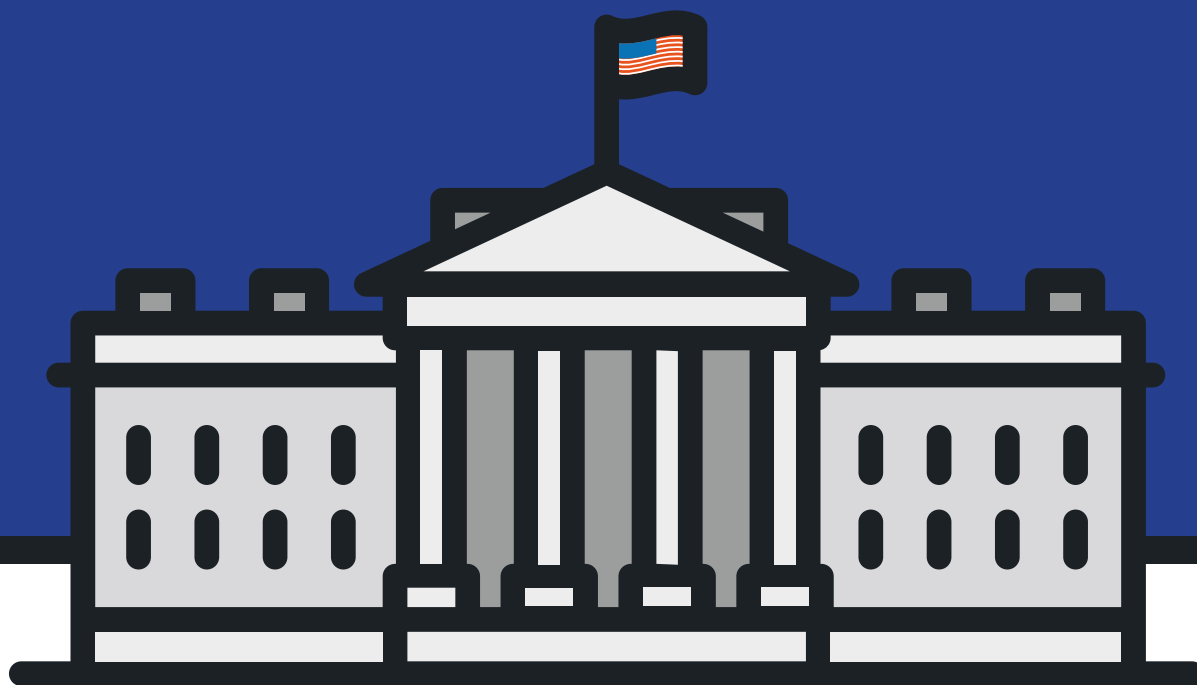


A GUIDE TO
★ ★ ★
ELECTIONS
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A GUIDE TO ELECTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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CHAPTER 1

FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

The key forms of government are: Theocracy, Autocracy, Aristocracy, Communism and Democracy. We divide them according to how many people can make decisions.

THE RULE OF ONE

DEFINITION

THEOCRACY: The form of government in which a deity is recognized as the supreme ruler. All the laws are interpreted by religion or church authorities who are regarded as divinely guided.



FUN FACT

While Ancient Egypt is probably the best known example of a theocracy, modern-day equivalents include Iran (Islam) and Vatican City (Catholic Church).

DEFINITION

AUTOCRACY: The form of government where the ruler or rulers are unrestrained by law or have usurped another established form of government. There are two types of autocracies:

ABSOLUTE MONARCHIES, where the monarch holds supreme authority—unrestricted by any written laws or legislative body. Examples include the rulers of Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

DICTATORSHIPS are governments where a single individual or small group of individuals hold absolute power. Countries ruled by dictators today include Eritrea, North Korea, and Turkmenistan.



FUN FACT

Marie Antoinette (wife to Louis XVI) had an authentic peasant village built on the grounds of her opulent palace in Versailles. It was complete with farm animals so she could pretend to be a humble shepherdess. The real peasants, who lived in terrible conditions under the reign of her husband, eventually started a revolution.

FAMOUS MONARCHS



HENRY VIII (ENGLAND)

RULED FROM 1509-1547

Henry VIII was such a powerful ruler in England that he was able to break the Church of England away from the Catholic Church. The Catholic Pope would not let Henry VIII get a divorce. So Henry split the Church of England from the Catholic Church and put himself at the head so he could do what he wanted. He seized all Catholic Church properties, and married a total of six times—even executing two of his wives because they failed to produce a male heir.



PETER THE GREAT

(RUSSIA)

RULED FROM 1682-1725

Peter the Great centralized the government, modernized the army, and dragged Russia out of the Middle Ages into the modern world. He had a modern city (St. Petersburg) built near a warm water port so Russia could trade more easily.

Peter the Great outlawed beards because he saw them as a symbol of the past. People who wanted to keep a beard had to pay an annual tax.

FAMOUS DICTATOR

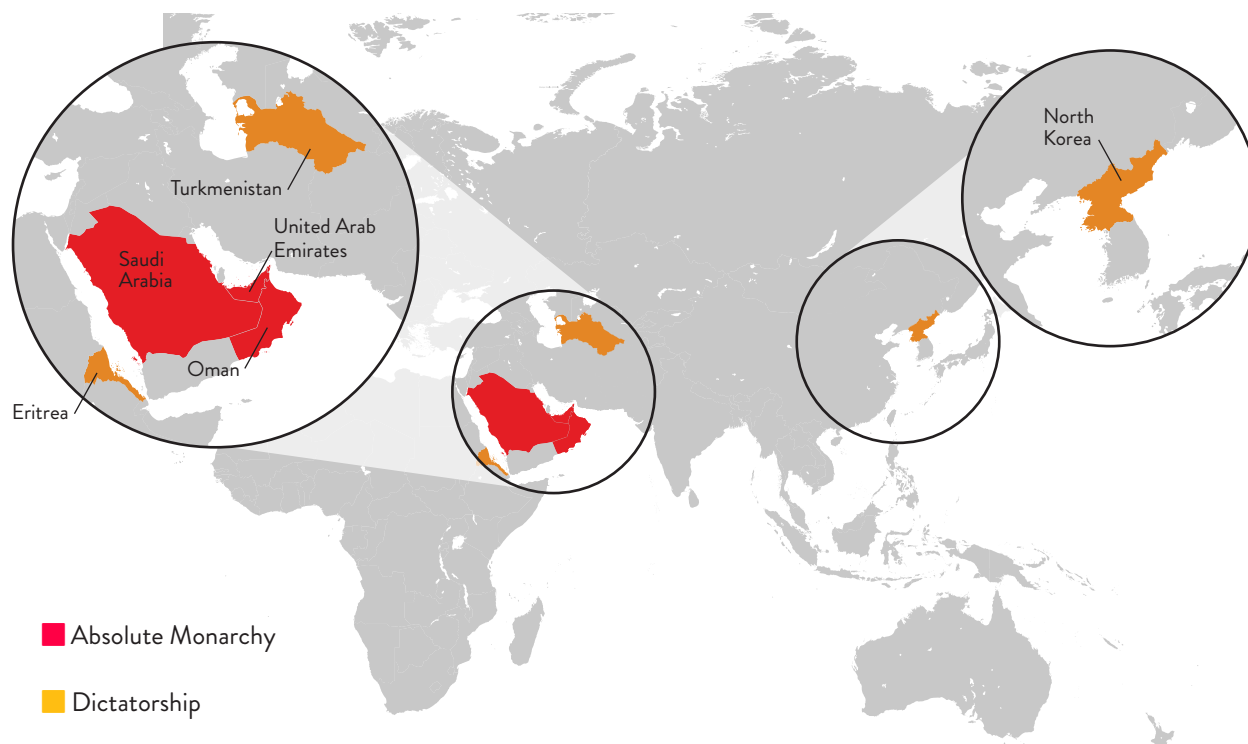


JULIUS CAESAR (ROME) *RULED FROM 46 BC TO 44 BC*

Citizens of Rome appointed Julius Caesar as dictator in 49 BC; and reappointed him the following year. In 46 BC, he was appointed dictator for 10 years and in 44 BC he was appointed *dictator perpetuo* (dictator forever, or in perpetuity). After his assassination, people fought a civil war that ended with the collapse of the Roman Republic. Octavian, or Augustus Caesar, became the *de facto* (in fact, or for all intents and purposes) Emperor of Rome. Caesar was assassinated, but his changes made it possible for next ruler – Augustus Caesar – to transform Rome from a decaying Republic into a stable monarchical Empire.

Although his reign was brief, Julius Caesar rolled out numerous reforms that transformed Roman history, including the introduction of the calendar we still use today.

The map below shows modern countries that are ruled by Absolute Monarchies or Dictatorships.



AUTOCRATS DOING GOOD

After reading about famous historical autocrats on the two previous pages, can you identify three good things that came out of their reign? *Answers on page 45.*

THE RULE OF FEW

DEFINITION

ARISTOCRACY: The form of government where the power resides in the hands of a small, privileged group of citizens.



FUN FACT

The nobility of Medieval Europe is a historical example of a social aristocracy.

DEFINITION

COMMUNISM: The form of government where the government owns and controls the means of production (like farming, factories, businesses, and transportation).

While the government controls the economy, all workers are expected to be productive and work. Additionally, the government agrees to care for those unable to work. In all communist lands, government officials gain wealth and the people remain poor.



FUN FACT

While there are no true communist countries today, the remaining countries that most resemble communism include China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam.

THE RULE OF MANY

DEFINITION

DEMOCRACY: The form of government where the citizens exercise power by voting. There are two types of democracy: a *direct* democracy, where citizens vote directly on issues; and a *representative* democracy, where citizens elect representative to form a governing body that rules on their behalf.

