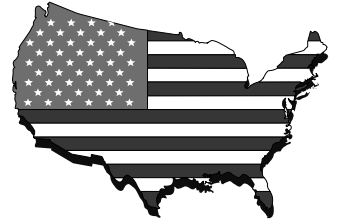




# Learning Can Be Fun!

## Each vote counts!

In the United States, a candidate is elected President by the Electoral College. The popular vote instructs the Electoral College members how to cast their votes. Each state has a different number of Electoral College representatives, based on population. For the 2012 presidential election, there are a total of 538 votes. Thus, the majority of votes needed to elect the next President of the United States is 270. Study the **List of States and Votes** below to answer the following questions:



### List of States and Votes

Alabama—9	Iowa—6	New Jersey—14	Vermont—3
Alaska—3	Kansas—6	New Mexico—5	Virginia—13
Arizona—11	Kentucky—8	New York—29	Washington—12
Arkansas—6	Louisiana—8	North Carolina—15	West Virginia—5
California—55	Maine—4	North Dakota—3	Wisconsin—10
Colorado—9	Maryland—10	Ohio—18	Wyoming—3
Connecticut—7	Massachusetts—11	Oklahoma—7	
Delaware—3	Michigan—16	Oregon—7	
District of Columbia—3	Minnesota—10	Pennsylvania—20	
Florida—29	Mississippi—6	Rhode Island—4	
Georgia—16	Missouri—10	South Carolina—9	
Hawaii—4	Montana—3	South Dakota—3	
Idaho—4	Nebraska—5	Tennessee—11	
Illinois—20	Nevada—6	Texas—38	
Indiana—11	New Hampshire—4	Utah—6	

1. Is it possible to gain no votes in 39 of these 50 states (plus the District of Columbia), and yet still win the presidential election? Explain your answer with specific examples.
2. If an Independent candidate won the electoral votes from CA, TX, NY and MI, how many electoral votes would be left? If the Democratic or Republican candidate won the majority of the remaining votes, how many votes would the third candidate (the remaining Republican or Democrat) win?

Note: Only twice in our nation's history has no candidate succeeded in obtaining a majority of the votes of the Electoral College. When this happens, the House of Representatives decides the outcome of the election. Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams were elected in this way.

## Expanding Your Mind!

### Voter Survey

Please survey two or more people of voting age (18 or older) and record their responses. These surveys may be anonymous, but make certain that the people you interview are comfortable with having their responses shared with the class. After the surveys have been completed, share the results in small discussion groups. Which responses were surprising to you and why? What responses did you expect?

### Survey

1. Do you think voting is important? Why?
2. Did you vote in the last election?
3. Have you ever not voted when you were eligible to vote? Why?
4. Why do you think people don't vote?



**Eckerd Theater Company**  
 The Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute  
 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759-3219  
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## Flag Design

### Unfurl a New Democracy!

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the first American flag. The Congress stated, "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation." Since then, the design of the American flag has changed many times. The version we see flying today was introduced on July 4, 1960, after Hawaii became a state in 1959.



### Design It!

Imagine that you have been given the commission to design a new flag for the United States. With a large sheet of paper, colored pencils, crayons, markers or paint, construct a new design for the American flag. Consider the following elements very carefully:

- Symbolism: What virtues of the United States do you think are important? How would you represent them in a design?
- Color: What do different colors represent to you? How can you make these colors work to symbolize how you feel about your country?

After completing your flags, take turns explaining your new designs to the rest of the class. After each student has explained his/her project, vote to decide whose flag should represent your class' design of democracy. Display the flag for everyone to see!

Information courtesy of: [www.foundingfathers.info/American-flag/stars-and-stripes.html](http://www.foundingfathers.info/American-flag/stars-and-stripes.html) and [www.foundingfathers.info/American-flag/stars.html](http://www.foundingfathers.info/American-flag/stars.html)

**We want to hear from YOU! Write to us at The Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759**

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### Additional Resources

Ask your school or local librarian for help in locating these books for you!

**Don't Know Much About George Washington**  
by Kenneth C. Davis

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton: The Right is Ours**  
by Harriet Sigerman

**Susan B. Anthony**  
by Barbara Weisberg

**Frederick Douglass: For the Great Family of Man**  
by Peter Burchard

**W. E. B. Dubois: Biography of a Race**  
by David Levering Lewis

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
by Brendan January

**One Woman, One Vote**  
edited by Marjorie Spruill Wheeler

**Check out these Internet sites for additional information!**

[www.kidsvotingusa.org](http://www.kidsvotingusa.org)

[www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org)

[www.rockthevote.com](http://www.rockthevote.com)

[www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/)

<http://thekingcenter.org>

