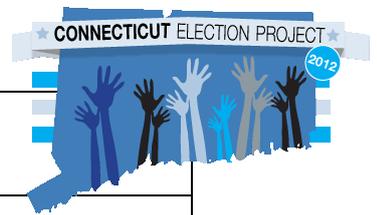




Elementary Election Math



Lesson Name: Race to the White House

Time Allotted: 30-40 Minutes

Essential Questions:

Can a President be elected without winning the Popular Vote?

What is the "All or Nothing Rule" in reference to Presidential Elections?

Do you have an opinion about the Electoral College, can you explain it to the group?

Assessment of Mastery of Objectives:

Students will discuss the relevance of the Electoral College and compare election results to popular votes.

Students will use an excel spreadsheet to discover combinations of states needed to win their way into the White House.

Students will use math skills to differentiate between popular votes and electoral college votes.

Question or Problem for Students:

Can a President be elected if he/she has lost the Popular Vote?

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/2000/index.html>

Special Directions for Cooperative Grouping:

After review of Electoral College and Election background information:

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

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

Student will use game board (attached) and playing cards (attached) to Race to the White House.

Using unifix cube as a marker, first player rolls die or spins spinner to determine how many spaces to move. Student moves cube to correct space and picks up a card... IF the space is GREEN, student has won the state on the card and can collect the Electoral College votes, IF the space is RED, student has lost the state and must give the Electoral College votes to his opponent. Then next student rolls or spins. Game play continues, adding votes and populations until 270 votes are reached.

Students can discuss why the game ended at 270.

Differentiation:

- Challenge cards can be used (10%, 25%, 50%, or $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$) to multiply popular vote and discuss winning popular votes vs. electoral votes
- Commas can be added to population for place value practice

Resources for Groups:

State Cards

Game board

Die or Spinner

One unifix cube for each player

Alaska

Population 710231

Delegates 3

Arizona

Population 6392017

Delegates 10

Arkansas

Population 2915918

Delegates 6

California

Population 37253956

Delegates 55

Colorado

Population 5029196

Delegates 9

Connecticut

Population 3574097

Delegates 7

Delaware

Population 897934

Delegates 3

Florida

Population 18801310

Delegates 27

Georgia

Population 9687653

Delegates 15

Hawaii

Population 1360301

Delegates 4

Illinois

Population 12830632

Delegates 21

Indiana

Population 6483802

Delegates 11

Iowa

Population 3046355

Delegates 7

Kansas

Population 2853118

Delegates 6

Kentucky

Population 4339367

Delegates 8

Louisiana

Population 4533372

Delegates 9

Maine

Population 1328361

Delegates 4

Maryland

Population 5773552

Delegates 10

Massachusetts

Population 6547629

Delegates 12

Michigan

Population 9883640

Delegates 17

Mississippi

Population 2967297

Delegates 6

Missouri

Population 5988927

Delegates 11

Montana

Population 989415

Delegates 3

Nebraska

Population 1826341

Delegates 3

Nevada

Population 2700551

Delegates 5

New Hampshire

Population 1316470

Delegates 4

New Jersey

Population 8791894

Delegates 15

New Mexico

Population 2059179

Delegates 5

New York

Population 19378102

Delegates 31

North Carolina

Population 9535483

Delegates 15

Ohio

Population 11536504

Delegates 20

Oklahoma

Population 3751351

Delegates 7

Oregon

Population 3831074

Delegates 7

Pennsylvania

Population 12702379

Delegates 21

Rhode Island

Population 1052567

Delegates 4

South Carolina

Population 4625364

Delegates 8

South Dakota

Population 814180

Delegates 3

Tennessee

Population 6346105

Delegates 11

Texas

Population 25145561

Delegates 35

Utah

Population 2763885

Delegates 5

Virginia

Population 8001024

Delegates 13

Washington

Population 6724540

Delegates 11

West Virginia

Population 1852994

Delegates 5

Wisconsin

Population 5686986

Delegates 10

Wyoming

Population 563626

Delegates 3

Washington, DC

Population 601723

Delegates 3

Start

Race to the White House

