

# America Votes Teacher's Guide For Feature 1: “The Road to the White House”

America Votes Quote: "In a democracy, the only title higher than that of President is the title of citizen." - *U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis (1856-1941)*

## Purpose:

The purpose of the feature is to provide an interactive format in which students can be reminded of the many things voters and candidates do in preparing for an election.

## Newspaper Activities:

1. Find newspaper examples of several of the steps on the game board. Cut and paste the news items on two posters, separating them into items referring to either voter or candidate preparations.
2. Look at any newspaper items about political volunteer efforts. Compile a list of volunteer election jobs mentioned in the items. Tell about any job or task in which you might be interested.
3. Clip articles about the travels of a candidate over the next month, and label each with the day's date. Using a U.S. map, mark the candidate's travels and number them in the correct order.

“Vote”abulary Words: (Underlined words appear in newspaper feature.)

**Campaign** – a course of action designed to influence voters in an election

**Primary Election** – a preliminary election in which voters choose party candidates to run for office on their party ticket in the general election

**Party Convention** – a meeting of the members of an American political party or of delegates on the county, state or national level for the purpose of forming the party platform or of selecting candidates for office

## U.S. Constitution Tie-ins:

**Article 2** tells who can run, the president's duties, the impeachment process.

**Amendment 12** outlines procedures for the Electoral College.

**Amendment 22** outlines presidential term limits.

## Internet Resources:

[whitehouse.gov/kids/](http://whitehouse.gov/kids/) - the White House for kids

[www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/index.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/index.html) - a list of Presidents of the United States

## Kids Voting Resource:

“Solutions”

## Concept 3

# I study the candidates & issues



## Activity

### Solutions

## Objective

Students gather information to prepare to vote.

## Getting Ready

- ✓ Copy activity sheet *We Elect Leaders to Help Solve Society's Problems* for each student.

## Gather Information

- ✓ Assign students to watch, listen and read the news; to ask questions of teachers, family members and friends; and to gather information any way they can to find out about the candidates.
- ✓ In discussion, ask students what they consider their society's, community's, state's, or nation's greatest problems. Have students list them to the left on the activity sheet.
- ✓ As they learn the views of the candidates on the issues, have them list those views on the activity sheet. This could be done with quotes, actual news reports, or their own words. In addition, have students list their own solutions to the problems.
- ✓ Ask students to put an asterisk by one problem they could work on now.

## Questions

- ☆ How do you feel about Candidate A's solutions?
- ☆ How do you feel about Candidate B's solutions?
- ☆ Did any of your solutions match those of a candidate?
- ☆ Might this be a good reason to vote for a candidate?
- ☆ What should/could you do if you feel you have a good idea for a solution?
- ☆ Who would you vote for, considering the issues on the activity sheet?

## More!

Make an election scrapbook. Collect articles, cartoons, etc., and place them in the scrapbook. Donate it to the school library upon completion to serve as a historical document.

## Vote Quote

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education."

- Thomas Jefferson



## We elect leaders to help solve society's problems

<b>Problems</b>	<b>A's Solutions</b>	<b>B's Solutions</b>	<b>Our Solutions</b>
Economy			
Pollution			
Crime			