



GRADE 6+

The Electoral College | Lesson Plan

How does the Electoral College work and why is it important?

Students learn why the Founding Fathers established the Electoral College, how it functions, and how it represents the interests of Americans in different sizes of population areas.

Learning Objectives:

- Explore the history of how the Electoral College was established.
- Identify how electors are chosen and what their responsibilities are.
- Examine how the Electoral College system represents the interests of Americans in different populated areas.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Electoral College:** a body that gathers every four years to elect the President and Vice President of the United States
- **Electors:** citizens who are nominated by state political parties to cast votes in the Electoral College, usually voting for the candidate who wins the most popular votes in their respective state
- **Article II:** article of the Constitution that established the Electoral College, ensuring that presidential candidates had to get support from all across the country and that every state and population was represented in electing the leader of the United States

Educational Standards: History, Civics, Government, Western Civilization, American Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Street Smarts: The Electoral College*.



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: *Street Smarts: The Electoral College*. ([Download PDF](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Ask: *How many of you like pizza? How could we do that fairly if we chose our class' favorite type of pizza?* Allow the class to share answers.
2. Ask: *What if I told you that only people who wore yellow to school were the only ones who could vote for our class' favorite pizza? Do you think that would be fair? Why or why not?* (The key is to help students understand that not all viewpoints would be represented if only a small group were allowed to vote.)
3. Say: *Our Founding Fathers were concerned about fair elections that represented all citizens, too. This is one of the reasons they instituted the Electoral College.*
4. Say: *How much do you know about the Electoral College? Let's find out.*
5. Display a copy of Street Smarts: The Electoral College Worksheet on a screen in the classroom.
6. Have a student read each statement aloud and attempt to answer them as a class. Invite students to share out loud (or do this part independently).

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. State: *Let's play a fun game and see how many answers we got right.*
2. Watch the video.
3. Pause after each question and allow students to try to answer.
4. Play the video to reveal if they were correct or incorrect.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as a formative assessment or discuss in class.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.