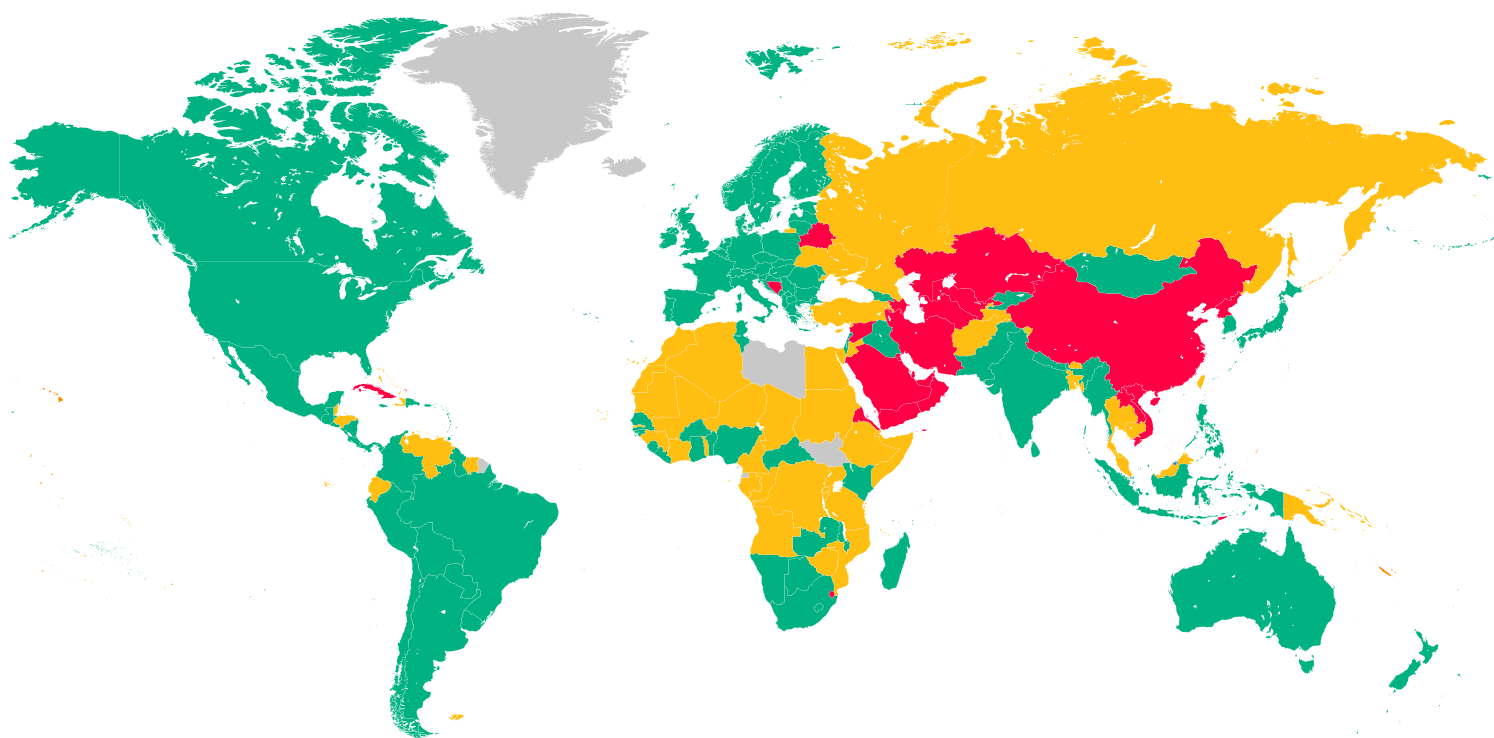
According to the Pew Research Center, democracy remains the most popular form of government on the planet¹. At the end of 2017, “96 out of 167 countries with populations of at least 500,000

1

Despite global concerns about democracy, more than half of countries are democratic. May 14, 2019.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/14/more-than-half-of-countries-are-democratic/>

(57 percent) were democracies of some kind.” While democracy has been spreading since the 1970s, it’s slightly down from 2016, according to Pew’s research.

The United States is a representative democracy. Voters elect representatives who make decisions for them. At the state and local levels, the American democracy is more direct.



■ Democratic Country ■ Autocratic Country ■ Mixed ■ Undefined

*ALLOWING PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT IS,
BY DEFINITION, THE MOST FAIR WAY TO RULE.*



FUN FACT

The United States is generally recognized as the world’s longest running democracy—even though the word itself is never mentioned in the Constitution.

Principles of democracy include:

- **Equality under the law**, where all citizens expect to be treated the same. History has shown that this has not always been the case, for example, when it comes to slavery.
- **Political freedom**, which implies all citizens can vote, and people can freely vote however they choose. In the early days of the United States, only white, male property owners could vote. Since then, amendments to the Constitution have made it possible for Native Americans, minorities and women to vote.
- **The rule of law**, with clearly written laws that apply to all, and with courts and judicial systems designed to be impartial and free to act without the influence of other branches of government or special interest groups.



WRITING PROMPT:

Read the principles of democracy above. Do you think democracy is a fair form of government? Why or why not? *Answers on page 45.*

NEW COUNTRY BLUEPRINT

Pretend you're creating a new country. You will be the ruler. Answer the questions below.

Name of your new country: _____

What will the ruling person be called? _____

Which type of government will you select? _____

What are some good/innovative laws you would work to pass?



DIRECT DEMOCRACY VS REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

In a direct democracy, each individual votes on every single issue to make a decision. Write a pros/cons list of direct democracy in the modern world.

PROS

CONS

In a representative democracy, voters elect representatives to vote on decisions on their behalf. Write a pros/cons list of representative democracy in the modern world.

PROS

CONS

CHAPTER 2

THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

13 English colonies ruled by King George III would become the United States of America:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. New Hampshire | 6. New Jersey | 11. North Carolina |
| 2. Massachusetts | 7. Pennsylvania | 12. South Carolina |
| 3. Rhode Island | 8. Delaware | 13. Georgia |
| 4. Connecticut | 9. Maryland | |
| 5. New York | 10. Virginia | |



From 1755-1759, England and France (the two largest superpowers at the time) fought over whose colonies would control “the New World” of America. The French had the support of the Native American tribes in fighting the English expansion.

After winning the war in 1759, the English gained a large swath of new land to protect from invaders, but also amassed huge debt. King George III determined the colonists should carry the brunt of the financial responsibility of paying for the debt incurred during the war. The British Parliament enacted a series of taxes upon the colonists, who had no representation in Parliament.

THE COLONISTS RESENTED THE NEW TAXATION.

THE RALLYING CRY OF “NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!” IGNITED WHAT WOULD SOON BECOME THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION TO BREAK AWAY FROM ENGLAND AND BECOME A NEW COUNTRY.



FUN FACT

American rebels tore down metal statues of King George erected after the French and Indian War, and used the melted metal to make bullets to fight the revolution.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

On July 4, 1776, the 13 American colonies announced their intentions with a document known as the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration explained why the colonies at war with Great Britain regarded themselves as 13 independent sovereign states, no longer under British rule. Thomas Jefferson penned the first draft, and in it he used ideas by great political thinkers of the time. He included John Locke, who wrote that government is a contract between government and the people, and if the government doesn't live up to its contract, the people have the right to change the government or create a new one.



GEORGE WASHINGTON

During the Revolutionary War, George Washington, a veteran of the French and Indian War, led the colonists. He considered the army of young men from all 13 states as the sons he never had.

Because they were forced to go to war as one unit, not separate states, the colonists needed to agree on how to rule themselves during the conflict. All 13 states signed a document called the Articles of Confederation and elected a Congress to make laws.

During this time, each state held its own version of a constitution and their own currency, which made trade almost impossible. The Articles of Confederation lacked power to act as a national government and Congress didn't have the authority to make the states help pay for the Revolutionary War. Even after England lost the war, nobody had the ability to make any decisions. Nobody paid salaries, nobody wanted to pay taxes, and there wasn't even a good way to make the remaining English

leave or to negotiate with the Indian tribes or the Spanish Colonies in the West and South. This alarmed George Washington. The colonies fought hard for independence, and now the new nation was in disarray.

WRITE A SECRET LETTER

During the Revolutionary War, British and colonial soldiers frequently intercepted enemy mail, so the combatants used various ways to disguise messages that traveled across enemy lines. Imitate one of the methods they used by following the recipe for invisible ink below¹.

1. Mix 4 teaspoons of water with 2 tablespoons of cornstarch.
2. Stir until smooth.
3. Heat and stir over a hotplate for several minutes.
4. Dip a toothpick into the mixture and write a message on a piece of paper.
5. Let the paper dry.
6. Dip a sponge into a solution of 1 teaspoon of iodine and 10 teaspoons of water.
7. Carefully wipe the paper with the sponge. The message should appear and turn purple.

1

Spy Letters of the American Revolution <https://clements.umich.edu/exhibit/spy-letters-of-the-american-revolution/secret-methods/>

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

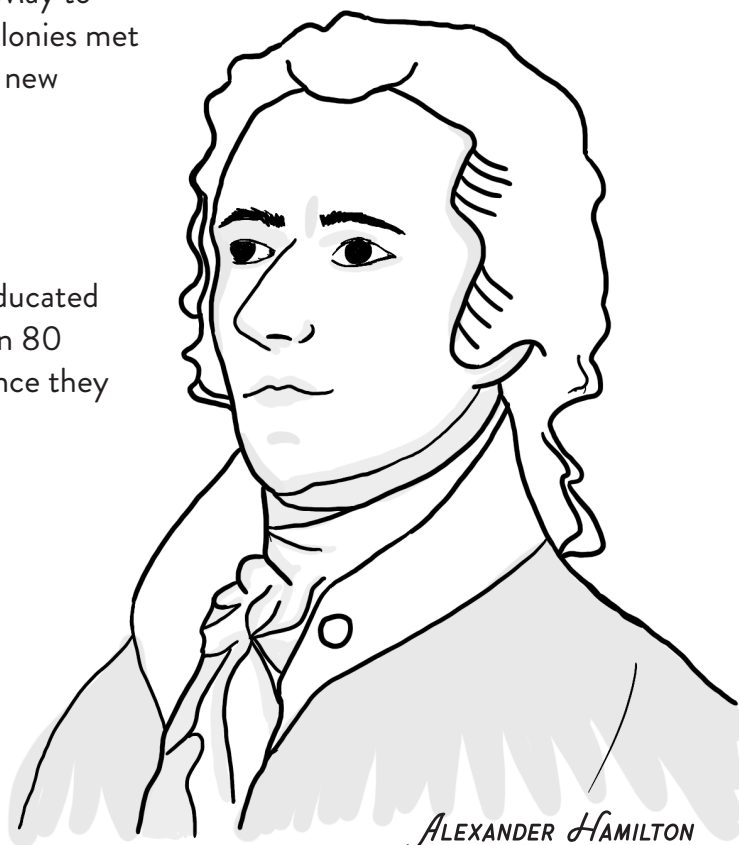
James Madison and Alexander Hamilton were two revolutionary leaders who agreed early on that they needed a new way to govern. From May to September 1787, 55 delegates from the 13 colonies met at Philadelphia's State House to draft a brand new document: the U.S. Constitution.

*THE EVENT WAS CALLED THE
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.*

All of the delegates were white, well-to-do, educated men. At the time, whites composed more than 80 percent of the population—understandable since they were nearly all former British citizens.

Thirty of the delegates were veterans from the Revolutionary War. Half of them were lawyers. Jonathan Dayton, from New Jersey, was the youngest. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest at 81.

To allow for the best decisions for the good of the country, delegates kept the contents of the Constitutional Convention secret. They kept the windows closed, even in



the stifling summer Philadelphia heat. They also allowed delegates to bring subjects up again even if a vote had already been cast. They kept talking about each topic until the entire group reached a compromise.

Another reason for the secrecy is that, technically, these men were committing treason. They had no legal authority to draft a new form of government and were not voted into the roles they assumed in redrafting the young nation's form of government.



FUN FACT

Rhode Island refused to send anyone to the Constitutional Convention.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S LEGACY

Benjamin Franklin was a founding father. He was also a renowned scientist and inventor. Research three of his inventions and discover if they are still used today.

Draw one of his inventions below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw one of Benjamin Franklin's inventions.

THE GREAT COMPROMISE

Delegates crafted the American government during the Constitutional Convention. One key component covered the structure of government. Today's structure of a Congress with a lower House of Representatives (based on the state population) and a higher Senate (equal number of delegates for each state) emerged at this time.

Our Constitution includes compromises. The issue of slavery was an example of important compromises made to unify the country. People in the northern states didn't agree with slavery but were not ready to end the practice completely. The economy of the southern states depended on slavery. To keep the southern states from splitting off on their own, the Constitutional Convention (and the subsequent Constitution) allowed for each slave to be counted as three-fifths of a person. Slaves couldn't vote, but their masters could. By allowing slaves to count for a partial seat in the House of Representatives, slave-holding states could have a say in the nation even though their voting population was smaller. In exchange, they established a rule called "the Northwest Ordinance" that prohibited slavery in all land north of the Ohio River.

THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

The U.S. Constitution and the Constitutional Convention created a Constitutional Federal Republic based on a democratic tradition. It was the first government of its kind in the modern era. The Convention intended for the United States to be a mixed-republic made up of a union of states, each with its own local government, ruled by elected officials and laws, and bound by both federal and state constitutions.

They eventually landed on this concept after the Articles of Confederation hampered the young nation's ability to tax, establish a single currency, or sign treaties. The Articles were incredibly difficult to amend, requiring unanimous approval, while nine out of the 13 colonies had to agree to any new legislation. The federal government could not collect taxes to operate, while each state had its own currency and could make its own foreign policy decisions.

Electors unanimously elected George Washington as the nation's first President in the election of 1788, which took place after the U.S. Constitution was adopted and ratified. George Washington was the first popularly-elected President in history.



FUN FACT

The conversion from colonies to states was not quick. On May 15, 1776, the Continental Congress advised all the colonies to form their own local governments. It wasn't until 1788, with the ratification of the United States Constitution, that the colonies officially became states.

CHAPTER 3

THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

As part of the Constitutional Convention, the delegates created a new national (federal) government with three branches, originally known as the Virginia Plan. The branches of government are called Legislative (the power to make laws), Executive (the power to execute laws) and Judicial (the power to administer the laws).

The delegates at the Convention feared being ruled by a king again and wanted to make sure no single person would be able to amass the power necessary to form a monarchy. *THEY CREATED A SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES THAT PREVENTS ANY ONE BRANCH FROM BECOMING TOO POWERFUL.* The checks refer to the responsibility each branch of government has to make sure the power is *balanced* at all times and every action taken is good for the country.

The delegates also decided to elect a head of the new federal government, called a “President” to lead it. The word President comes from *praesidere* which literally means ‘to sit before’ and was a ceremonial title that meant a person served as *the person in charge* of a gathering or organization. Even though the term President had been used for many years already to denote the leader of a college or a university, and in some colonies as the leader of the colony, it had never been used as the head of state for a country.

BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



LEGISLATIVE

A Congress, made up of the Senate (with two representatives per state), and the House of Representatives (with delegates based on each state’s population) would be responsible for drafting the laws as well as declaring war on another country.



EXECUTIVE

Made up of an elected President, the executive departments, and the Cabinet. The President is the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and has the power to suggest and reject (veto) laws.



JUDICIAL

Comprised of the Supreme Court and other federal courts. The judicial branch enforces the law by fining or imprisoning those who break it. It also interprets the law which was purposefully written to keep important ideas in tension so we wouldn’t fall back into tyranny.

WHO'S GOT THE POWER?

Using Articles I, II and III of the U.S. Constitution, write the branch of government in charge of each of these duties.

Introduces laws	_____
Declares laws unconstitutional	_____
Signs bills into law	_____
Coins money	_____
Nominates Supreme Court justices	_____
Declares war	_____
Vetoes bills	_____
Interprets the laws	_____
Serves as commander-in-chief of the army and navy	_____
Issues a pardon	_____
Overrides a Presidential veto	_____
Borrows money on behalf of the US	_____
Makes treaties	_____

Answers on page 47.



FUN FACT

Congress introduces about 10,000 bills every year. Each is given a number and assigned to a committee. There are 22 committees in the House of Representatives and 15 committees in the Senate.

In addition to determining the powers of the federal government, the Constitutional Convention also spelled out how power sharing would occur at the different levels of the government.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS	STATE GOVERNMENTS
★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
Is responsible for: Armed Forces Post Office Currency Regulating commerce Writing laws at the national level	Share the responsibility of: Maintaining law and order Establishing courts Charge (levy) taxes Protecting all residents Building roads Establishing banks	Are responsible for: Conducting elections Establishing local governments Education Regulate businesses Marriages



FUN FACT

The first U.S. Congress included 26 Senators, 59 Representatives, and no political parties. By contrast, today's Congress, the 116th, includes 100 Senators, 435 Representatives, six non-voting delegates, and two main political parties.



WRITING PROMPT:

Why do you think the new United States delegates were so opposed to becoming another monarchy?

CHAPTER 4

WHAT'S AN ELECTION?

DEFINITION

An **ELECTION** is a process where citizens vote for someone to be their representative in government.

e•lec•tion (noun) The act or occasion of being chosen for a particular job, especially by voting. —*Cambridge Dictionary*

A candidate is someone who wants to be a government representative. In most cases, the candidate with the most votes wins the election and becomes the elected official.

In the United States, citizens 18 years or older can participate in an election by selecting their preferred candidate using a paper or electronic ballot. The ballots are counted after the polls —or voting locations— have closed. Citizens can vote in person or by mail.

Elections are held at all levels of government:

- **Local elections** elect officials such as county commissioners, city council members and mayors.
- **State elections** elect representatives such as attorneys general, members of congress and governors.
- **Federal elections** elect the country's head of state, or the President.

*VOTING IN ELECTIONS MAKES US ALL
PARTICIPANTS IN GOVERNMENT.*

SAMPLE Official Election Ballot
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
Tuesday, November 08, 2016

TO VOTE: YOU MUST DARKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY. USE ONLY A #2 PENCIL OR A DARK PEN.
Do not use a red pen, felt tip pen or a red pencil!
Do not cross out or erase - If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot.

For United States President and Vice President Vote for ONE	For US House Of Representatives 1st Congressional District Vote for ONE
<input type="radio"/> Presidential Electors for Hillary Clinton for President and Tim Kaine for Vice President Democrat	<input type="radio"/> Trent Kelly Republican
<input type="radio"/> Presidential Electors for Donald J. Trump for President and Michael R. Pence for Vice President Republican	<input type="radio"/> Jacob Owens Democrat
<input type="radio"/> Presidential Electors for Darrell Castle for President and Scott N. Bradley for Vice President Constitution	<input type="radio"/> Cathy L. Toole Reform
<input type="radio"/> Presidential Electors for 'Rocky' Roque De La Fuente for President and Michael Steinberg for Vice President American Delta	<input type="radio"/> Chase Wilson Libertarian
<input type="radio"/> Presidential Electors for Jim Hedges for President and Bill Bayes for Vice President Prohibition	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Presidential Electors for Gary Johnson for President and Bill Weld for Vice President Libertarian	For US House Of Representatives 2nd Congressional District Vote for ONE
<input type="radio"/> Presidential Electors for Jill Stein for President and Ajamu Baraka for Vice President Green	<input type="radio"/> John Bouie II Republican
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Bennie G. Thompson Democrat
	<input type="radio"/> Johnny McLeod Reform
	<input type="radio"/> Troy Ray Independent
	<input type="radio"/> Write-in

Sample of an Official Election Ballot for the 2016 Presidential Election in Mississippi.



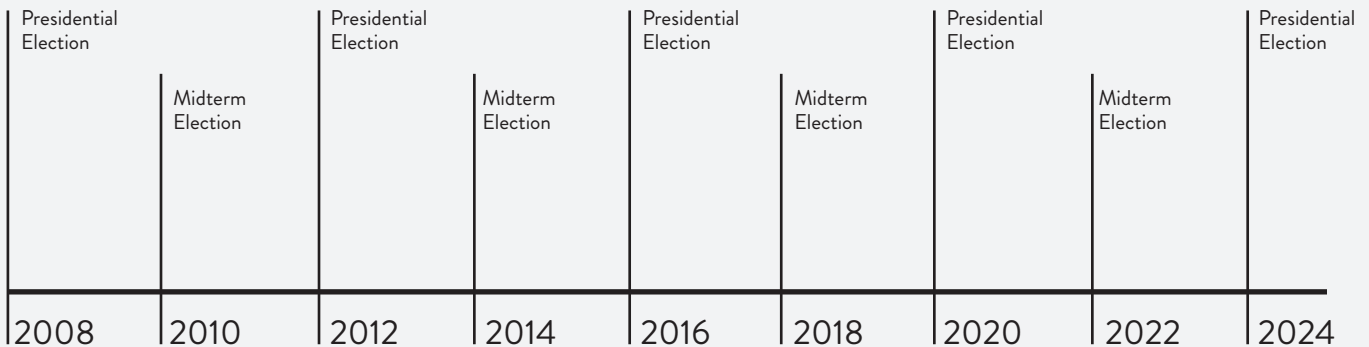
FUN FACT

According to a study by political scientist Jennifer Lawless, there were more than half a million elected officials serving in the United States as recently as 2012.

ELECTION TIMELINE

- **Presidential elections** take place every four years and congressional elections happen every two.
- **Midterm elections** occur when there is no Presidential election and only congress members are being elected.
- **State and local elections, as well as special elections**, have varying calendars and can fall in Presidential election years, midterm years, or in years when there are neither. Special elections are held to fill an unplanned vacancy.

ELECTION TIMELINE



ELECTION TERMS

A term of office is the length of time a person serves in a particular elected position. In the United States:

- The **President** is limited to serving a total of **two four-year terms**.
- The **Vice President** can serve **unlimited four-year terms**.
- **Members of the Senate** can serve **unlimited six-year terms**.
- **Members of the House of Representatives** can serve **unlimited two-year terms**.



FUN FACT

The 32nd President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, served from 1933 until his death in 1945 and is the only President to serve more than two terms—a tradition established by George Washington when he stepped down at the end of his second term. After Roosevelt's death in office, the country passed the 22nd Amendment, limiting future Presidents to two terms.

LOCAL ELECTION DATASHEET

Become an informed future voter! Answer the following questions.

How do you register to vote? _____

Does your state allow vote-by-mail? _____

When is your next local election? _____

Where is your address' polling place? _____

What do you think are the most important local issues to be voted on?



FUN FACT

In many countries, a special ink called Electoral ink is applied to the forefinger of voters during elections in order to signify they voted. It was first used in India in 1962.

In the United States, voters receive an “I Voted” sticker. Its design varies from state to state. Some states even hold contests to see who can design the best “I Voted” sticker for their next election.

The stickers were first used in the 1980s. Have you seen an “I Voted” sticker?



DISCOVER HOW ELECTIONS HAVE CHANGED

Interview a parent, grandparent or family friend about the first time they had the privilege of voting. Record their answers below.

1. When was the first time you voted?

2. Where did you live at the time?

3. Do you remember what were the most important issues voters faced at the time of your first election?

4. Are you currently registered to vote?

5. Did you vote in the last Presidential election?

6. Did you vote in the last midterm election?

7. How do you decide whom to vote for?

8. Will you vote in the next Presidential election? Why?

9. How have elections changed between the first time you voted and today?

CHAPTER 5

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

The delegates at the Constitutional Convention, or the founding fathers as they're affectionately called today, established the Electoral College as a compromise between electing the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens.

DID YOU KNOW?

The United States Constitution didn't originally define who was eligible to vote, allowing each state to determine who was eligible or qualified. In most states, only white male adult property owners were allowed to vote. Others didn't specify race. Freed slaves could vote in four states. Women were largely prohibited from voting, as well as men without property.

Many delegates worried that if the President and Vice President were elected by popular vote, a large portion of states with smaller populations wouldn't be represented fairly.

In the **ELECTORAL COLLEGE**, each state gets a number of electors. *THE NUMBER IS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES EACH STATE HOLDS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PLUS THEIR TWO SENATORS. TODAY, THERE ARE 538 ELECTORS.*

A MAJORITY OF 270 ELECTORAL VOTES IS REQUIRED TO BE ELECTED PRESIDENT.

