

Presidential Election **for middle/high school**

With Digital Activities

**For
Special
Ed**





This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He lives at home and votes, AND he is able to do this unit. He is my tester!!

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4-54	US Elections and Political Parties
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This unit contains over 150 pages of material. But, don't worry!! I have included a **12 day lesson** plan to help you make the most of everything packed in this unit.

Everything highlighted in yellow comes with a digital version of the activity.

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 your 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

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs

Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards introduction• Circle map 1	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Close worksheet 3
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Circle map 2	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards cut and paste• Vocabulary puzzle• ELE task 4
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Circle map 3• ELE task 1	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards cut and p• Vocabulary puzzle
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Venn Diagram• ELE task 2	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review or• Assessment• ELE task 5
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Sequencing activity		
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Writing prompt• ELE task 3		
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Close worksheet 1		
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab cards activity• Close worksheet 2		

The lesson plans contain:

A quick look at what you will do each day

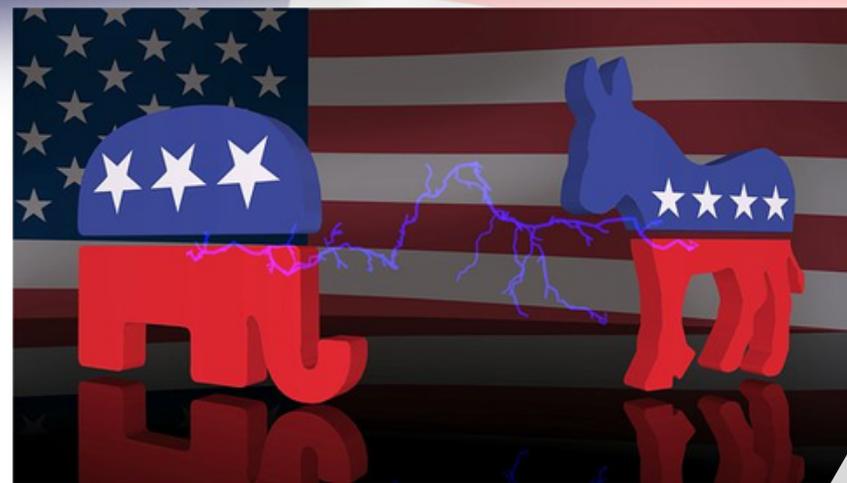
Day 2

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read through the story, asking lots of questions• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocabulary board
Vocabulary cards I Spy Game (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I play this game, or variations of it the first few days<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Determine how many cards your students can handle in front of them.• Since this is the first time playing this game, I make it easy. Hold up a card, and have students find the matching one and hold it up• Discuss relevant points on the card<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ You can also play this game in this manner having them find the symbol on their vocabulary board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vocabulary cards (student set and teacher set)• Vocabulary board
Circle map review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the circle map completed yesterday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circle map completed yesterday
Circle Map (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do the circle map about the Republican party• Choose the best version (errorless or not) depending on the learning level of your students• Students cut out symbols and place in circle map• Make connections to the book as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circle map• Scissors• Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each student shares their finished circle map with the group using the communication method of their choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed circle map• Communication devices

The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

This unit contains a 51 page book that is all about the election process as well as the political parties here in the US.



There are **Democrats** and **Republicans**. Even though these groups share similar goals and beliefs, they believe the government should run differently.

ChristaJoy, Special Needs for Special Kids



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.

ChristaJoy, Special Needs for Special Kids

It comes in a pdf and a voice recorded version so you don't have to print it out.



The **Democratic** party is often represented by the color blue and has the donkey as their symbol.

Play (k)

▶ ⏪ 🔊 1:27 / 10:56

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

CC

⚙️

🔍

There is an mp4 version of this book which you can play in google or assign for students to watch and listen to in google classroom.

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

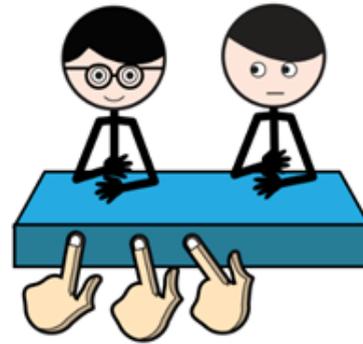
Tips on how to use in the unit!!



Also in black and white

elect

Choose a person as the winner through a voting process.



president

Leader of the United States. Elected every 4 years.



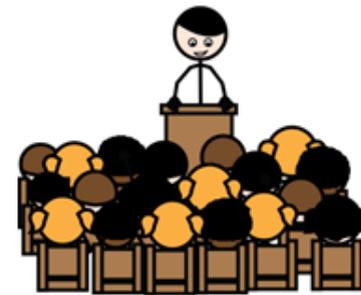
primary

First election to decide who the 2 candidates will be.



caucus

Similar to a primary, but less formal. A meeting to decide the 2 candidates.



There are 16 vocabulary cards in this unit.

Students will do a group activity every day with the cards to practice learning the new vocabulary.

elect

Choose a person as the winner through a voting process.



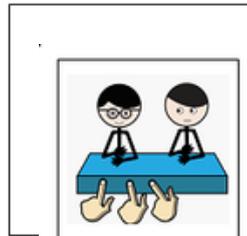
president

Leader of the United States. Elected every 4 years.



