assign each student one or two states (All 50 states should be assigned).
 - a. Ask students to recall the election process learned in part one of “The Vote.”
 - b. Explain that the students will take part in a mock Electoral College activity.
 - c. Ask students to try to come to school knowing which candidate won their state(s). (Have a list available for students who could not get the information because of the lateness of the election results. Results can be found online.)
 - d. Distribute the *Electoral College Vote 2012* sheet. Call out each state. Have the student report their findings. “The great state of Alabama, casts its 9 electoral votes for _____.” All students will complete the sheet for each state.
 - e. If you wish, the teacher can keep a running total for each candidate on the board. Draw attention to the candidate who reaches 270 votes and is declared the winner. Complete the roll call for the remaining states.
2. In the students’ *We the Civics Kids* magazine, “The Vote”, read and discuss *The Inauguration* and *Living in the White House*.
 - a. This year there will be some changes in the Inauguration. By law, the President must take his Oath of Office on January 20th before noon, but in 2013, January 20th falls on a Sunday. The President and Vice-President will take their oaths of office on Sunday the 20th, but in a private ceremony. The celebration for the people – the inaugural speech, parade, and parties - will be on Monday, January 21st.

Lesson Conclusion:

Discuss with the students what they found most interesting about their Election Unit.

Supplemental Activity:

Election Crossword Puzzle

Literacy Links:

The Ballot Box Battle by Emily Arnold McCully

Vote by Eileen Christelow

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio

Tech Connections:

Schoolhouse Rock – Electoral College

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyIFqf3XH24>

Scholastic Election 2012

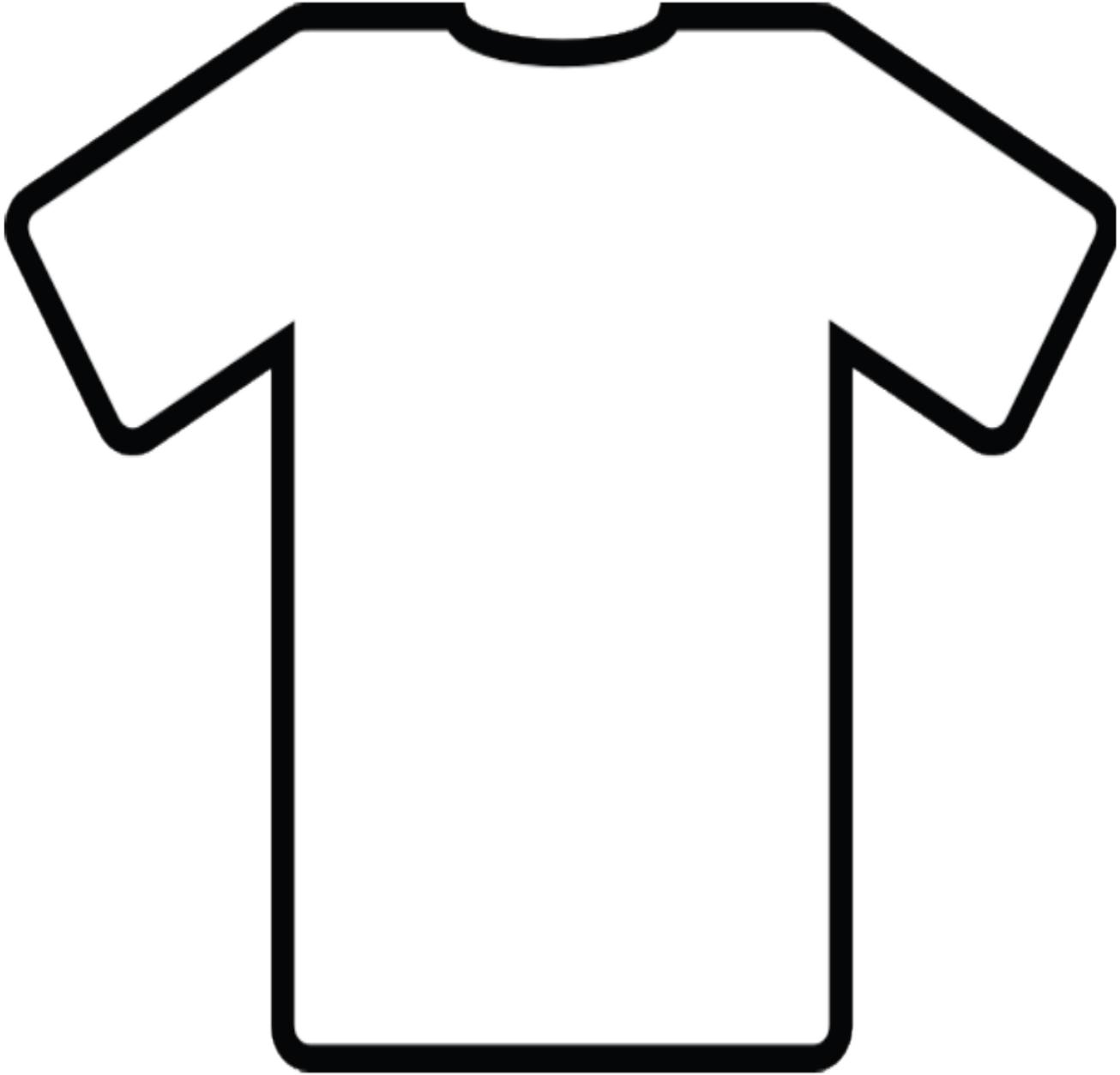
<http://magazines.scholastic.com/election-2012>

National Standards for Civics and Government

NSS V. K-4. V. What are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?

