

We The People: Election Focus

WebQuest Description: This webquest will give learners an insight into the history of voting and the voting process.

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: Republic, Democracy, Voting history, Voting process, Voting Rights, Elections, President, Representatives, Electoral College

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WebQuest URL: <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=170136>

Introduction

Do you know how important your vote can be in a decision making policy at your school, whether it's deciding who would be class president, secretary, or even the class colors. Voting is a way to show your approval or disapproval of subjects, and even people who are running for position that represent you. Why is it important to express your preference and ideas of your belief? Voting has been deemed a privilege and responsibility of voters to participate in voicing their opinion. Have you ever wondered how voting became such an important part of individual lives, and who have the right to vote? Where were the first votes held, and what the process of voting is? This webquest will take you through time and geographical locations to enlighten you the reader of how voting became such a vital part of our country. Your quest is to use the information and websites given to find out who, what, when, why, and where. You will use the information given to compose your own election and ballots in order to show your knowledge of the data collected.

Students will demonstrate fluency and comprehension in reading historically based text develop skills in finding, organizing and presenting research information demonstrate voting process engage in simulated democratic process derive information from a map develop skills in oral presentation techniques in speech and debate

Tasks

During the webquest you will investigate the method of voting and you will understand what voting involves. You will learn the procedure of voting, what a ballot entails, and all of the objectives of voting. We will also learn why the United States government is considered a republic and not a democracy. The electoral college is the determining factor of the presidential election. We will end the unit with a debate on the importance of the electoral college.

Process

You must go to the website given and answer the following questions.

DAY 1 American History 1.

- 1. What were the important dates of when people were able to vote? Include what group of people with the date.
- 2. *white males land owners over the age of 21
- 3. *women
- 4. *African-American - there should be two dates (when law said they could vote even when some locations wouldn't allow it and then when they all finally COULD vote)
- 5. *Native-Americans
- 6. *When did the age change to 18?

2. Define the word vote <http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/hancock/pol204/history.htm> <http://www.iwantmyvote.com/recount/history/> <http://www.definitions.net/definition/vote>

3. Why is the United States government considered a republic and not a democracy? Define the words democracy and republic.

4. Explain why the U.S. is a republic <http://www.whatisdemocracy.net> <http://americanbuilt.us/governments/republic.shtml#republic> <http://www.thisnation.com/question/011.html>

DAY 2 Homework - Civics/Government 5.

- 6. Who have the right to vote?
- 7. At what age can an individual vote in a city, and national elections?
- 8. Name three political parties and tell what symbols represent them?
- 9. What are some things people vote on?
- 10. What does a ballot have on it? <http://www.infoplease.com/ipaA0878573> <http://www.canivote.org> <http://www.politics1.com/parties.htm> <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/Voters/whatsontheballot.aspx>
- 11. Watch Brainpop Video on presidential / election information.
- 12. Who votes for the President of the United States?
- 13. What are the requirements to run for president of the United States?
- 14. Where does the President live once elected?
- 15. How many representatives does each state elect? <http://www.house.gov>
- 16. What are the salaries of the President, Vice President, and your class president? <http://quatrain.hubpages.com/hub/Salaries-of-Top-US-Politicians>
- 17. Define electoral college.
- 18. What is the importance of the electoral college?
- 19. What is the controversy about the electoral college? <http://www.gallopade.com/client/electionsForKids/ElectoralCollege.html> <http://www.timeforkids.com/news/final-vote/4437618>

Do the Electoral Math worksheets provided by your teacher.

DAY 4 Homework - Debate Preparation

DAY 5 Debate

You will be given a

side to support "Electoral College is the RIGHT thing" or "Electoral College is the WRONG Thing". You will work to develop support towards your side, then debate this controversial issue.

Evaluation

Rubic

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very Good	Exemplary	Score
Answered all questions.	None of the questions were answered.	One to half the questions were answered.	Half to all the questions were answered but they were not correct.	All of the questions were completely answered correctly.	25%
Used proper grammar in all your writings.	Numerous grammatical errors and was very difficult to interpret. Revising a must.	A lot of grammatical errors but was readable. Modification is needed.	Some grammatical errors, but was readable and content was understandable. Small revision need to be made.	Zero to no grammatical errors.	25%
Completed all tasks.	None of the work was completed.	Less than half of the work was completed.	More than half of the work is done but not all completed. Tasks are unclear to read.	All tasks were completed.	25%
Debate	Did not incorporate research into debate and only spoke a minimum amount of time.	Did average job in debate of issue, however was not convincing of support of his issue stance	Good job debating, used supportive research that was found.	Worked well on the debate team, used facts learned from research, superior rating	25%
				Total Score	100%

Conclusion

BRAVO!!! This is the end of your quest!! You are now well informed about the history and development of voting in America. Voting is a privilege and it is deemed a part of your civic duty. So keep in mind that your vote can make a difference!!

Teacher Page

This webquest supports the learner in acquiring the knowledge about the procedure of voting and permits the scholar to be engaged in their individual election. Ms. Baldwin, Quest Enrichment Teacher

Standards

Credits

Other