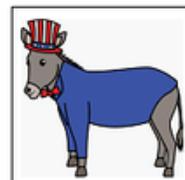
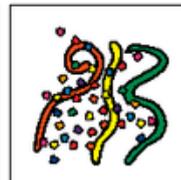
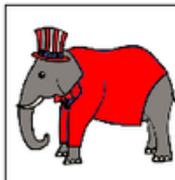
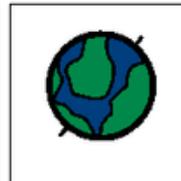
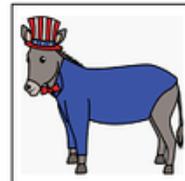
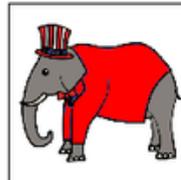
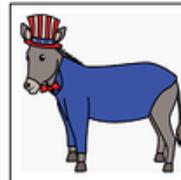
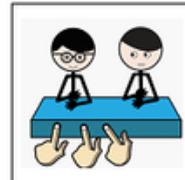
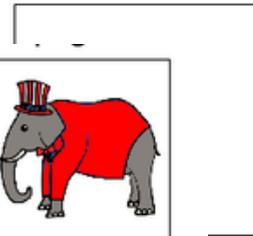
primary

First election to decide who the 2 candidates will be.



caucus

Similar to a primary, but less formal. It is a meeting to decide the 2 candidates.



Students will do cut and paste activities on days 10 & 11.

You can choose from having students match the picture to the definition.

progressive



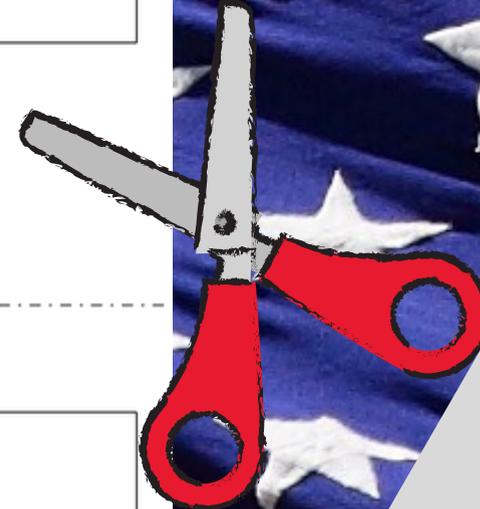
conservative



Electoral college



Green party



Or students can match the definition to the picture. This is the more challenging option.

Instructions on how to differentiate with color is included.

Another name for a democrat.	Choose a person as the winner through a voting process.
Representative from each state who actually votes for the president.	Votes cast by the citizens of the US. Tells electors who to vote for.
Form of government where the people make decisions and elect a president every 4 years.	Another name for a republican.
Leader of the United States. Elected every 4 years.	First election to decide who the 2 candidates will be.

progressive

Another name for a democrat.



Electoral college

Representative from each state who actually votes for the president.



conservative

Another name for a republican.



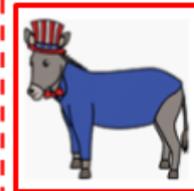
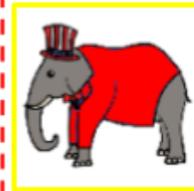
Green party

Political party in California who are very concerned about the environment.



Day 10
differentiated

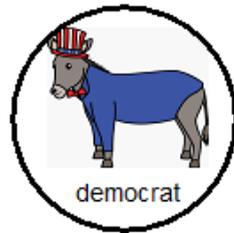
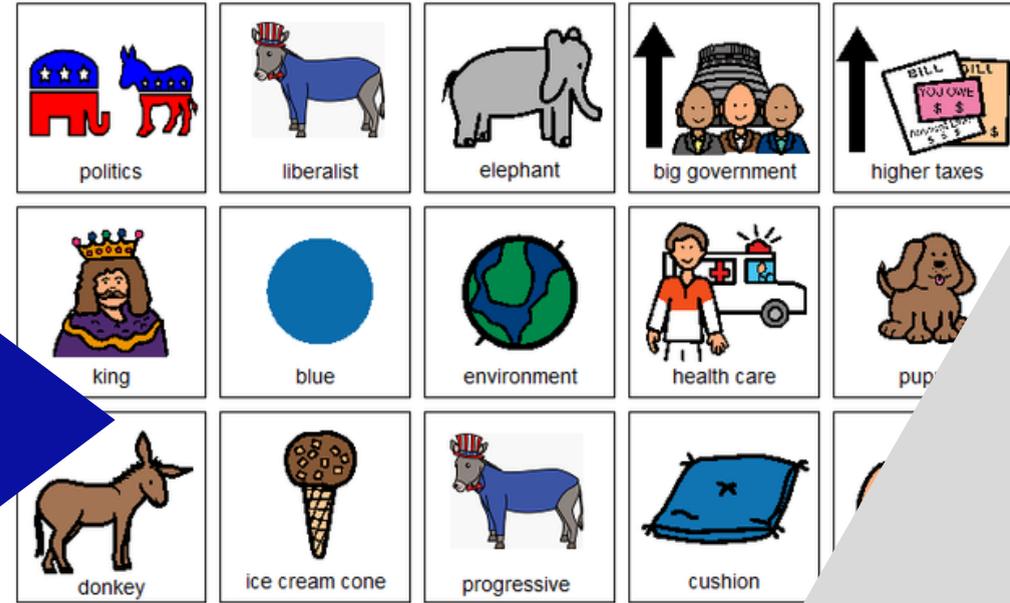
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION VOCABULARY
Place the correct picture on the right
into the box on the left.