- What does it mean to be a citizen of the United States?
- What are important responsibilities of Americans?
- How can Americans participate in their government?
- How should Americans select leaders?

HANDOUT A
Get Out the Vote t-shirt design



Directions: Design a t-shirt that encourages all eligible voters to vote.



HANDOUT B
Mock Electoral College Vote Tally Sheet

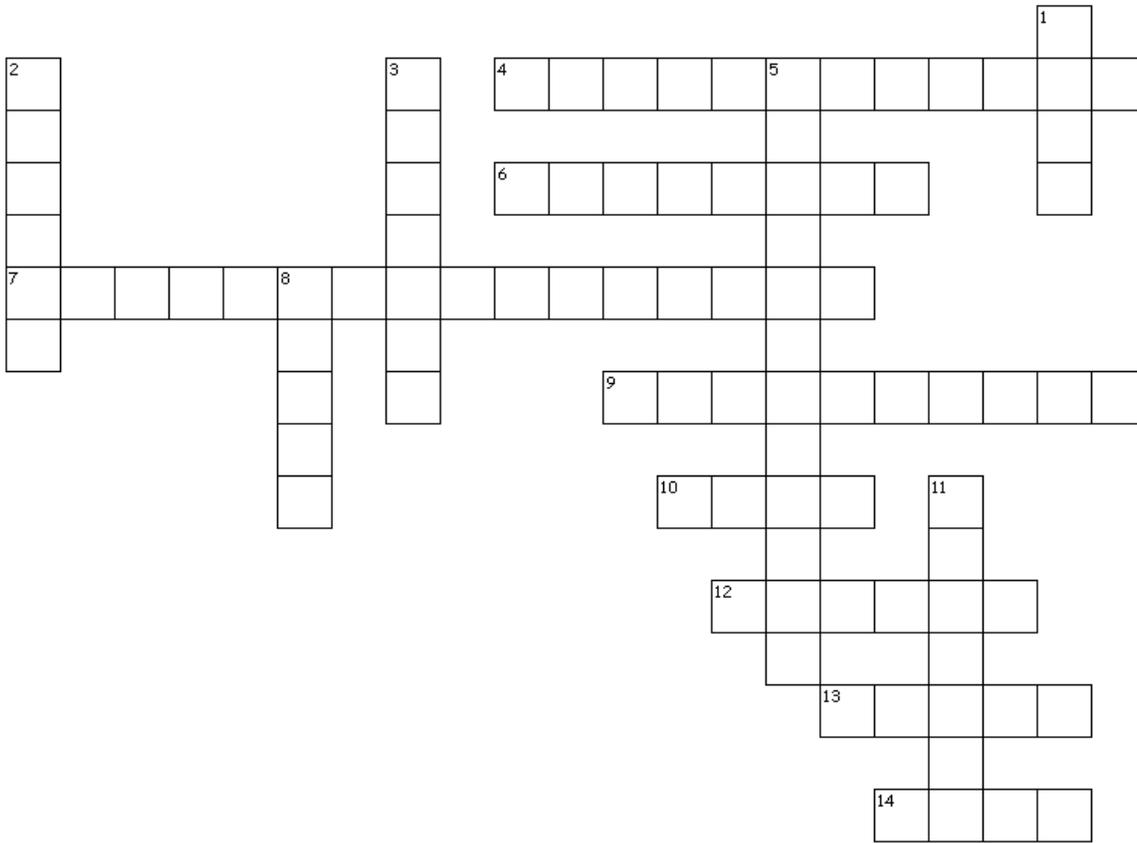
State	Electoral Votes	Obama	Romney	Other
Alabama	9			
Alaska	3			
Arizona	11			
Arkansas	6			
California	55			
Colorado	9			
Connecticut	7			
Delaware	3			
District of Columbia	3			
Florida	29			
Georgia	16			
Hawaii	4			
Idaho	4			
Illinois	20			
Indiana	11			
Iowa	6			
Kansas	6			
Kentucky	8			
Louisiana	8			
Maine	4			
Maryland	10			
Massachusetts	11			
Michigan	16			
Minnesota	10			
Mississippi	6			
Missouri	10			
Montana	3			



HANDOUT B CONTINUED
Mock Electoral College Vote Tally Sheet

State	Electoral Votes	Obama	Romney	Other
Nebraska	5			
Nevada	6			
New Hampshire	4			
New Jersey	14			
New Mexico	5			
New York	29			
North Carolina	15			
North Dakota	3			
Ohio	18			
Oklahoma	7			
Oregon	7			
Pennsylvania	20			
Rhode Island	4			
South Carolina	9			
South Dakota	3			
Tennessee	11			
Texas	38			
Utah	6			
Vermont	3			
Virginia	13			
Washington	12			
West Virginia	5			
Wisconsin	10			
Wyoming	3			
TOTAL	538			

HANDOUT C
Election Crossword Puzzle



Across

4. Document that is our plan of government
6. Mascot of the Republican Party
7. Decides the winner of the national election
9. Age you must be to run for President
10. What every citizen 18 years of age or older should do
12. Mascot of the Democratic Party
13. Current Vice-President of the US
14. Governor Romney's running mate

Down

1. Number of years in a President's term of office
2. Republican nominee for President
3. The first election. States vote for who they want to run for President
5. Ceremony where the President and Vice-President take their oaths of office
8. Democratic nominee for President
11. Day of the week for the National Election

Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com