Why was the Electoral College created?

1. The country was very large, and it was difficult for a national candidate to get enough exposure to all potential voters.
2. The President needed independence and making him accountable to Congress would make the balance of power unbalanced; at the same time, direct election would promote demagoguery (where people seek support by appealing to what the voters want to hear, not what is good for the country).
3. Achieving balance in Congress had been a delicate process. The Electoral College brought those compromises into the process of electing a President.

Because of the even number of electors, it is possible to have a 269-269 result with no candidate reaching the 270 votes required to win. In this case, the 12th Amendment declares that the House of Representatives will pick the President and the Senate will pick the Vice

President. This could mean that for one term, our country could have a President and Vice President from opposing parties.

Because of the population distribution within the country, it is also possible to have an elected President who wins the Electoral College, but did not win the popular vote. This has occurred five times in the history of the United States. It most recently happened in 2016, which led to renewed discussion about the Electoral College and popular votes.



FUN FACT

The 12th Amendment has only been used once, in the 1824 Presidential election. No candidate won a majority of the electoral vote, and a contingent election was required in the House of Representatives. On Feb. 9, 1825, the House chose John Quincy Adams as President.

After a general Presidential election, the electors convene in each of their state capitals on the Monday after the second Wednesday of December to cast votes for the winners of their state. The time between general election day and the day the Electoral College convenes was originally established to allow electors time to travel to their state capitals.



For an overview of how the Electoral College works, watch the TED Talk: Does your vote count? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9H3gynN468>

PROCESS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

1

THE SELECTION OF THE ELECTORS

Each political party in each state nominates lists of potential Electors at their conventions. This happens in each state for each party. (Rules vary from state to state). On Election Day, most states appoint Electors to vote for the winning Presidential candidate.

2

THE MEETING OF THE ELECTORS TO VOTE

The meeting of the electors takes place in the December after the Presidential election. Electors meet in their own states, and cast their votes for President and Vice President on separate ballots. The votes are recorded on a "Certificate of Vote" that gets sent to Congress.

3

THE COUNTING OF THE VOTES

On the 6th of January after the Presidential election, each state's electoral votes are counted in a joint session of Congress. The results are announced by the Vice President, who acts as President of the Senate.

WRITING PROMPT:

Should the United States Constitution be amended to elect the President by popular vote rather than by electoral vote? Why? Or why not?

THE CENSUS AND THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP

The United States Constitution mandates the federal government conduct a census, or population count, every 10 years. The U.S. Census Bureau, a part of the Department of Commerce, handles it. The census records every member of the population of each state.

The Census Bureau uses the results of the census to calculate the number of seats in the House of Representatives each state receives. This process is called “reapportionment” and when a state’s population grows or shrinks, it impacts the number of electors a state gets.

The next census is scheduled for 2020. However, the reapportionment process won’t impact the Electoral College until the 2024 Presidential election.

RED STATES, BLUE STATES, SWING STATES, OH MY!

What do people mean when they talk about red states and blue states? Red states have voters who predominately vote Republican, and blue states typically vote Democratic in Presidential elections. A “swing state” is one that could be reasonably won by either the Democratic or the Republican party in any given election. A swing state usually receives a lot of campaign activity from candidates trying to “swing” the vote to their advantage.



FUN FACT

Red initially stood for liberal Democrats and blue for conservative Republicans to match Great Britain. In 2000, a designer changed Republicans to Red because they both started with R.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE RESEARCH

Research the Electoral College voter allotment assigned to your state.

In which state do you live? _____

How many Electoral College votes does your state hold? _____

Which candidate won in your state in the 2016 election? _____

Is your state considered a blue state, a red state or a swing state?

ELECTORAL VOCABULARY

Find the definitions for the following terms:

Delegate: _____

Incumbent: _____

Candidate: _____

Campaign: _____

Ballot: _____

ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP

Find and color your state in the map below. Find out the electoral vote allotment for the states that share borders with yours.



ELECTION WORD SEARCH

U	C	K	V	D	S	I	E	N	U	I	M	C	P	I	N	C	V	S
Y	L	O	Y	D	E	U	N	V	B	B	A	H	Z	T	T	R	L	W
F	F	S	U	C	C	V	H	X	M	C	F	S	M	D	V	K	Z	I
M	O	H	Z	N	O	D	I	S	L	A	U	I	A	N	C	C	E	N
P	P	U	E	S	T	L	G	M	A	S	S	M	P	N	Y	V	R	G
H	S	W	N	O	F	I	L	I	N	E	O	Y	R	I	E	U	X	C
E	S	E	S	D	L	K	N	E	N	V	C	E	E	B	A	Q	P	I
U	U	L	B	Z	I	W	C	G	G	T	M	B	S	F	O	D	D	T
L	E	I	K	E	P	N	P	W	Z	E	X	F	I	F	P	I	C	I
E	Q	L	F	E	I	W	G	I	L	G	W	S	D	Y	P	H	W	Z
W	N	M	E	N	Q	D	E	L	E	G	A	T	E	L	Q	Z	C	E
C	M	S	P	C	O	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	K	T	H	N	N
O	I	M	L	M	T	R	I	R	C	M	V	O	T	E	J	L	G	G
M	Z	X	M	L	T	I	L	X	F	X	W	H	D	S	M	Y	F	Z
M	W	M	N	H	I	W	O	K	H	B	W	K	T	B	P	B	G	P
E	W	J	O	K	N	A	A	N	F	Z	M	L	Y	D	Q	I	J	X
R	N	N	H	K	E	L	E	C	T	O	R	N	Y	A	A	H	U	F
C	C	A	Z	O	T	Z	R	H	A	N	L	E	D	F	X	R	C	N
E	I	J	T	S	V	V	E	J	Y	J	Q	P	O	O	L	Y	P	P
V	U	W	S	A	X	D	D	A	M	H	A	E	L	D	T	J	V	F

Find the words below in the word search.

DELEGATE
CONVENTION
FOUNDING
PRESIDENT
CITIZEN
COLLEGE
ELECTOR
VOTE
CENSUS
SWING
COMMERCE
COUNTING
ELECTION

Answers on page 49.

CHAPTER 6

POLITICAL PARTIES

The U.S. Constitution took effect in 1789, starting **THE FEDERALIST ERA**. During this time (1789-1796), George Washington was the President and the young United States was divided between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

The Federalist faction supported the Constitution and the strength and independence it created. Its leaders, such as Alexander Hamilton, believed in a strong federal government, banks, and better relations with Britain. They believed the problems from the beginning of the American Revolution could be attributed to the weak Articles of Confederation. The Federalist Party emerged as the first political party in the United States.

The Anti-Federalists, or Democratic Republicans, such as Thomas Jefferson, believed the Constitution should be strictly interpreted. They supported stronger state governments combined with a weaker central government—a system similar to the original Articles of Confederation. The Democratic-Republican Party was founded in 1792 to oppose the policies of the Federalist Party.

These two parties comprise what is now known as the “First Party System.”

	FEDERALIST PARTY	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANS
Party representation	Represented wealthy and upper-class interests.	Represented the “common” man.
Important figure	Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury	Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State
Central Government	Hamilton favored a strong federal government. He wanted a republic ruled by the elite. He thought people were incapable of self-government and voting shouldn’t be available for everyone.	Jefferson favored states’ rights. He believed the “common people” are capable of self-governing and he believed in making it easy for everyone to vote.
US Economy	Federalists desired manufacturing, commerce, finance and overseas trade. They sought tariffs and other protections for local businesses.	Anti-Federalists wanted a simple agrarian economy (based on farming). They wanted the government to support the interests of the “common people.”
Fiscal and Monetary Policy	Felt that too many monetary and fiscal policies within states led to economic struggles and national weakness. Favored a central bank and central financial policies.	Felt that states were free agents that should manage their own revenue and spend their money as they saw fit.
Position on the Constitution	Proposed and supported the Constitution.	Opposed until it included the Bill of Rights.

FEDERALIST PARTY

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Born in St. Kitts around 1757, Hamilton grew up on the island of St. Croix. When his mother died in 1768, he started working for a merchant. He left St. Croix for New York City in 1772. While in New York City, he enrolled in King's College—now known as Columbia University. In 1776, he left school to join a militia and fight in the American Revolution. He quickly moved up the ranks and became one of George Washington's aides.

During the 1780s, he started his political career by representing New York in the Constitutional Convention. Even though he attended most proceedings at the 1787 Convention, he believed the country needed a stronger central government to ensure the young nation didn't repeat the mistakes of the Articles of Confederation. He was labeled an extremist. Together with John Jay and James Madison, he co-authored the essays now known as the Federalist Papers, which helped convince Americans to ratify the new Constitution.

He was the first Secretary of the Treasury and served for five years, during which he wrote five key reports that established American economic policy. His most important contributions to the United States were:

- The federal government assumed the Revolutionary War debt, including interest and principal.
- The creation of a system of taxes and tariffs to pay for that debt.
- The establishment of a national bank to control the country's finances.
- The creation of a national mint and a stable centralized national currency.
- Shifting the bulk of the U.S. economy from agriculture to industry.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Born in 1743, Jefferson was born on his father's plantation in Virginia. After his father died when he was 14, he inherited all his land as well as his slaves. He studied at the College of William and Mary and, like Alexander Hamilton, became a lawyer.

He was chosen to draft the Declaration of Independence and his vision for what the United States would become had a profound influence all over the world.

He served as U.S. minister in France and agreed to become the first Secretary of State under the new Constitution in the George Washington administration. In 1796, he ran for President as the candidate for his party – the Democratic Republicans – and became Vice President after losing to John Adams. Four years later, he became President and participated in the first peaceful transfer of authority from one party to another in the history of the United States.

His most important contributions to the United States were:

- Wrote the Declaration of Independence
- The purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, doubling the size of the United States.
- His support for the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- The draft for the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom which was a precursor to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- He signed an act prohibiting the importation of slaves in 1807, effectively ending the slave trade—but not the practice of slavery.

THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

After a couple of early electoral wins, the Federalist Party eventually fell out of public favor with the death of Alexander Hamilton and the party's loss in the 1800 Presidential election. The Democratic-Republican party was the only active national party for several decades until the 1820s and 1830s, when a new style of American politics took place. In this new system, which we still have today, two parties are so powerful that we call it a "two-party system" even though smaller political parties exist.

The Republican Party



The Republican Party was officially created on June 17, 1856, as an anti-slavery movement.

Today's Republican Party is associated with a free market economy, low taxes, and conservative social policies. The party's official logo is an elephant, derived from a political cartoon in the 1870s. Members of the Republican Party are often referred to as "conservatives."



FUN FACT

George Washington was elected without being a member of any political party.

The Democratic Party

Even though today's Republican Party is called the "Grand Ole Party," the Democratic party has existed in one form or another since the late 1700s. During the 19th century, the party supported or tolerated slavery and opposed civil rights reforms after the Civil War. By the mid-20th century, it underwent a dramatic ideological realignment over civil rights, which saw many southern Democrats—known as Dixiecrats—defect to the Republican Party.



Currently, Democrats support stronger government programs, the civil rights of minorities, progressive reform, and organized labor. Their unofficial logo is a donkey, popularized by cartoonist Thomas Nast in the 1870s. Members of the Democratic Party are often referred to as "liberals."