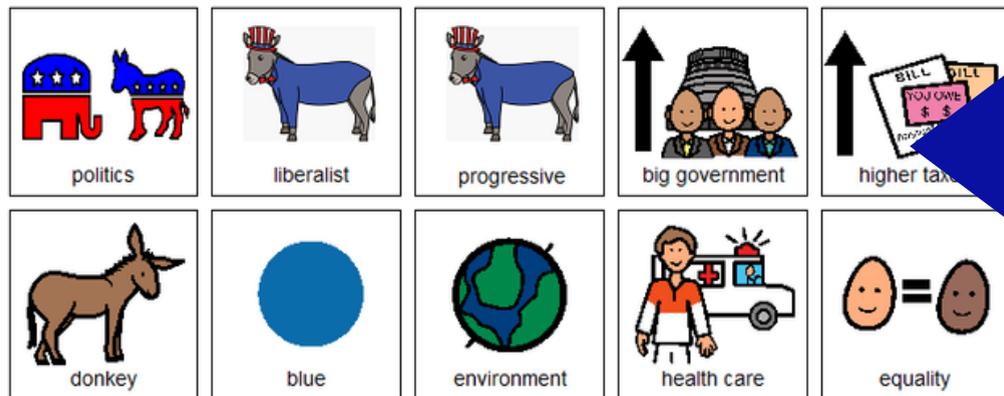
Christie Jay, Special Needs for Special Kids The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2019 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

There are drag and drop activities of both versions of the vocabulary cut and paste. Each activity comes in a version that is differentiated with color.

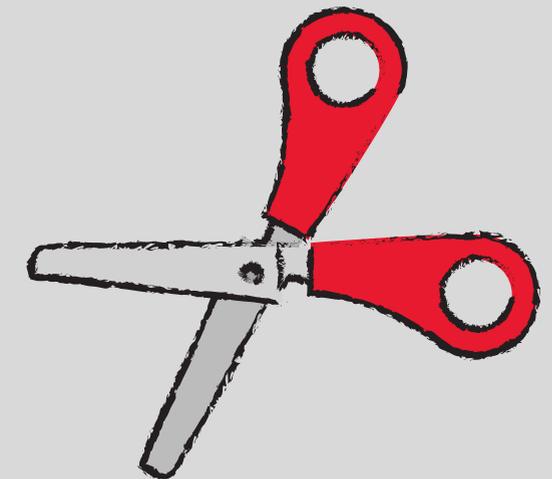
**wrong answers
mixed in**



errorless

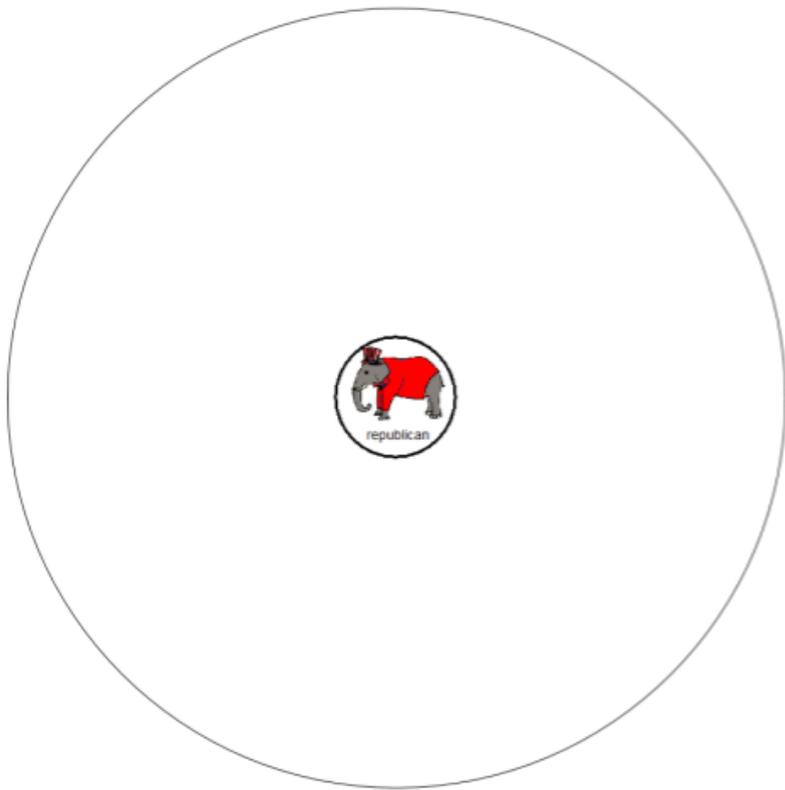


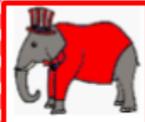
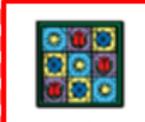
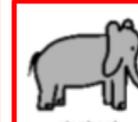
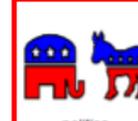
There are 3 circle maps included. Each has a version that is errorless and one that has wrong answers mixed in that students will set aside.



