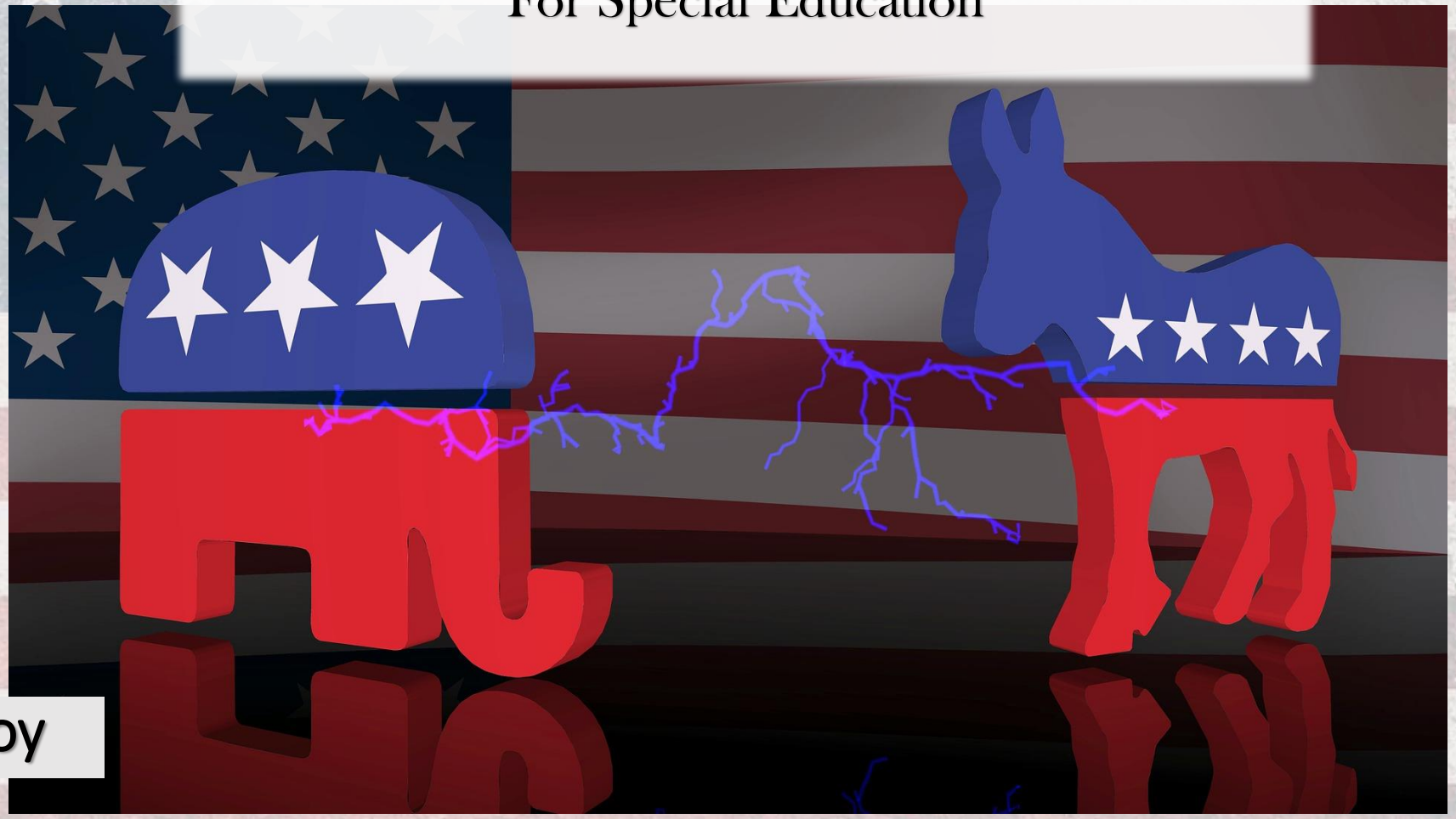
12 day lesson plan

The Election Process in the United States Unit

For Special Education



Preview

By Christa Joy

Politics and the Election Process Unit Lesson Plan

Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
  - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
  - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
  - Make one set for each student and one for the teacher to use in various games

Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

Teaching Tips

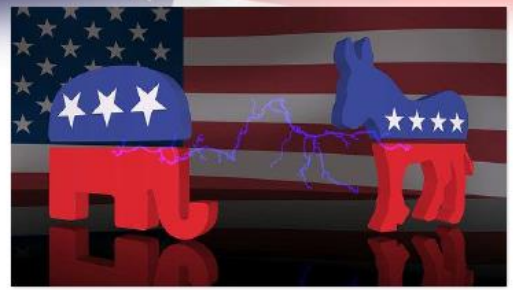
- *Color Coding*: this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  a. For more info, read more here: https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/
  b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways: https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/
- *Make you own copies of the activities*: Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
  a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
  b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their

Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	• Book • Vocab cards introduction • Circle map 1	9	• Book • Vocab cards activity • Close worksheet 3
2	• Book • Vocab cards activity • Circle map 2	10	• Book • Vocab cards cut and pa • Vocabulary puzzle • ELE task 4
3	• Book • Vocab cards activity • Circle map 3 • ELE task 1	11	• Book • Vocab cards cut and pa • Vocabulary puzzle
4	• Book • Vocab cards activity • Venn Diagram • ELE task 2	12	• Review or • Assessment • ELE task 5
5	• Book • Vocab cards activity • Sequencing activity		
6	• Book • Vocab cards activity • Writing prompt • ELE task 3		
7	• Book • Vocab cards activity • Close worksheet 1		
8	• Book • Vocab cards activity • Close worksheet 2		

Day 10

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	• Read through the story, asking lots of questions • Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board	• Book • Vocabulary board
Vocabulary cards cut and paste (15 minutes)	• This is the first time you are doing the activity, so I would choose the easier option of having students find the matching picture that goes with the definition • Great way to assess if your students are connecting the content to your visual supports, like the vocabulary board • Use color coding if needed	• Vocabulary cut and paste worksheets • Scissors • Glue • Vocabulary board
Vocabulary Sudoku (10 minutes)	• Do the Sudoku puzzle • Choose the best version for your students • Add color coding if needed OR let them glue correct answers onto the answer key • Make connections to the book as necessary	• Sudoku puzzle • Scissors • Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	• Each student shares 1-2 of their finished vocabulary cards or sudoku puzzle	• Completed vocabulary cards • Communication devices
Engaging Learning Experience: Task 4	• ELE Task 4: **Create a campaign slogan and poster** • See worksheet for details	• Poster board • Magazines • Markers • Scissors • Glue



There are Democrats and Republicans. Each of these groups share similar goals and beliefs on how the government should run.

Republicans believe the government should be less involved, and that people should take more responsibility for their lives and choices. They want the government to be smaller.

Every 4 years, there is a race to elect a new president. But not everyone can run for president. There are some qualifications you must first meet.