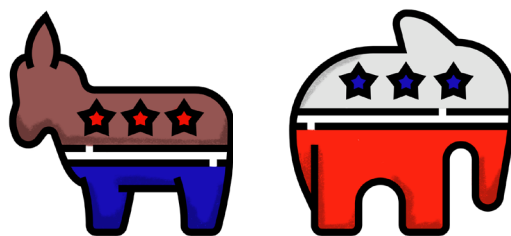
Other Parties

Smaller political parties haven't made significant impacts in the government. Some of the parties include the Libertarian Party, the Green Party, and the Constitution Party.



FUN FACT

As of 2016, there have been 15 democratic Presidents and 18 republican Presidents.



TWO-PARTY SYSTEM QUIZ

1. What are the two most powerful political parties in the United States today?

- ☐ Libertarian and Green
- ☐ Libertarian and Republican
- ☐ Labour and Unionist
- ☐ Republican and Democrat
- ☐ Independent and Constitution
- ☐ Federalist and Democratic Republican

2. What's the symbol of the Democratic Party?

- ☐ Donkey
- ☐ Horse
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Tiger
- ☐ Elephant

3. What's the symbol of the Republican Party?

- ☐ Donkey
- ☐ Horse
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Tiger
- ☐ Elephant

4. What political party did George Washington belong to?

- ☐ Federalist
- ☐ Democrat
- ☐ He didn't belong to a political party

CHAPTER 7 SUFFRAGE

DEFINITION

SUFFRAGE is the right to vote in political elections. Today, any United States citizen 18 years or older can vote in an election.

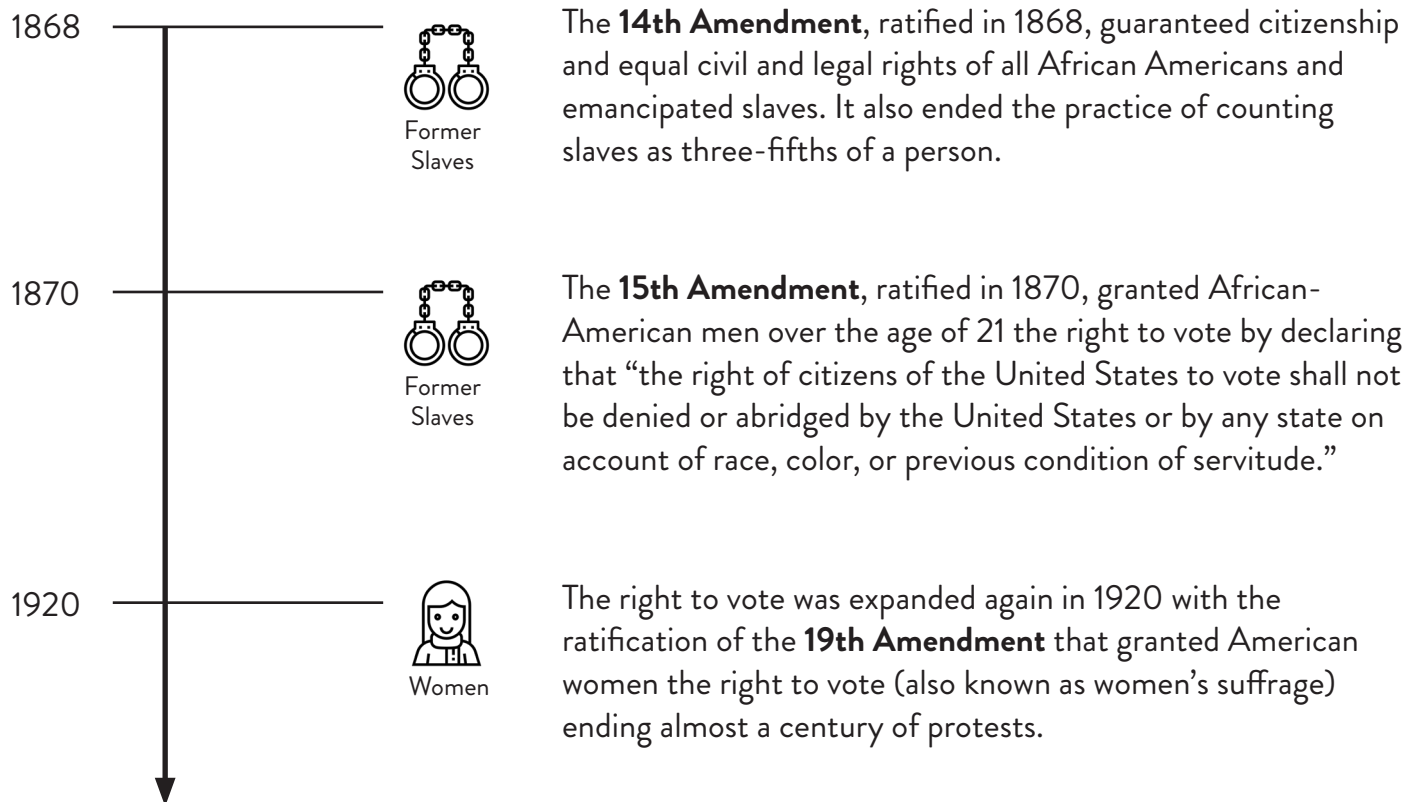
In the beginning of the electoral process in the United States, each state decided who could vote. Many states limited the vote to male property owners and required voters to pay a poll tax.

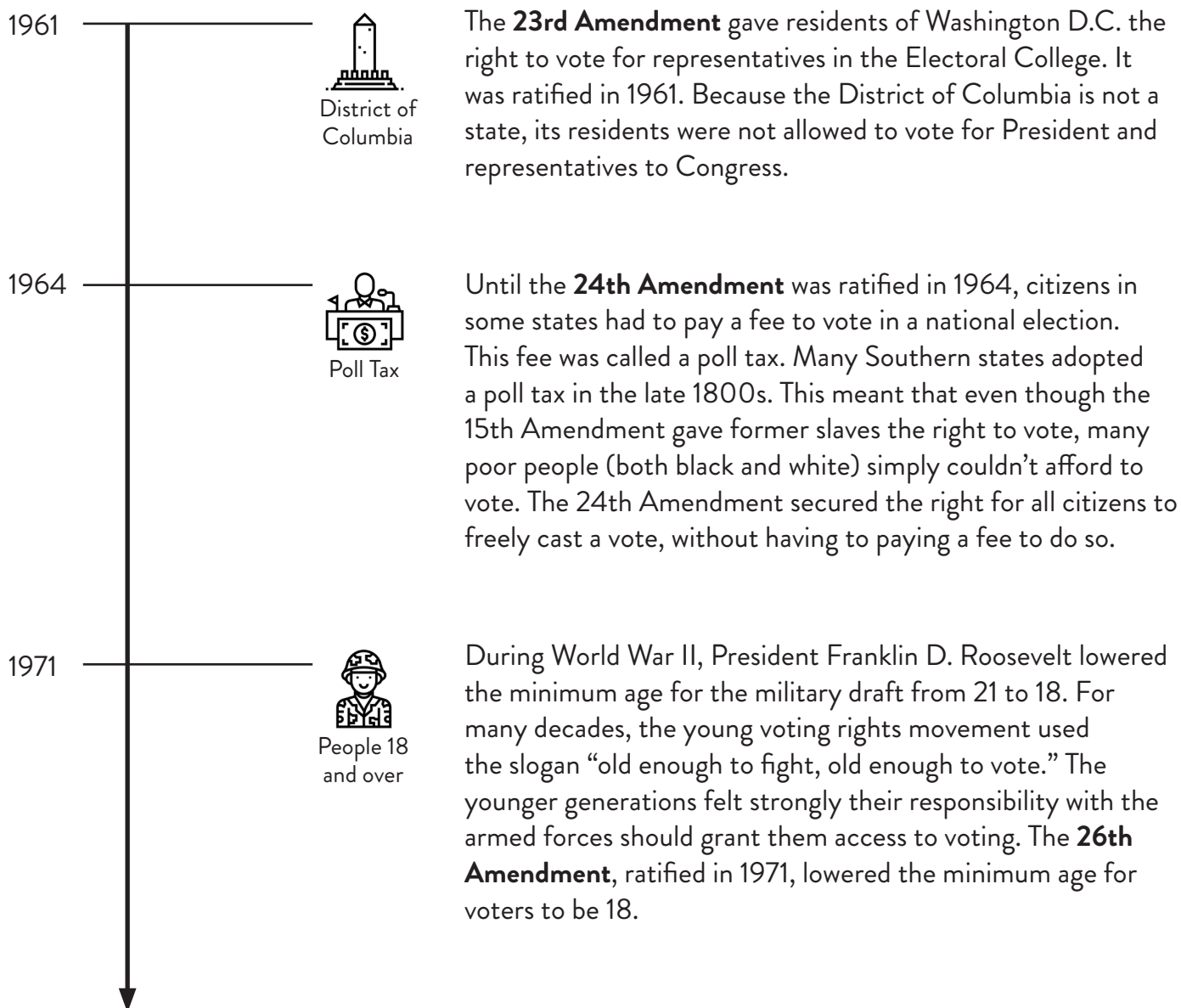
After the Civil War, the right to vote was expanded due to the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution.

DEFINITION

A **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT** is an alteration to the original text of the U.S. Constitution by which a modification, deletion or addition is accomplished.

SUFFRAGE AMENDMENTS





FUN FACT

The only President—and Vice President—not elected to office was Gerald Ford. Using the 25th Amendment, President Richard Nixon appointed Ford as Vice President after Spiro Agnew resigned. Nine months later, President Nixon resigned and Gerald Ford rose up in his place. He lost his reelection bid.

CHAPTER 8

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN



To officially run for President in the United States, a person must meet three requirements (per Article 2, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution). A Presidential candidate must be:

- A natural born citizen (U.S. citizen from birth).
- At least 35 years old.
- A U.S. resident for at least 14 years.

People interested in running for President, who meet the legal requirements, work with their political party representatives to connect with as many people in as many states as possible in preparation for a Presidential campaign.

Voters within each party will rally around each candidate's ideas (called *campaign platform*) to select the one they like the best. During this time, the candidates participate in national and local discussions about what their ideas mean to voters. These well-publicized events allow voters to determine each candidate's positions on subjects.

PARTIES DECIDE ON THEIR PREFERRED CANDIDATES IN TWO DIFFERENT WAYS: CAUCUS OR PRIMARY.

A **CAUCUS** occurs when a group of members of the same party meet, discuss, and vote for a person they think will be the best party candidate.

A **PRIMARY** is a mini-election, where members of the same party vote in a statewide election for the candidate they want to represent them in the general election.

The **NATIONAL CONVENTION** is a forum where each party makes the results of all primaries and caucuses official and chooses a nominee to represent the political party in the Presidential election. The conventions are important media events that launch each party's general election campaign, and promote the candidate's ideals and ratifies the party's platform.