Day 2

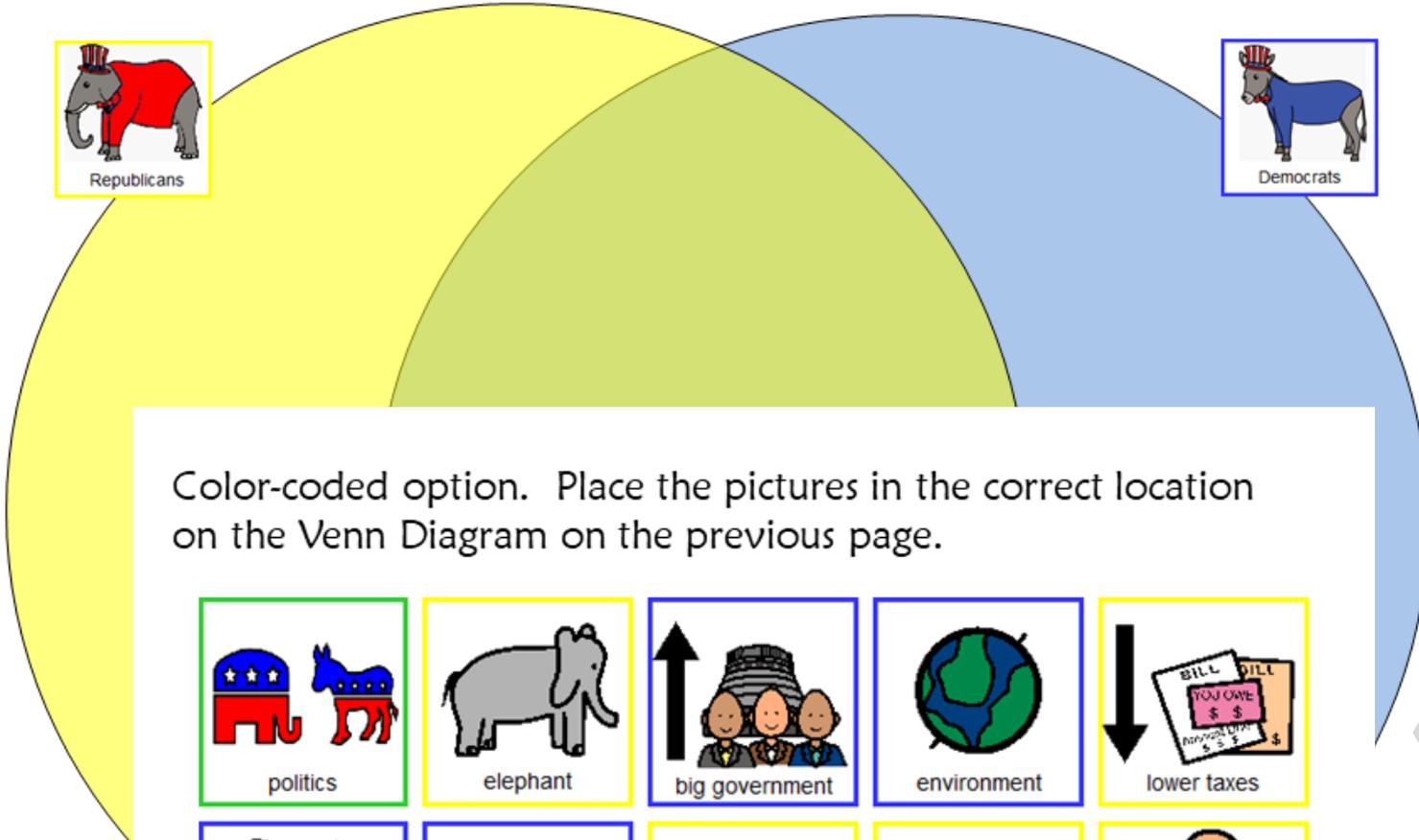
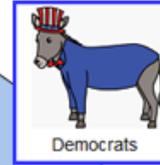
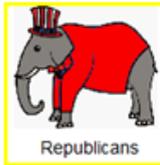
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CIRCLE MAP
Move the pictures and place in the circle map **ONLY IF** they relate to the Republican Party.



 conservative	 queen	 red	 lower taxes	 personal responsibility
 quilt	 military	 elephant	 weak military	 small government
 less regulations	 environment	 politics	 small government	 free market

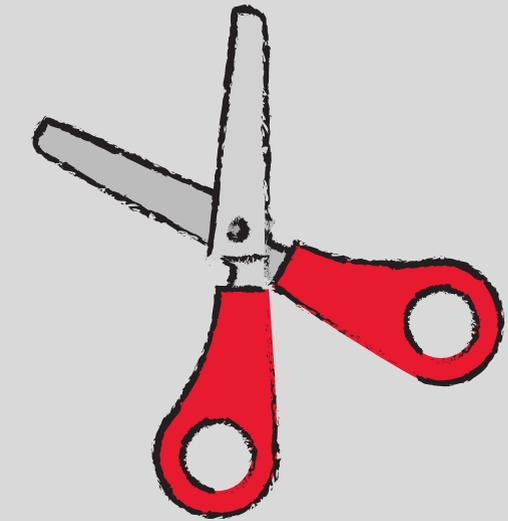
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There are drag and drop versions of all of the circle maps in this unit. The differentiated version contains only correct answers.



Color-coded option. Place the pictures in the correct location on the Venn Diagram on the previous page.

politics	elephant	big government	environment	lower taxes
healthcare	blue	red	less regulations	personal responsibility
free market	military	higher taxes	small government	donkey
National Convention	primary	caucus	president	popular vote



There is a Venn Diagram for students to compare the 2 main political parties. There is a color-coded version included.

Day 4 differentiated

red

big government

Republicans

Democrats

higher taxes

blue

politics

less regulations

elephant

donkey

popular vote

health care

caucus

military

small government

free market

environment

personal responsibility

National Convention

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Move the picture to the appropriate location on the diagram.

There is digital version of the Venn Diagram. There are 2 options one with color coding and one without.

