



Elementary Election Math

Lesson Name: Electoral College “Top It”

Time Allotted: 20-30 Minute Lesson

Critical Question:

How important are Electoral College Votes in the Presidential Election?

Assessment of Mastery of Objectives:

Students will add one and two digit numbers until their sum reaches 270.

Students will be able to explain why 270 is a “magic number”, and discuss a variety of ways for candidates in a Presidential Election to get there.

Question or Problem for Students:

What is the Electoral College?

Are some states more important than others to win?

Can a President be elected if he doesn’t win the Popular Vote?

Special Directions for Cooperative Grouping:

Print out state cards and cut. Students deal cards until all cards in deck are dispersed. Without looking, students put their cards in a pile in front of them. Student A turns the top card from his/her pile over in front of him/her and reads the state name and the number of electoral votes. Student B repeats with the top card from his/her pile. (Repeat for all students playing until it is Student A turn again) Student A turns over top card, reads card, and adds the amount of electoral votes won... Repeat around the circle until one player reaches 270. Discuss why the game would end at 270, and how this relates to the Electoral College.

Differentiation Strategies...

- Use paper and pencil
- Use “checks” to subtract totals from 270 to see how close “candidates” are to winning
- Have students find the quickest way to 270 votes
- Have students find the longest way to 270 votes

Resources for Groups:

Cards (attached)

Map (to aid with discussions)

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/election/president.html>

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/about.html>

Use links provided as a “Pre Teach” , either in large group or computer lab setting, have students access and evaluate websites and share their findings about the Electoral College.

Alabama

9

Alaska

3

Arizona

10

Arkansas

6

California

55

Colorado

9

Connecticut

7

Delaware

3

Florida

27

Georgia

15

Hawaii

4

Idaho

4

Illinois

21

Indiana

11

Iowa

7

Kansas

6

Kentucky

8

Louisiana

9

Maine

4

Maryland

10

Massachusetts	12
Michigan	17
Minnesota	10
Mississippi	6

Missouri

11

Montana

3

Nebraska

3

Nevada

5

**New
Hampshire**

4

New Jersey

15

New Mexico

5

New York

31

North Carolina	15
North Dakota	3
Ohio	20
Oklahoma	7

Oregon

7

Pennsylvania

21

Rhode Island

4

**South
Carolina**

8

South Dakota

3

Tennessee

11

Texas

35

Utah

5

Vermont

3

Virginia

13

Washington

11

West Virginia

5

Wisconsin

10

Wyoming

3

**Washington,
DC**

3