A **PARTY PLATFORM** is a set of principles, goals, or strategies that address what each party considers pressing political issues both domestic and foreign. Some common issues in the last 20 years include:

Foreign policy

(how we interact with the world)

- Terrorism
- Diplomacy
- Military action
- Promoting democracy abroad
- Commerce and tariffs

Domestic policy

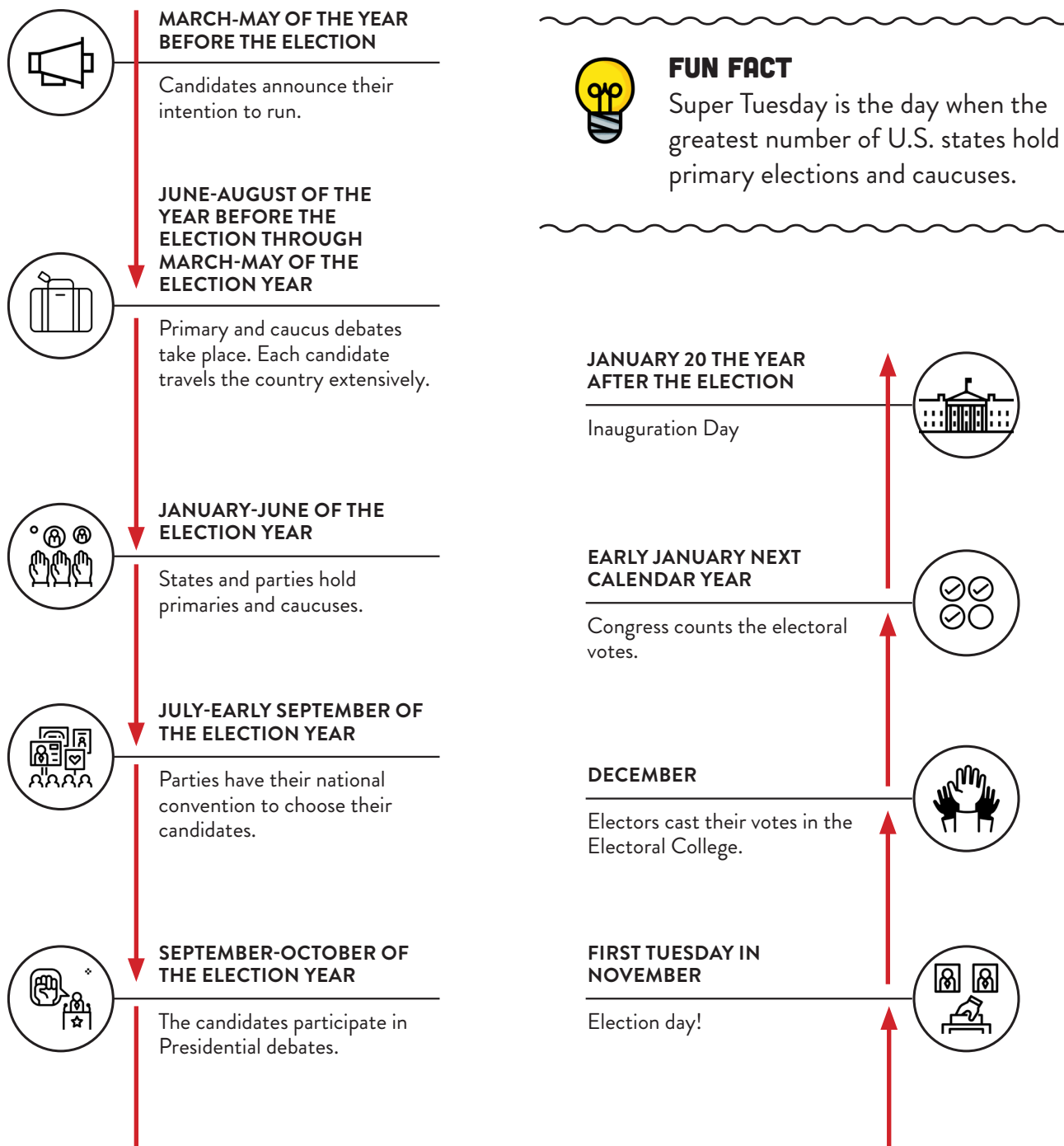
(how we interact with our own country)

- Jobs and the economy
- Health care
- Education
- Environment
- Energy

During the National Convention, the chosen Presidential candidate selects a running mate to be the Vice Presidential candidate.

After the National Convention, the Presidential candidates campaign across the country to win the support of the general public. They participate in open debates (broadcast and streamed live) leading up to the early November general election.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TIMELINE



WRITE A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

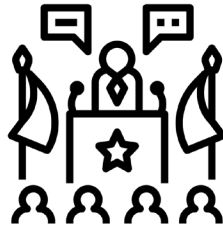
As a citizen of the United States, you can write a letter to the President. There are a few simple things you can do to make sure your message gets through to the White House as quickly as possible:

1. Consider sending an email (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>). It's the fastest way to get your message to the President. Click on the link to send your message now.
2. If you write a letter, type it on letter-size paper (8.5 inch x 11 inch). If you hand-write your letter, consider using a pen and writing as neatly as possible.
3. Remember to write your salutation in a formal way, and always refer to the President as "Mr./Mrs./Ms. President."
4. Include a return address on your letter as well as your envelope. If you have an email address, include that as well.
5. Don't forget to include a stamp on your letter.

The full mailing address of the White House is:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Don't send anything else with your letter. Since you can't give a gift to the President, please contribute to your favorite charity instead.



YOUR PRESIDENTIAL PLATFORM

If you were running for President of the United States, what issues would you focus on during your campaign?

FOREIGN ISSUES

DOMESTIC ISSUES

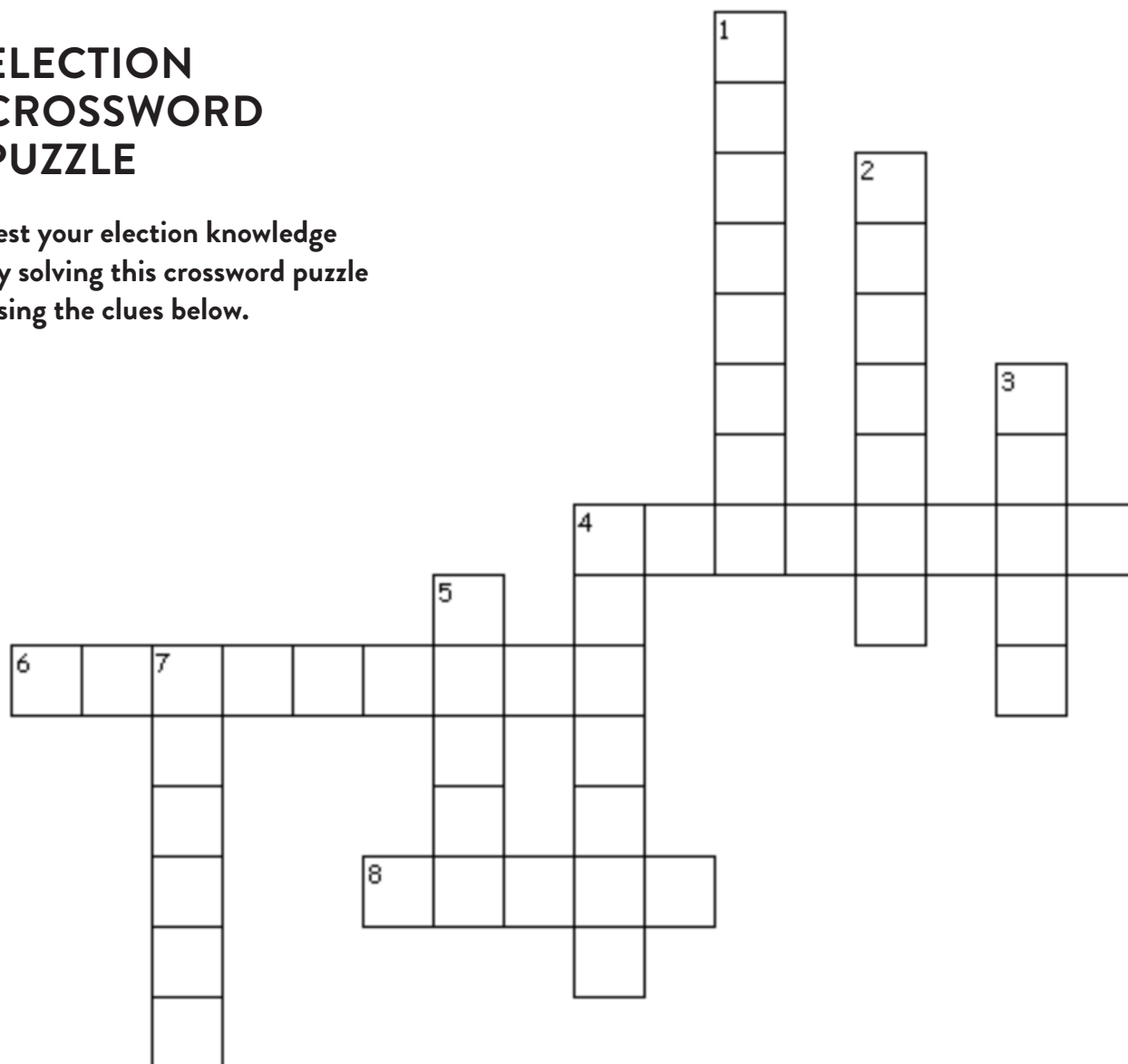
Complete the statements below.

If I were President, I'd:

If I were President, my legacy would be:

ELECTION CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Test your election knowledge
by solving this crossword puzzle
using the clues below.



ACROSS

4. The process of gathering public support for a candidate
6. A person who already holds an office who is running for reelection
8. Money paid by citizens to fund the government and public services

DOWN

1. A political party's formal statement of basic principles, stands on major issues, and objectives
2. Political leaning that favors the government's role in solving society's problems
3. Another word for conservative political views
4. A person who's a legal member of a nation, country or other organized self-governing political community
5. News organizations that deliver information through television, radio, newspaper and the internet
7. Meeting where the political party leaders and supporters choose candidates through discussion and consensus

Answers on page 51.



CHAPTER 9 ELECTION DAY

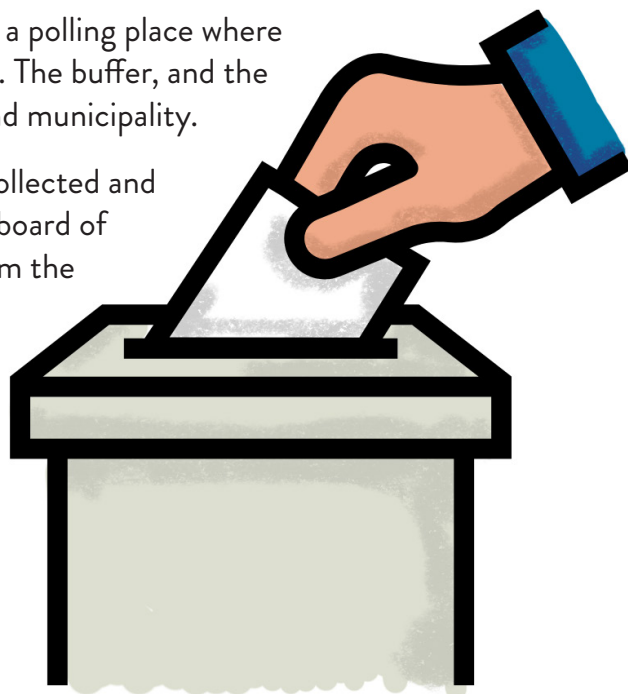
Millions of voters head to the polls on **ELECTION DAY** to choose their elected officials. On Election Day, voters line up at their polling centers and enter private booths to fill out their ballots. Some voting locations have switched to touch screens, and others allow for a paper (or absentee) ballot to be filled out in advance and dropped off at a specific location.

After voting and leaving the booth (or dropping off the ballot at a dropbox), the ballot is scanned and placed in a secured box. The ballots stay at the polling place until everyone has voted.