The Election Process

1

2

3

4

5

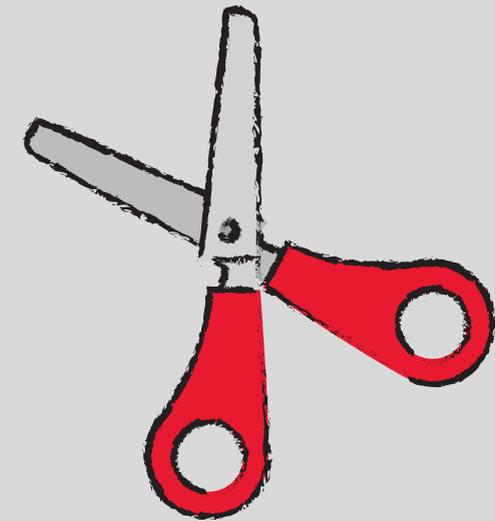
National Convention

General election &
campaigning

Popular vote in
November

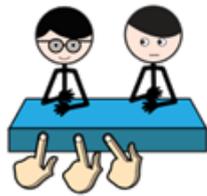
Electoral College votes

Primaries & Caucuses



Students will sequence the steps of the election process. There are 2 versions.

One with words.



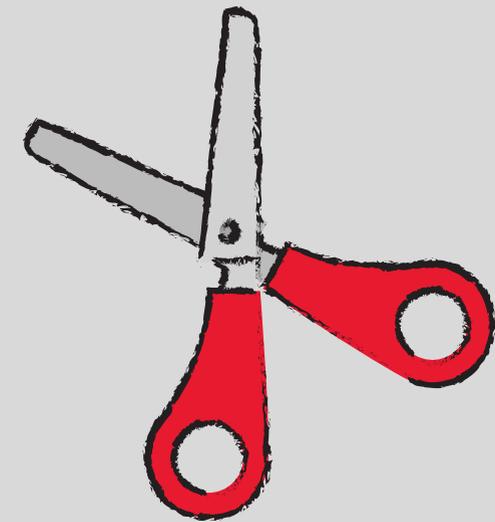
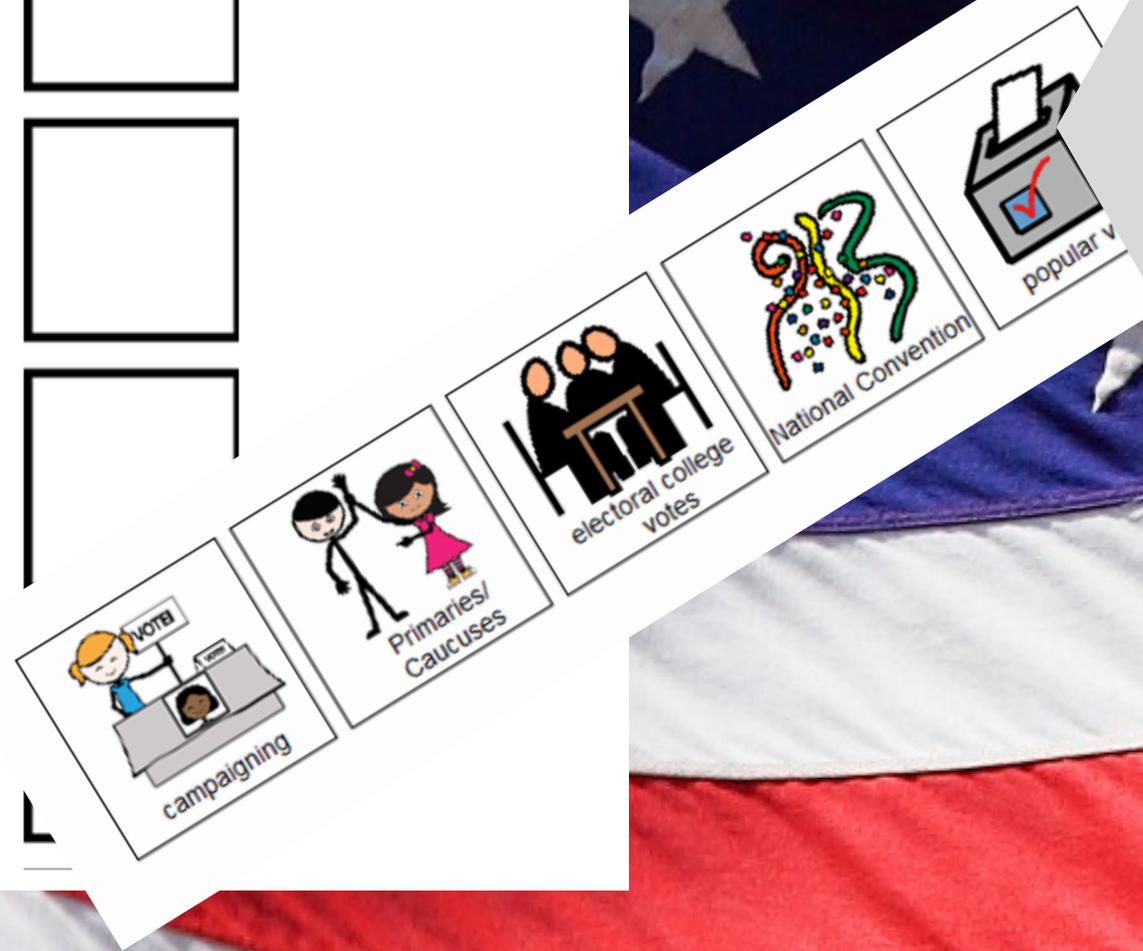
1

2

3

4

5



And one with pictures.
Suggestions for
differentiation are
included.