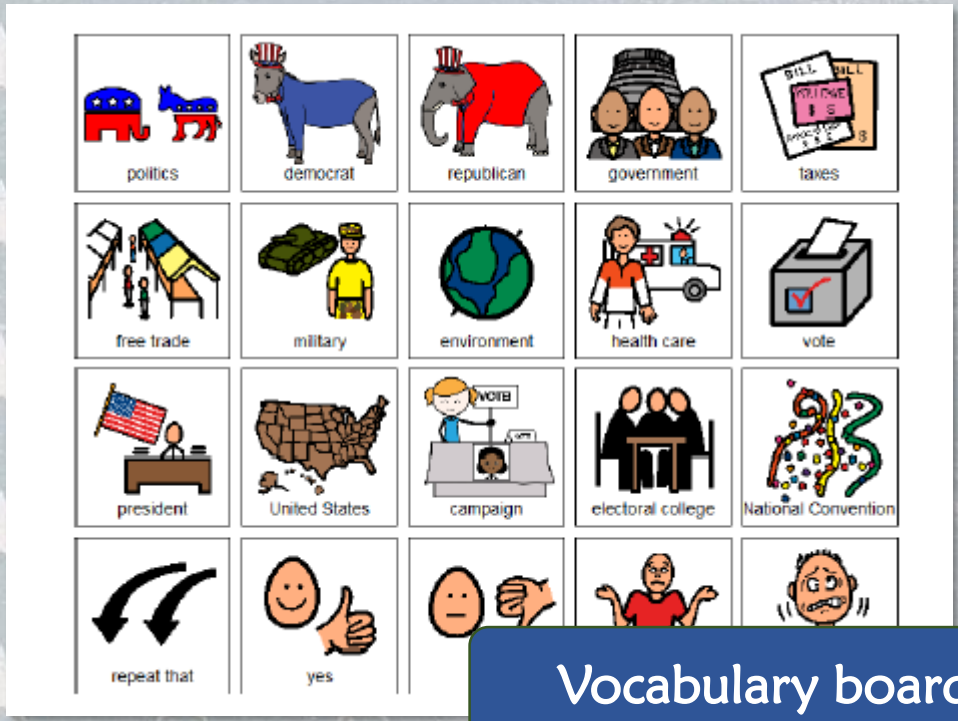
51 page book

Democrats tend to be very concerned about the environment and our impact on future generations.

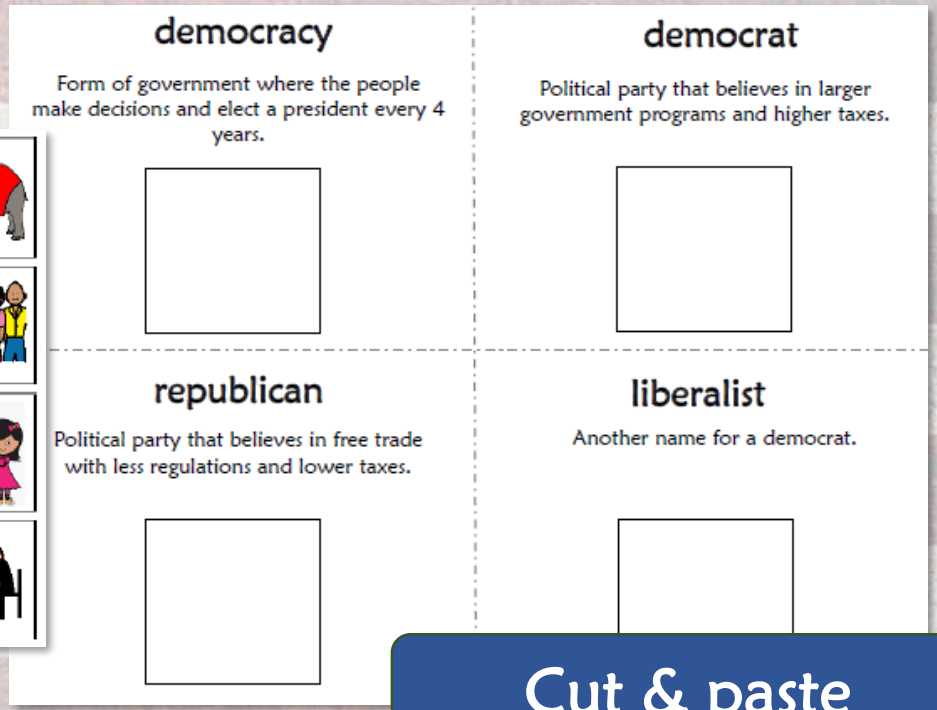
On the other hand, having only 2 parties makes voters feel like their choices are limited. It also makes it very hard for smaller parties to be seen and make a difference.

Step 2= National Convention

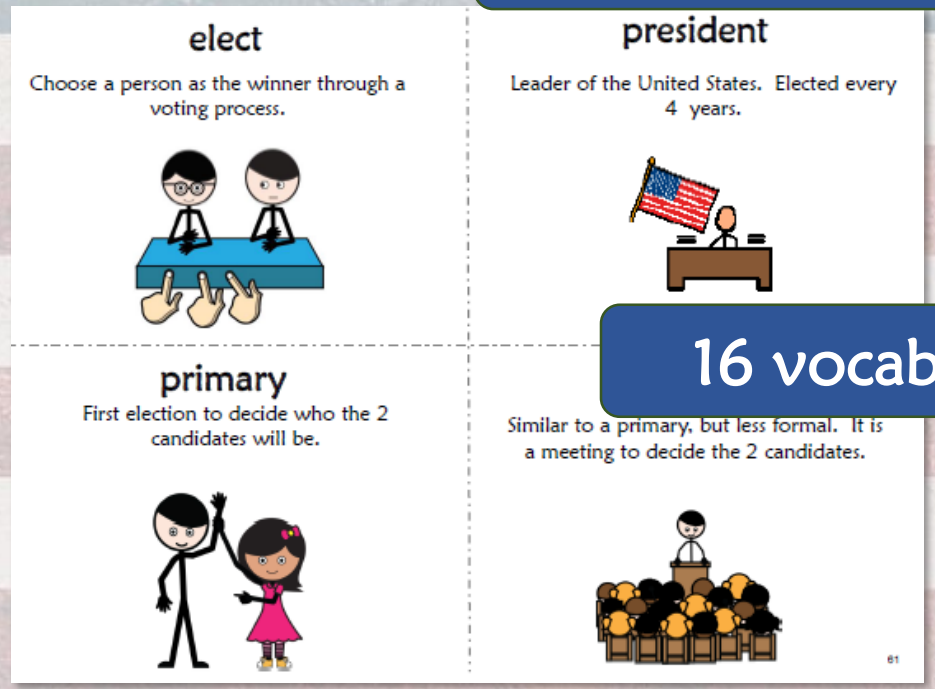
The National Convention is like a big party where the candidate is announced. There are 2 conventions, one for the Democrats and one for the Republicans.



