

# Election Day Activities!



Every four years, the American people vote for their choice of President of the United States. Children will be fascinated with the entire election process and eager to learn more about our presidents. Try some of these activities with your students:

**CLASS DISCUSSIONS** - Ask students to list various national and international issues that they think are most important. Ask them what they know of the candidate's views on these issues. Ask for students' opinions on campaign advertisements and how the methods by which money is raised to pay for them. Have students collect campaign literature that their parents receive in the mail. Display the brochures and flyers along with a sample ballot on the class bulletin board.

**POLITICAL CARTOONS** - Ask students to collect cartoons from local newspapers and analyze their implied messages about the election and current issues. Students might also like to research political cartoons from the past.

**POLLING PLACES** - Ask students to find out the location of the closest polling place closest to their homes. Polls are often located at schools. If your school contains a polling place, arrange for a visit. A poll worker may like to explain the voting process to your students. Ask students to remind their parents to vote. And don't forget to conduct a secret ballot election in your classroom.

**ELECTION NIGHT** - Instruct students to watch television coverage of the election results. As students watch the returns with their families, have them write the total votes from each state as they are reported. Students might like to record their findings on a U.S. map.

**ELECTORAL COLLEGE** - Help students understand that the president is really elected by the electoral college. In the democratic process, registered voters actually vote for electors who then vote for the president. The new president needs 270 electoral votes to win. Ask the students about the number of votes the winning candidate received in this election. Tell the students that the electoral college will meet in mid-December to finalize their vote.

**ELECTION ANALYSIS** - Reveal the outcome of the classroom election and discuss how it agreed with or differed from the national election. Ask students to discuss their feelings about the election. What will they most remember?

Be sure to continue with current events and discussions about the new president until Inauguration Day in January.