



#FontanaTogether

The Electoral College

In this activity students will learn about The Electoral College, what it is, how it works, its importance and role in the election of the President. This lesson is simple, will ask for only minimal reading and reading comprehension. As well the lesson will include map and art activity. This activity although simple is very relevant for the students to learn given the Presidential election is on-going, gives information about one of the unique things of our political system, shows the importance of voting, and what makes our democracy turn.

Materials:

- This lesson plan will include the necessary reading material (Electoral College infographic) and coloring activity which is a blank map of the US.
- Red, blue, and purple crayon or marker.
- Pen or pencil.

Instructions:

1. Read the Electoral College infographic.
2. Take a close look at or notes on the US map and the electoral votes each state counts for. Followed by finding which states are strong Democratic states (Blue states), which states are strong Republican states (Red states), and which states that will be the color gray that are considered swing states (also referred to as Purple states).
3. After the reading of the infographic move on to the blank map of the US. This map contains all of the 50 states (with each of the states borders drawn out same as the reading).
4. For each state on the blank map, write in each states amount of Electors won if a candidate is to win that state.
5. Following completion of writing each states corresponding amount of electors, color in blue the states that are strong Democratic states, then color in red the states that are strong Republican states. All of these states should colored according to the information given in the infographic.
6. Last all of the remaining states are considered swing states or contested states, color all these remaining states purple.
7. Once completed with the coloring you now have a complete map of how each state or groups of states has a role to play in the election of the President. With this newly attained knowledge of the workings of the Electoral College map another map of your own on how you think this coming election map will look like. Which states will go for Biden (color those in blue) and which states will go for Trump (color those in red)?

The Electoral College

In the U.S., the people don't vote directly for the president and vice president. Instead, a system called the Electoral College is used. This system allows voters to vote for electors, who then cast their votes for candidates, a system described in Article II of the Constitution.



How it works

Each state is entitled to a number of electors equal to that state's representation in Congress.

Example

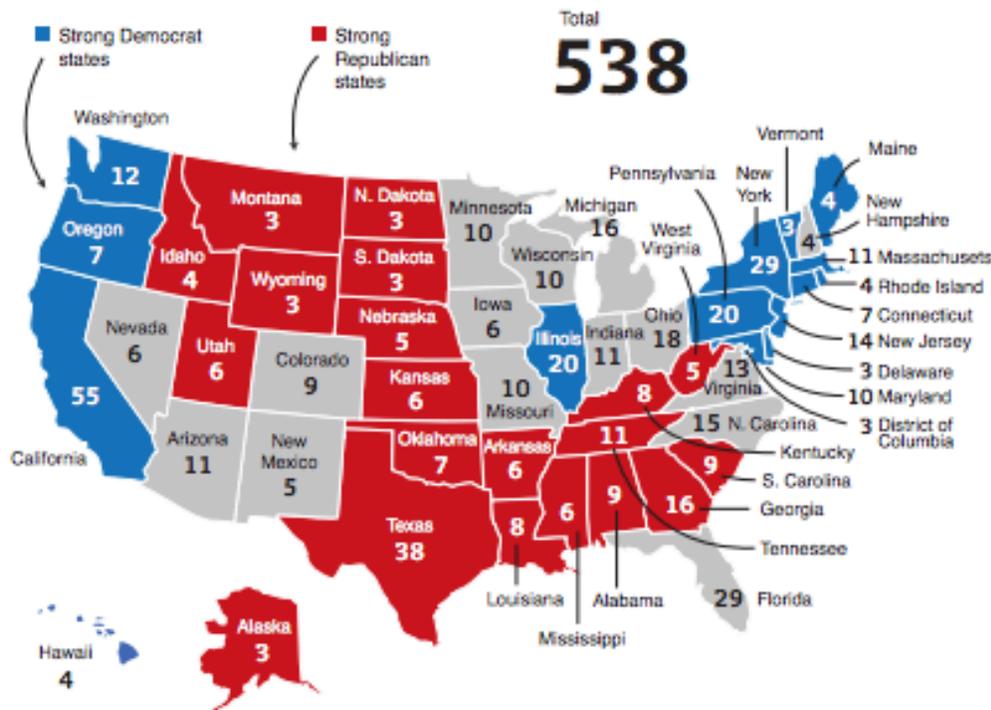
2 senators (every state)
 +
 8 members of the House of Representatives
 =
 10 electors for that state

10 electors for that state

Every four years, on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, each state holds an election in which citizens vote for a "ticket" that includes a president and vice president.



How many electors



On each state write in the amount of electors a candidate could win. Then color in strong Democratic (Blue) & Republican (Red) states. The remaining contested or swing states color in purple.

MAP OF THE UNITED STATES



Map for your prediction of which states will go to which candidate Biden (Blue) or Trump (Red) for this upcoming election.