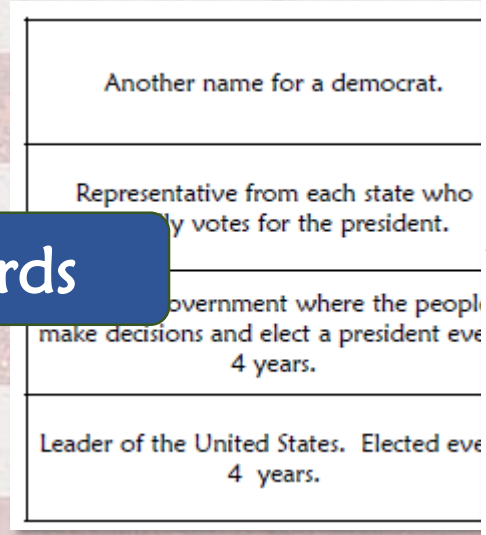
Vocabulary board

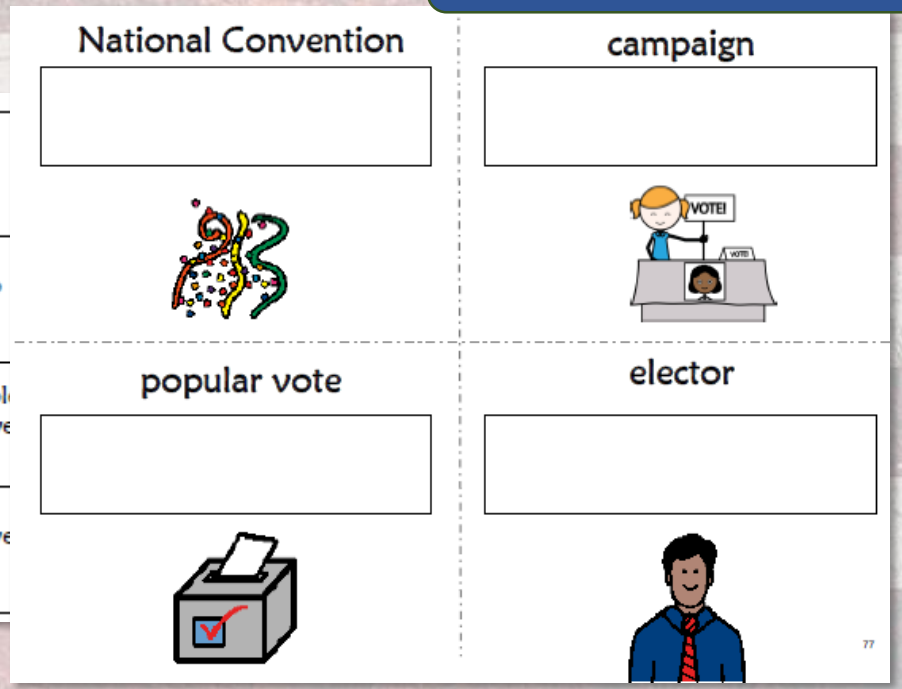


Cut & paste

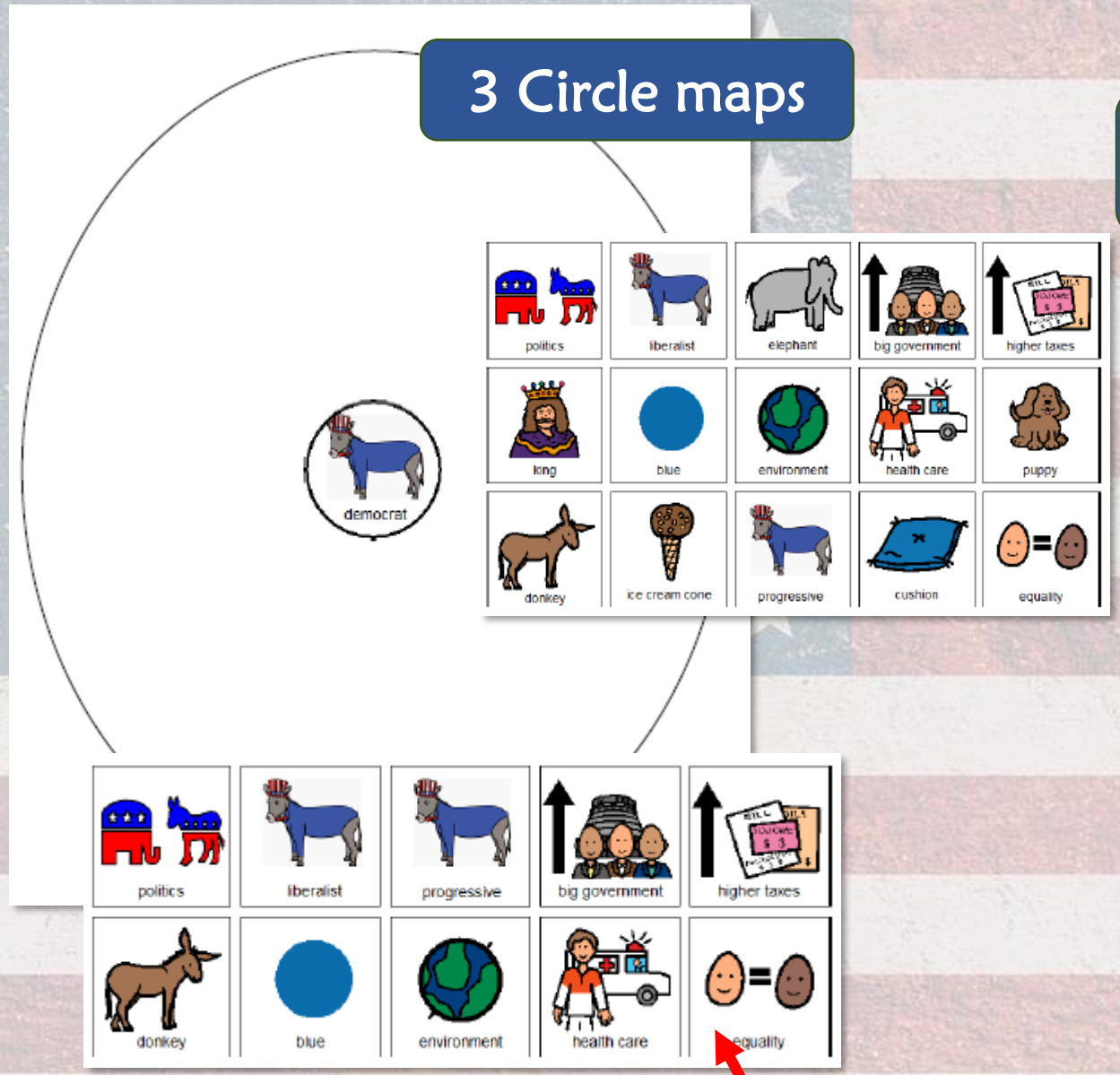


16 vocab cards

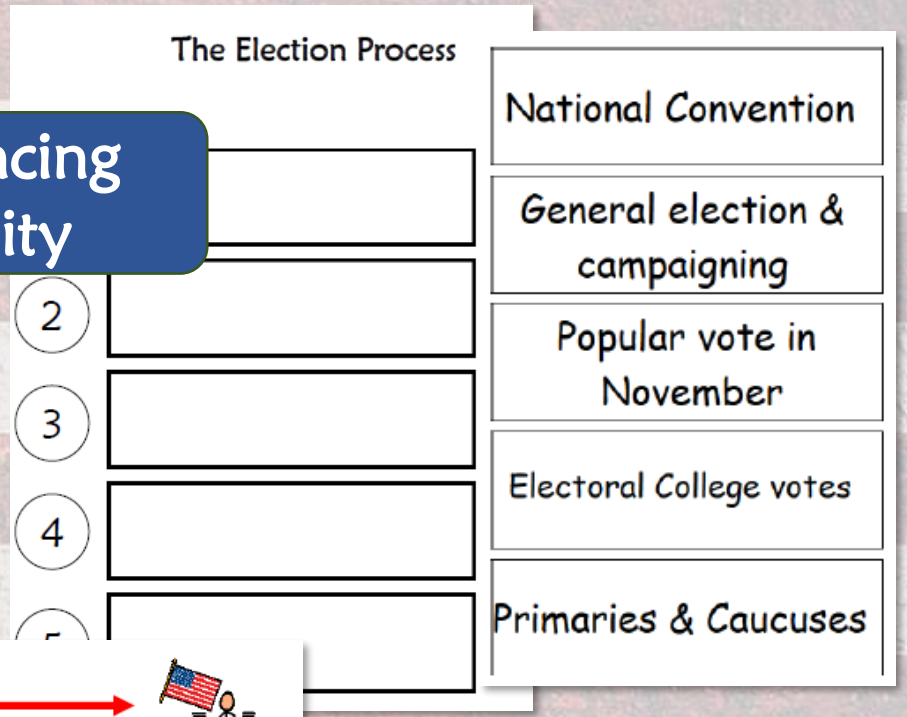


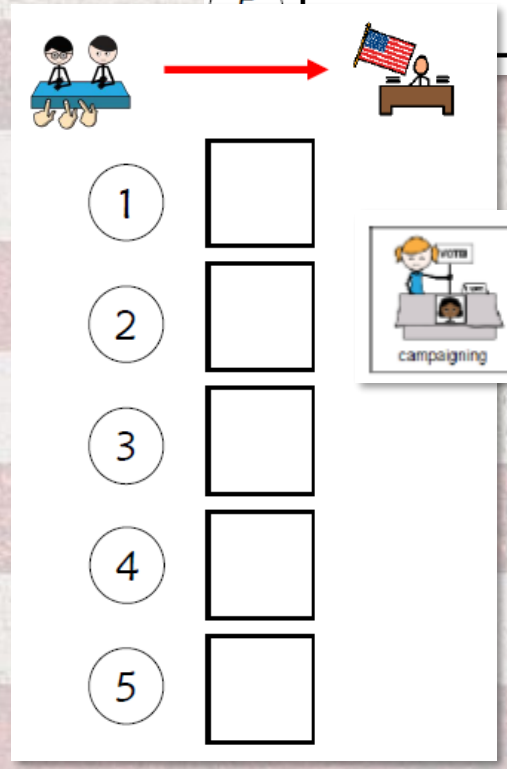


3 Circle maps



Sequencing Activity

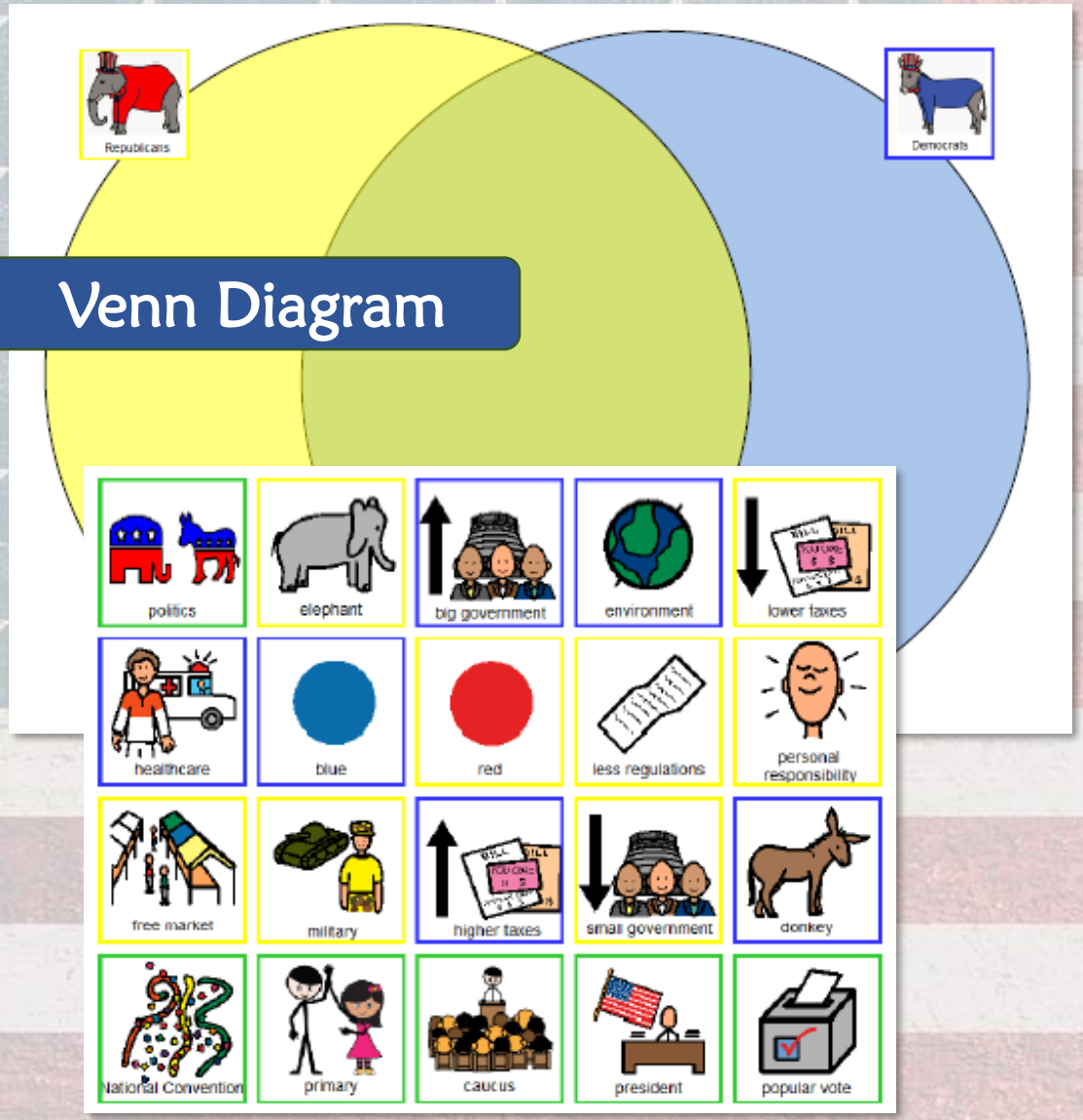




Errorless version

2 versions

Venn Diagram



Writing Prompt

If I Were President

If I were President, I would make sure everyone in the US had enough _____.

If I were President, I would make a new _____.

If I were President, I would change _____.

If I were President, I would give everyone more _____.

I would be a _____ President.

Engaging Learning Experience