Answer key included.



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

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Day 5
differentiated

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SEQUENCE
Put the names of the steps in order using pictures.



Both of the sequencing activities come in a digital version. Each one has a color-coded option included.

If I Were President



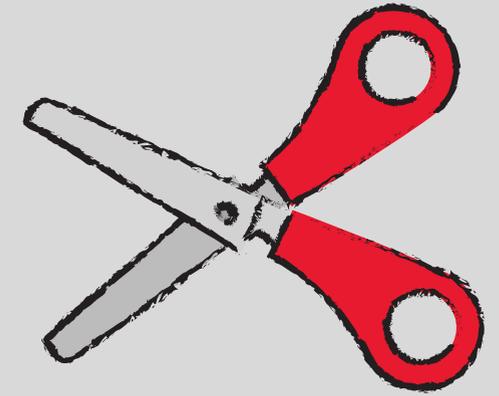
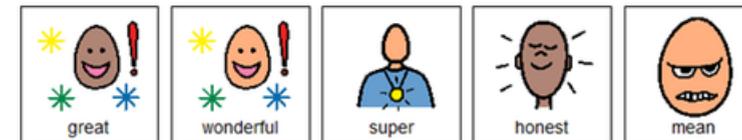
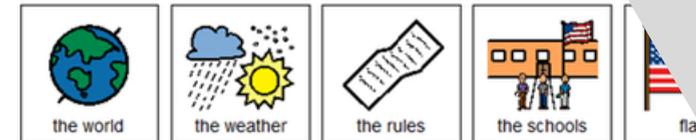
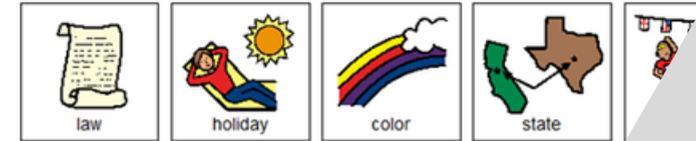
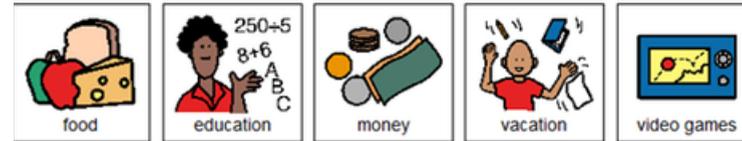
If I were President, I would make sure everyone in the US had enough .

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.



There is a writing prompt included in this unit.

These writing prompts are errorless and a great way to allow your students to write their own story.

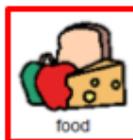


If I Were President

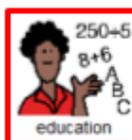
Day 6

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WRITING PROMPT
Place a picture on the right into the box on the left.
This is an errorless task.

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



food



education



vacation



money

If I were President, I would make a new



law



holiday



color



state

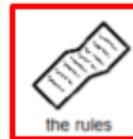
If I were President, I would change



the world



the weather



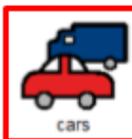
the rules



If I were President, I would give everyone more



vacation



cars



homes



money

I would be a

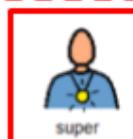
President.



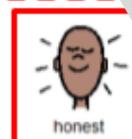
great



wonderful



super



honest

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Even the writing prompt comes in a digital version. Although the prompt is errorless, there is a differentiated version that has fewer choices available.

Democratic Party

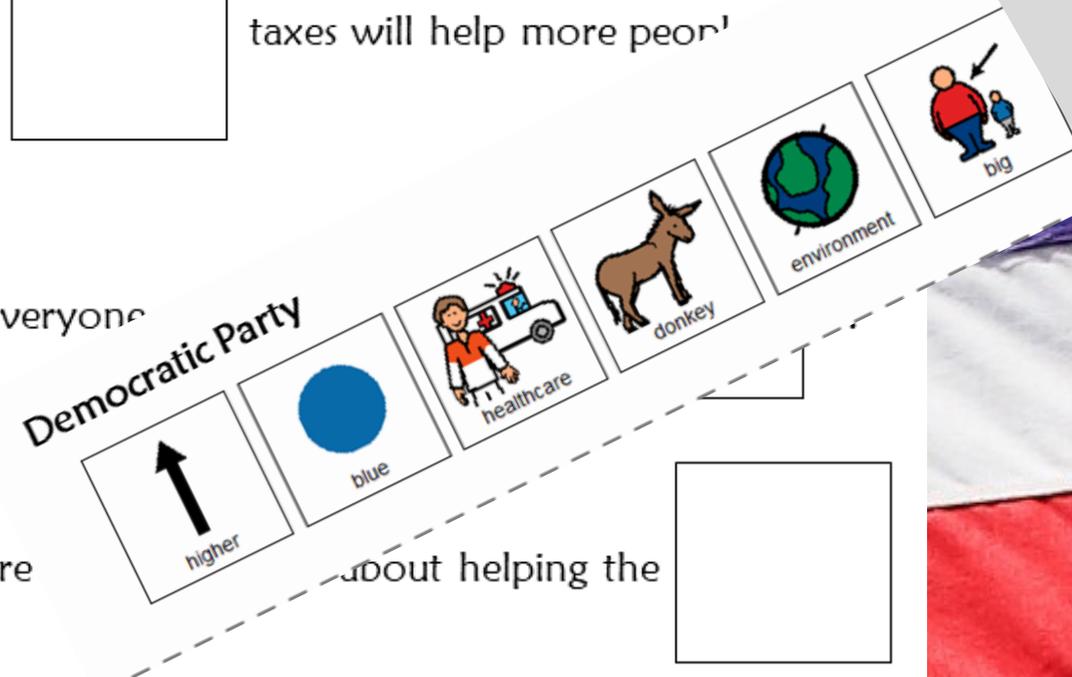
1. The Democratic party is represented by a and the color .