In most counties, there is a secure buffer zone around a polling place where political campaigning is prohibited during election day. The buffer, and the procedures each polling place follows, vary by state and municipality.

At the end of Election Day, the boxes of ballots get collected and transported to each county's Board of Elections. The board of elections uses memory cards with the information from the scanned ballots at polling places to count the votes.

After the votes are tallied by the county, they are sent to the Secretary of State's office, which eventually posts results on its website. The largest counties send vote data every few minutes, while the smallest send data every hour. Ballots sent by mail or cast in-person at the board of elections are included in the total count.



FUN FACT

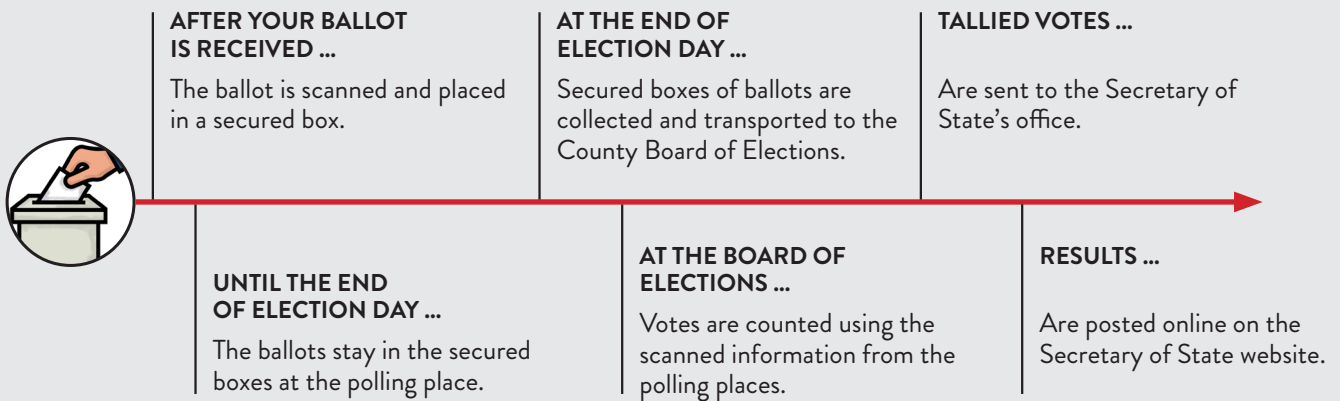
In 1997, Texas passed a law that allowed American astronauts in space to electronically cast their ballots in federal elections. That same year, David Wolf cast the first-ever space vote while aboard the Russian Space Station Mir.

BECAUSE THE SIZE OF THE COUNTIES VARIES, THE METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE BOXES OF BALLOTS DEPENDS ON EACH MUNICIPALITY. FOR EXAMPLE, HAMILTON COUNTY IN OHIO TRANSPORTS THEIR BOXES IN SPECIALLY DESIGNATED VANS; WHILE LOS ANGELES COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA RELIES ON HELICOPTERS.

After Election Day, each county must complete what is called an “official canvas” or final vote count. The counts must be completed and ratified within 21 days of the election.

Finally, each state’s electoral college meets to cast its votes for the winning candidate. Typically, they meet at the statehouse. The results of the vote are sent to the U.S. Congress, which counts the votes and completes the election process.

A BALLOT’S JOURNEY



Write a poem where each verse begins with a letter from the word **ELECTION**.

E
L
E
C
T
I
O
N

ELECTION VOCABULARY

Look up the definition of the following list of words.

Then, write the correct word in the blanks below.

BALLOT	CONGRESS	DEMOCRACY	PRECINCT
CAMPAIGN	CONSTITUENT	INCUMBENT	PRIMARY
CANDIDATE	DEBATE	NOMINEE	REPRESENTATIVE

I am a _____ of Congressman Smith.

Our current senator is the _____ in this election.

We live in a _____ that covers three counties.

Congressman Jones will _____ in our town next week.

The best Presidential _____ will get my vote.

We will learn about the candidates' differences of opinion during
their _____ .

The voting _____ winner will go on to the final election.

_____ debates an important piece of legislation today.

Our _____ is a government by the people and for the people.

The _____ was chosen by a political party to serve as its
representative in a general election.

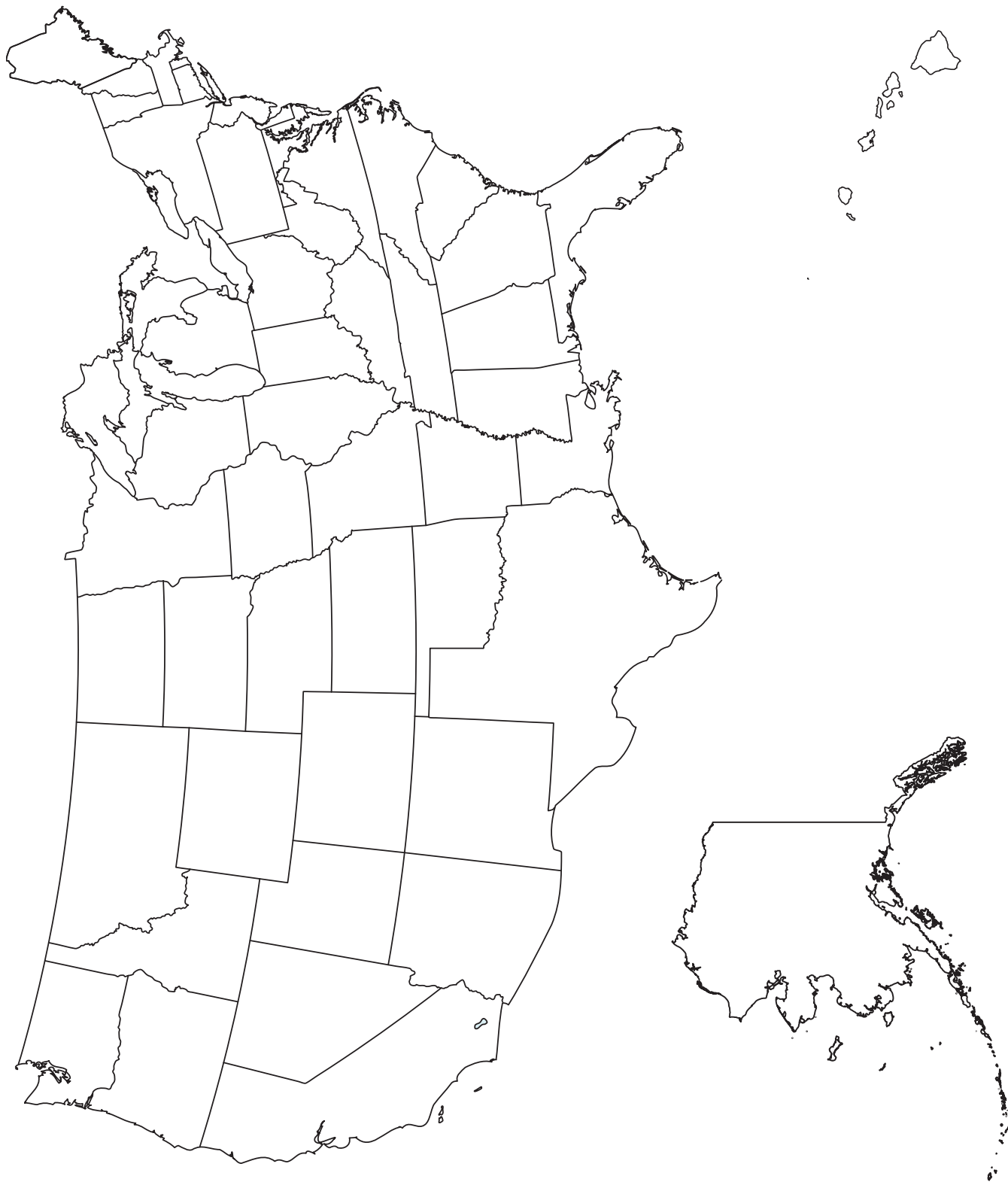
The voter cast her _____ in a box at a polling station.

Our _____ voted differently than our senator did on the bill.

Answers on page 52.

ELECTION DAY ELECTORAL VOTE TRACKER

On the night of the next Presidential Election, as the votes are counted, track the electoral college votes by coloring each state with red for Republican, blue for Democrat, or yellow for independents.



CHAPTER 10

INAUGURATION DAY

DEFINITION

INAUGURATION DAY is a federal holiday in which the elected next President (called President-elect) and the elected next Vice President (called Vice President-elect) are sworn in and take office.

Inauguration Day occurs every four years on Jan. 20 (or Jan. 21 if the 20th falls on a Sunday) at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

The Vice President-elect is sworn in first, and repeats the oath of office (in use since 1884) that's used by senators, representatives, and other federal employees:

"I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC; THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE SAME; THAT I TAKE THIS OBLIGATION FREELY, WITHOUT ANY MENTAL RESERVATION OR PURPOSE OF EVASION; AND THAT I WILL WELL AND FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE ON WHICH I AM ABOUT TO ENTER: SO HELP ME GOD."

Around noon, the President-elect recites the following oath, in accordance with Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution:

"I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND WILL TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES."



FUN FACT

George Washington is the only President to have been inaugurated in two separate cities: On April 30, 1789, Washington took the Presidential oath on the balcony of New York City's Federal Hall. His second inauguration took place on March 4, 1793, at Congress Hall in Philadelphia, which was then the nation's capital.



FUN FACT

John Quincy Adams didn't take his oath on a Bible. Adams used a law book instead that included a copy of the Constitution.

Nine activities typically occur during the Inauguration:

1. **Morning Worship Service.** Established as a precedent by President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor. President-elects usually attend a church service early in the morning of inauguration day.
2. **Procession to the Capitol.** After the morning worship service, the President-elect, Vice President-elect and their spouses are escorted to the White House by members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.
3. **Vice President's Swearing-In Ceremony.** The Vice President is sworn in right before the President, at the west front terrace of the Capitol.
4. **President's Swearing-In Ceremony.** The President places his or her hand on a Bible and swears the Presidential oath of office as it appears in Article 2, Section 1 of the United States Constitution. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court administers the oath.
5. **Inaugural Address.** Right after the Swearing-In Ceremony, the President delivers his or her Inaugural Address. The speech presents the President's vision of America and sets forth his or her goals for the nation.
6. **Departure of the Outgoing President.** Following the Inaugural Address, the outgoing President and First Lady leave the Capitol and start their lives as private citizens.
7. **Inaugural Luncheon.** Held at the Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol, the traditional luncheon is hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. The Luncheon usually features cuisine reflecting the home states of the new President and Vice President.
8. **Inaugural Parade.** After the Luncheon, the President and Vice President board a motorcade and make their way down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House, leading a procession. They will then view the parade as it passes in front of the Presidential Reviewing Stand.
9. **Inaugural Ball.** A highlight of Washington society, a series of Inaugural Balls—parties—celebrate the new President and Vice President.



FUN FACT

After Washington's first inauguration, March 4 became the official day for the start of a new administration. The 20th Amendment moved the day to Jan. 20 – closer to the start of a new Congress.



PARENT ANSWER KEY

AUTOCRATS DOING GOOD PARENT ANSWER KEY

After reading about famous historical autocrats on the two previous pages, can you identify three good things that came out of their reign?

Henry VIII started the Church of England.