The Election Process: Engaging Learning Scenario

In this unit, students are learning about political parties as well as the election process here in the United States. This activity will help them make more connections to the content and enable them to identify with some of the ideals of both political parties. Finally, in an expeditated way, students will gain a deeper understanding of how our president is elected.

Teachers have the option of either having each individual student to each of the following tasks, or form teams like a campaign/election committee.

Task 1: Decide on one of the 2 parties to represent. Refer to the circle maps in the unit to review the main platforms of each party. Help students clarify their message and identify 1-2 specific beliefs from that party that they would focus us. This can be done at a very simplistic level. Here are some examples:

- Big vs small government: would you like someone to make your schedule or do you want to make it yourself. Which is less stressful?
- High vs low taxes: Would you be willing to pay someone to fix you a snack or would you rather make it yourself?
- Environment: would you rather clean up the litter in a park to make it a nice place to play, or would you rather just find a new park?
- Healthcare: would you rather have some medicine to get rid of your cold or just some chicken soup?

Task 2: Hold a primary or caucus. Investigate how your state determines which candidate will go to the National Convention. Hold a primary or caucus where the class votes to choose one Democrat and one Republican to run against each other. If you have students who are non-readers be sure to include the picture of each candidate on the ballot. That way every student can be more independent in the process.

Task 3: Hold a National Convention. Have a class party where each candidate is announced. Have each winner choose a running mate. Make this a big, fun event!!

Task 4: Create a campaign slogan. Make a poster to represent what you would do if you became president. For students who are non-readers, they can create a poster with images of some of their favorite things from magazines and sales flyer.