2. In general, Democrats want government programs.

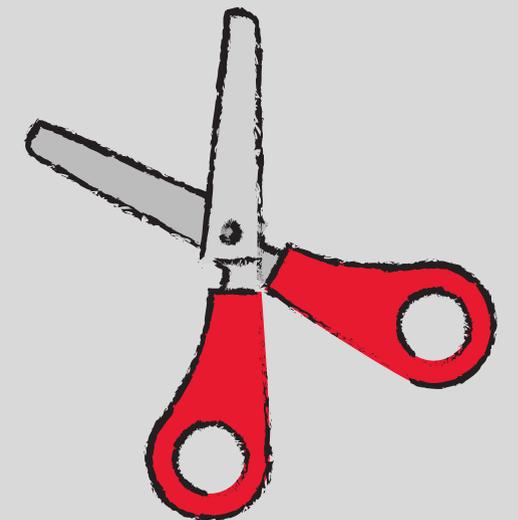
3. Democrats believe taxes will help more people!

4. Democrats believe everyone

5. Finally, Democrats are



There are 4 fill in the blank worksheets included that are great for review to decide if any re-teaching is needed.



Republican Party

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CLOSE WORKSHEET

Day 8
differentiated

Place the correct picture on the right into the box on the left.

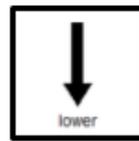
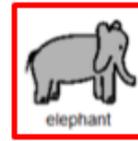
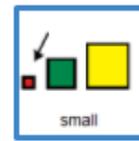
1. The Republican party is represented by an and the color .

2. In general, Republicans want government programs.

3. Republicans believe taxes will help more people.

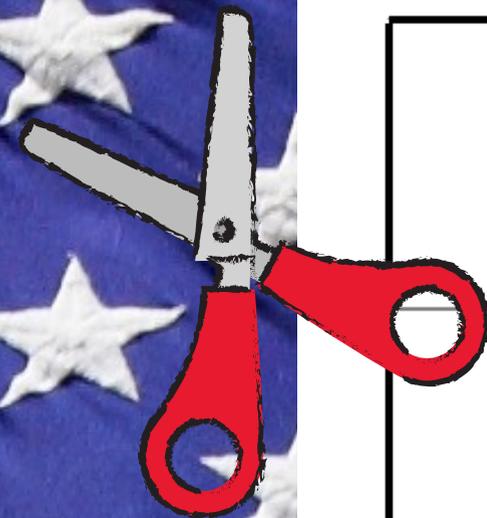
4. Republicans believe everyone takes for themselves.

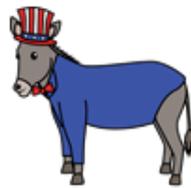
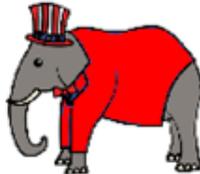
5. Finally, Republicans believe in with very few regulations.

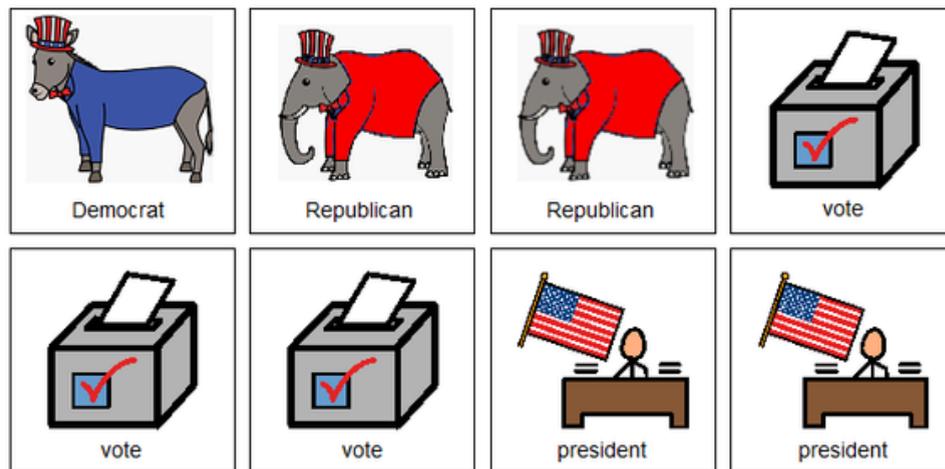


The fill in the blank activities all have digital versions. For each one there is a color-coded option provided.

Politics and Elections in the US



		 Democrat	 vote
	 Democrat	 Republican	
			
		 president	 Democrat



There are 2 sudoku puzzles included. One is 6x6 and one is 4x4.

These puzzles are a great way for students to work with the new vocabulary.

Answer key included.