Peter the Great moved Russia out of the Middle Ages and into the Modern Age.

Peter the Great opened Russia to trade with the rest of the world.

Julius Caesar started the Roman Empire.

Julius Caesar introduced the modern calendar.



WRITING PROMPT PARENT ANSWER KEY

Read the principles of democracy above. Do you think democracy is a fair form of government? Why or why not?

Democracy is perceived as fair because:

All citizens are treated the same, no matter their race, sex or wealth.

All citizens can vote freely for whomever they choose.

The laws are clearly written and apply to all citizens.

Courts are designed to be impartial.

DIRECT DEMOCRACY VS REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY PARENT GUIDE AND SUGGESTED PARENT READING

In a direct democracy, each individual votes on every single issue to make a decision. Write a pros/cons list of direct democracy in the modern world.

PROS

Every vote counts in every decision made

Proposed laws must include total transparency

Officials are held more accountable

People cooperate more

People express themselves more freely

Officials can be immediately recalled

People are happier with the government

People can control their quality of life

People consider voting a responsibility, not a privilege

CONS

It can be difficult to make decisions

People don't always participate

Can encourage segregation

Are expensive

There is potential for manipulation

Can encourage instability

Can be hard to regulate

Doesn't work in a large country

It can overwhelm voters

Additional reading on the pros/cons of Direct Democracy can be found online at <https://vittana.org/19-pros-and-cons-of-direct-democracy>

In a representative democracy, voters elect representatives to vote on decisions on their behalf. Write a pros/cons list of representative democracy in the modern world.

PROS

The voters still have power to make decisions

Checks and balances help limit power

Everyone has a chance to participate

Allows the government to react quickly

Encourages people to participate

Allows a district to form their own presence

CONS

Polarization occurs frequently

A super majority is possible

Districts need to trust their representatives

The voice of the people ends with the election

It can invite corruption

It focuses on the majority only

Additional reading on the pros/cons of Direct Democracy can be found online at <https://vittana.org/12-representative-democracy-advantages-and-disadvantages>

WRITING PROMPT:

Read the Declaration of Independence. What three main points does the document convey to King George? You can find a full copy of the content of the Declaration here:

<https://constitutionus.com/>

Sometimes people have to dissolve the political systems and rebuild them.

People have certain inalienable rights including Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

The King is guilty of abusing the colonies in several ways, including suspending the legislature, depriving colonists from the benefit of trial by jury, imposing taxes without the colonists' consent, etc.

All men are created equal

Individuals have a civic duty to defend these rights for themselves and others.

Note: This is also an analysis question, so even though we expect students to focus on the aspects of Equality, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness they might find other areas of the Declaration that they want to focus on.

WHO'S GOT THE POWER?

PARENT ANSWER KEY

Using Articles I, II and III of the U.S. Constitution, write the branch of government in charge of each of these duties.

Introduces laws

Legislative

Declares laws unconstitutional

Judicial

Signs bills into law

Executive

Coins money

Executive

Nominates Supreme Court justices

Executive

Declares war

Legislative

Vetoes bills

Executive

Interprets the laws

Judicial

Serves as commander-in-chief of the army and navy

Executive

Issues a pardon

Executive

Overrides a Presidential veto

Legislative

Borrows money on behalf of the US

Legislative

Makes treaties

Executive



WRITING PROMPT:

Why do you think the new United States delegates were so opposed to becoming another monarchy?

The delegates at the Convention wanted to make sure no single person would be able to amass the power necessary to form a monarchy. They worked hard to create a fair system that divided power between many different areas of government.

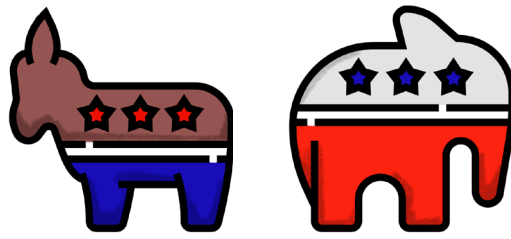
Note: This is also an analysis question, so the student could provide additional answers around the specific actions King George took that caused the American Revolution.

ELECTION WORD SEARCH

U C K V D S I E N U I M C P I N C V S
 Y L O Y D E U N V B B A H Z T T R L W
 F F S U C C V H X M C F S M D V K Z I
 M O H Z N O D I S L A U I A N C C E N
 P P U E S T L G M A S S M P N Y V R G
 H S W N O F I L I N E O Y R I E U X C
 E S E S D L K N E N V C E E B A Q P I
 U U L B Z I W C G G T M B S F O D D T
 L E I K E P N P W Z E X F I F P I C I
 E Q L F E I W G I L G W S D Y P H W Z
 W N M E N Q D E L E G A T E L Q Z C E
 C M S P C O N V E N T I O N K T H N N
 O I M L M T R I R C M V O T E J L G G
 M Z X M L T I L X F X W H D S M Y F Z
 M W M N H I W O K H B W K T B P B G P
 E W J O K N A A N F Z M L Y D Q I J X
 R N N H K E L E C T O R N Y A A H U F
 C C A Z O T Z R H A N L E D F X R C N
 E I J T S V V E J Y J Q P O O L Y P P
 V U W S A X D D A M H A E L D T J V F

Find the words below in the word search.

DELEGATE
 CONVENTION
 FOUNDING
 PRESIDENT
 CITIZEN
 COLLEGE
 ELECTOR
 VOTE
 CENSUS
 SWING
 COMMERCE
 COUNTING
 ELECTION



TWO-PARTY SYSTEM QUIZ PARENT ANSWER KEY

1. What are the two most powerful political parties in the United States today?

- ☐ Libertarian and Green
- ☐ Libertarian and Republican
- ☐ Labour and Unionist
- ☒ Republican and Democrat
- ☐ Independent and Constitution
- ☐ Federalist and Democratic Republican

2. What's the symbol of the Democratic Party?

- ☒ Donkey
- ☐ Horse
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Tiger
- ☐ Elephant

3. What's the symbol of the Republican Party?

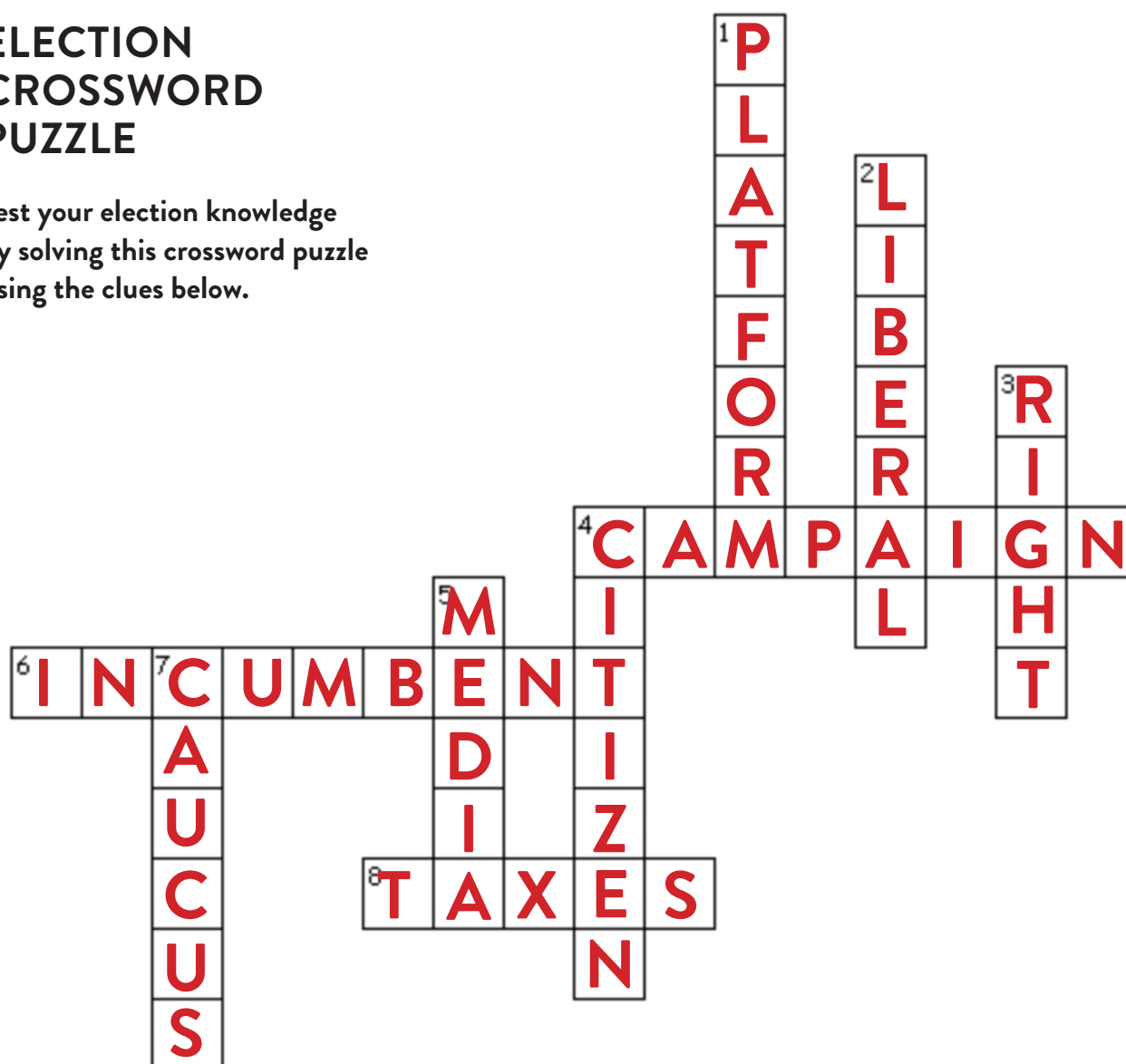
- ☐ Donkey
- ☐ Horse
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Tiger
- ☒ Elephant

4. What political party did George Washington belong to?

- ☐ Federalist
- ☐ Democrat
- ☒ He didn't belong to a political party

ELECTION CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Test your election knowledge
by solving this crossword puzzle
using the clues below.



ACROSS

4. The process of gathering public support for a candidate
6. A person who already holds an office who is running for reelection
8. Money paid by citizens to fund the government and public services

DOWN

1. A political party's formal statement of basic principles, stands on major issues, and objectives
2. Political leaning that favors the government's role in solving society's problems
3. Another word for conservative political views
4. A person who's a legal member of a nation, country or other organized self-governing political community
5. News organizations that deliver information through television, radio, newspaper and the internet
7. Meeting where the political party leaders and supporters choose candidates through discussion and consensus

ELECTION VOCABULARY

Look up the definition of the following list of words.

Then, write the correct word in the blanks below.

BALLOT

CONGRESS

DEMOCRACY

PRECINCT

CAMPAIGN

CONSTITUENT

INCUMBENT

PRIMARY

CANDIDATE

DEBATE

NOMINEE

REPRESENTATIVE

I am a constituent of Congressman Smith.

Our current senator is the incumbent in this election.

We live in a precinct that covers three counties.

Congressman Jones will campaign in our town next week.

The best Presidential candidate will get my vote.

We will learn about the candidates' differences of opinion during their debate.

The voting primary winner will go on to the final election.

Congress debates an important piece of legislation today.

Our democracy is a government by the people and for the people.

The nominee was chosen by a political party to serve as its representative in a general election.

The voter cast her ballot in a box at a polling station.

Our representative voted differently than our senator did on the bill.