Election process

1. The US is mainly a _____ party system.
2. Every 4 years, we elect a new _____ .
3. The process starts with states holding a _____ or a _____
4. At the _____ the two candidates who will run against each other is announced.
5. At the National Convention, the next possible _____ is also announced.

Election process

6. The candidates then travel all over the _____ telling people what they hope to do as president.
7. In _____ everyone votes for the next president.
8. But, it is really the _____ who will decide the next president.
9. _____ are representatives from each state who will vote for the same person as the people in their state.
10. In December, the _____ will vote and decide the next president of the US.

Election Process (page 1)

Election Process (page 2)

4 close worksheets

Word search

Sudoku Puzzles

Answer Keys included

Elections and Political P

C N C L A B A D J E Z S P M O
K J Q C S E R X U Y B L N L E
X E M G A Y X C A M P A I G N
I Y P R O G R E S S I V E C N
C R G R W P N P U M W P G A J
P R E S I D E N T L H A T U L
L I B E R A L N K U S H Z C E
G A P S S R M D D J Q Y Y U L
F V Q Q X R X T N X P U S S E
H O C O N S E R V A T I V E C
V T E E L E C T O R W O E V T
O E J U Z Y K R L Q G Y X V I
D E M O C R A T R L F H U G O
V B O O P R I M A R Y X U G N
R E P U B L I C A N Y V X Z I

conservative	progressive	republican	president
democrat	campaign	liberal	elector
primary	election	caucus	vote

Politics and Elections in the US

		Democrat	vote
	Democrat	Republican	
	president		
			Democrat

Politics and Elections in the US

	primary		president	vote	electoral college
president	electoral college	vote	Republican		primary
primary	vote		Democrat	president	
Democrat		Republican			
			vote		
				primary	

Democrat	Republican	Republican	vote	
vote	vote	president	president	

Democrat	Democrat	Democrat	Democrat	Republican
Republican	Republican	vote	primary	primary
electoral college	electoral college	electoral college	president	president

Assessments
3 versions

1. The US is a democracy and has how many political parties?

2. Which party is represented by a donkey and the color blue?

3. Which party is represented by an elephant and the color red?

4. Democrats believe in large government programs a
that are:

5. Republicans believe in smaller government progran
taxes that are:

6. The election process starts with a caucus or a :

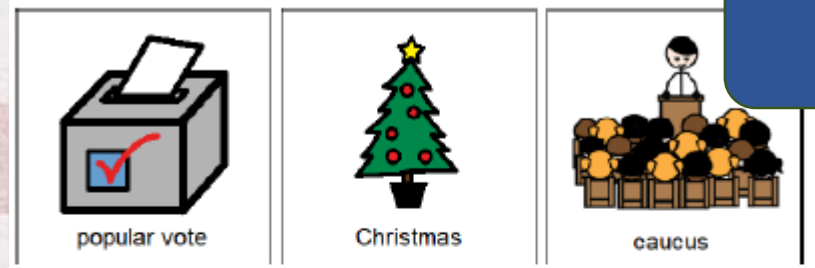
7. This is where the 2 main candidates are announced
each other:

8. In November is when this occurs:

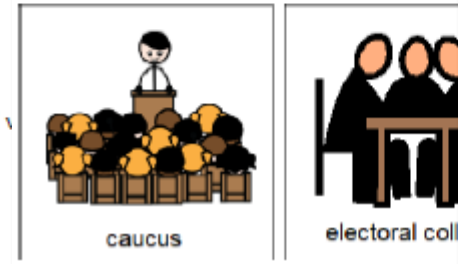
9. This is the group who actually elects the president:

10. True or False. The electors usually vote for the candidate chosen by the people in their state.

Q 8



Q 9



1. The US is a democracy and has how many political parties?
   A. 2
   B. 22
   C. 4
2. Which party is represented by a donkey and the color blue?
   A. Democrat
   B. Republican
   C. Green
3. Which party is represented by an elephant and the color red?
   A. Democrat
   B. Republican
   C. Green
4. Democrats believe in large government programs and taxes that are:
   A. low
   B. high
   C. equal
5. Republicans believe in smaller government programs and taxes that are:
   A. low
   B. high
   C. equal
6. The election process starts with a caucus or a :
   A. National Convention
   B. Primary
   C. popular vote