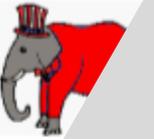
Politics and Elections in the US

Day 10
differentiated

		 Democrat	 vote
	 Democrat	 Republican	
	 president		
 Republican		 president	 Democrat

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SUDOKU (4x4)

Place pictures on the right into the boxes on the left, so that each of the four areas have the each of the four different pictures.

 vote	 vote	 Republican
 vote	 president	
 Democrat	 president	

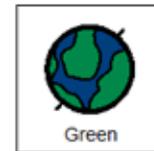
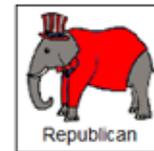
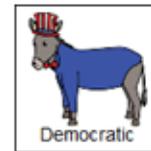
Christa Joy, Special Needs for
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1983-2019 by
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Do Sudoku online!! Both of these puzzles comes in a drag and drop digital version. There is even a color-coded option for each one.

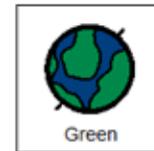
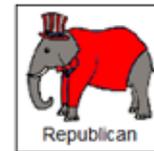
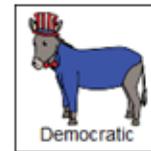
1. The US is a democracy and has how many political parties?



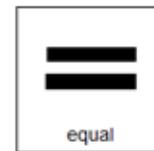
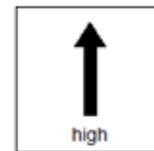
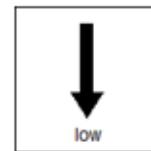
2. Which party is represented by a donkey and the color blue?



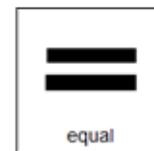
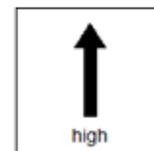
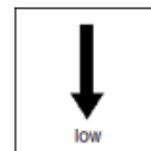
3. Which party is represented by an elephant and the color red?



4. Democrats believe in large government programs and taxes that are:



5. Republicans believe in smaller government programs and taxes that are:



FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

Answer key included.

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

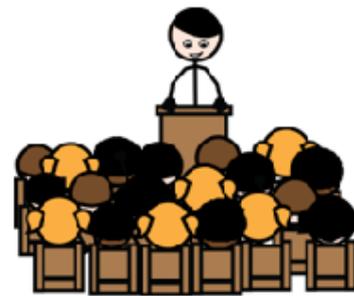
Q 8



popular vote

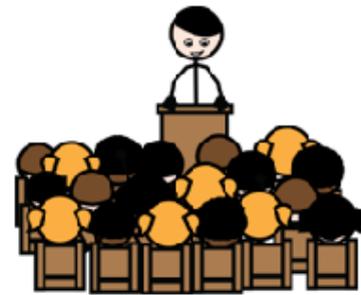


Christmas



caucus

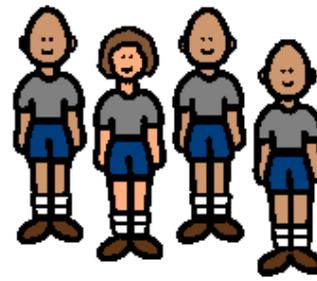
Q 9



caucus



electoral college



team

With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.

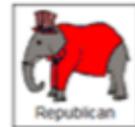
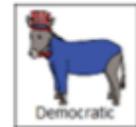
1. The Northeast is made up of how many states?
 - A. 50
 - B. 11
 - C. 3
2. What mountain range and hiking trail is found in this region?
 - A. Alps
 - B. Rocky Mountains
 - C. Appalachian Mountains
3. What is one of the main crops in the Northeast?
 - A. corn
 - B. cranberries
 - C. wheat
4. What is gotten from the trees in the Northeast?
 - A. honey
 - B. syrup
 - C. watermelon
5. True or False. There is a lot of snow in the winters in the Northeast.
 - A. true
 - B. false
 - C. I don't know
6. What major food is made in Pennsylvania?
 - A. chocolate
 - B. waffles
 - C. spaghetti

This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.

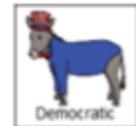
1. The US is a democracy and has how many political parties?



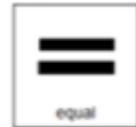
2. Which party is represented by a donkey and the color blue?



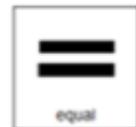
3. Which party is represented by an elephant and the color red?



4. Democrats believe in large government programs and taxes that are:



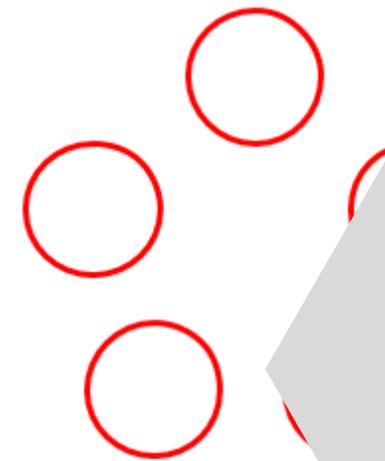
5. Republicans believe in smaller government programs and taxes that are:



Day 11

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ASSESSMENT

Move a circle on the right over the correct answer on the left.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids The Picture Communication Symbols
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of Tobii Dynavox

The digital version of the assessment looks like this. There is a differentiated version where the correct answers are already circled with a dashed line.

The image features a close-up, diagonal view of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The flag is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the rest of the background being a plain, light gray color.

*There is an engaging learning experience included in this unit.
Students will form teams like an election/campaign committee.*

There are 5 tasks to this experience:

- 1. Choose a party to represent*
- 2. Hold a primary or caucus*
- 3. Hold a National Convention*
- 4. Create a campaign slogan*
- 5. Hold the election*

There are details on how to structure each of these tasks so they will be successful even in a special education setting.



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

[Click Here to read more!!](#)