

I. Standards

- 4.2.5 Give examples of how citizens can participate in their state government and explain the right and responsibility of voting.
- 4.2.7 Use a variety of information resources* to take a position or recommend a course of action on a public issue relating to Indiana's past or present.
- 4.3.3 Locate Indiana on a map as one of the 50 United States. Identify and describe the location of the state capital, major cities and rivers in Indiana, and place these on a blank map of the state.

II. Instructional Objectives

- 1. The students will discuss the purpose of electoral votes.
- 2. The students will research the presidential candidates.
- 3. The students will participate in a mock election.

III. Assessment of Instructional Objectives

- 1. The teacher will listen for appropriate responses during the class discussion.
- 2. The teacher will observe the students' research process.
- 3. The teacher will facilitate the mock election.

IV. Materials and Instructional Tools

Grace For President, written by Kelly DiPucchio

PowerPoint slides and projector

Obama/McCain research chart

State cards (includes name of state, picture of state, number of electoral votes)

Democratic/Republican brochures

Handout of blank map (one for each student)

Chalk and chalkboard

V. Differentiation

*Students not meeting prior benchmarks: I will attend to these students intentionally by walking over to their desk to check understanding.

*Gifted/High achieving learners: I will provide these students with an opportunity to research the presidential candidates in more depth on the internet if time provides.

*English Language Learners: I will display vocabulary terms both visually and in writing. I will provide more time, if needed, for the student to read the brochures.

VI. Student Accommodations

If a student is having difficulty reading the slides, I will allow him or her to move closer to the front. If needed, I will provide directions more than once.

VII. Description of Learning Activity

A. Motivational Strategy

As the students walk in the room (return from specials), I will have a date, “November 4, 2008,” written across the projector screen. I will encourage the students to guess why I chose that date. I will show them the other slides that follow to emphasize the day of the elections. [Q1R]

I will then ask the students to find a partner and discuss the questions that are on the projector screen at the front of the classroom. These questions will facilitate discussions, and show how much they know about elections. [Q1L]

The "Bridge" Activity

I will read the book, Grace for President (written by Kelly DiPucchio), aloud to the students. [Q2R]

B. Steps in Implementation

1. Teach

I will show the students a map of the United States that displays the number of electoral votes allotted to each state. I will ask the students, “Based on the title at the top of this map, what are the numbers you see written in each state?” I will ask someone to come up to the board to identify the location of Indiana on the map. I will ask the students, “Based on this map, how many electoral votes does Indiana receive?” I will facilitate a discussion about how to determine the number of electoral votes given to each state. [Q2L]

2. Practice

I will go around the room and have students pull out of a bag which state they will represent in the Electoral College. Each slip of paper in the bag will display a state name, the electoral votes for that state, and a picture of their state. This will be their state

they will vote by in the next section of this lesson. I will tell the class, “You must do your research before casting such an important vote.” I will then separate the class in half. I will provide one half of the class with brochures about Barack Obama and Joe Biden, and the other half of the class with brochures about John McCain and Sarah Palin. The students will remain in their seats for this activity. They will be given a handout to organize their thoughts about the presidential candidates. After eight minutes, I will swap the handouts, and allow them eight more minutes to research the other candidate party. [Q3L]

3. Apply

I will pass out a ballot to each student (These ballots are copies of my absentee ballot from Alabama). We will briefly discuss the layout of the ballot and the way to cast your vote. I will ask them to first write their state name on top, and then draw a line to connect the arrow for the presidential candidate they would like to vote for (Obama or McCain). They will submit their ballot by placing it back in the bag at the front of the room. [Q3R]

4. Closure

Once all the ballots have been turned in, I will pass out a blank map to each student. I will ask them to follow along in the calculating of the ballots by coloring the state red or blue each time the vote is announced. I will begin by pulling the first ballot from the bag. I will ask whoever had the state belonging to the ballot to come to the front of the classroom and fill in their state with either red or blue marker on the large blank map at the front of the classroom. While the student colors his or her state, the rest of the class should be following along on their personal map at their desk. One person will be keeping a running total (on the chalkboard) of how many electoral votes are won by each presidential candidate. [Q4L]

When all the states are colored, we will look at the number of electoral votes calculated for each party, which will also reveal the “new President”! I will ask the students to share why they voted the way they did. [Q4R]

C. Approximate time needed to complete the lesson: 1 hour, 15 minutes

How many presidential electors does Indiana have? What determines this number?

Article 2, Section 1, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States provides that each state shall appoint a number of electors equal to the number of Senators or Representatives to which the state is entitled in Congress. Since Indiana has currently has 9 U.S. Representatives and 2 U.S. Senators, the state is entitled to 11 electors. **Indiana currently has 11 presidential electors.**

1. How many states have 20 or more electoral votes?
2. How many have 10-19 votes?
3. How many have five or fewer?
4. How many electoral votes does your state have?
5. Who votes in the electoral college?
6. How long has the electoral college been around?
7. What state has the most electoral votes?
8. There are 51 places that have electoral votes. If there are only 50 states, where do the other votes come from .(Hint: it's a place that has only 3 electoral votes.)
9. Why do you think candidates spend more time campaigning in California, New York, and Pennsylvania instead of in Utah, Wyoming, or Alaska?
10. Is it possible to have less popular votes and still win the Presidential Election? How?

Electors in the Electoral College are given to each state according to the number of people it has in Congress (each state has two senators, plus a number of representatives based on population). Thus, different states have different numbers of electoral votes. Using a map showing the number of electors for each state, ask students to identify the states they think candidates will most want to win. What will the candidates do differently in these states?

In order to win the presidency, a candidate needs to receive at least 270 electoral votes, which is the current majority. Using a map showing the number of electoral votes per state, have students find the smallest combination of states that adds up to at least 270 electoral votes. What is the least number of states a candidate could win and still become president? (Answer: If the candidate wins the 11 most populated states, which would give him a total of 271 electoral votes, he would become the president despite losing in the remaining 39 states.) How many electoral votes does each region of the U.S. have? How many electoral votes does your state have?

NAME _____

What qualities are important to you in a president? (ex: intelligence, humor)

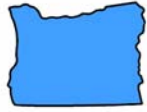
BARACK OBAMA JOE BIDEN (Democrat)	JOHN MCCAIN SARAH PALIN (Republican)
What I like about these candidates:	What I like about these candidates:
What I don't like about these candidates:	What I don't like about these candidates:
How would their presidency benefit Indiana?	How would their presidency benefit Indiana?

WASHINGTON



11

OREGON



7

IDAHO



4

MONTANA



3

CALIFORNIA



55

NEVADA



5

UTAH



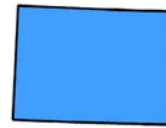
5

ARIZONA



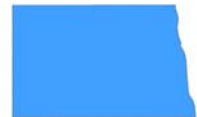
10

WYOMING



3

NORTH
DAKOTA



3

SOUTH
DAKOTA



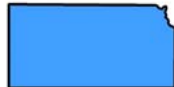
3

NEBRASKA



5

KANSAS



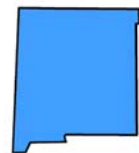
6

COLORADO



9

NEW MEXICO



5

TEXAS



34

OKLAHOMA



7

LOUISIANA



9

MISSISSIPPI



6

ARKANSAS



6

MISSOURI



11

IOWA



7

MINNESOTA



10

WISCONSIN



10

ILLINOIS



21

INDIANA



11

KENTUCKY



8

TENNESSEE



11

ALABAMA



9

FLORIDA



27

GEORGIA



15

MICHIGAN



17

OHIO



20

PENNSYLVANIA



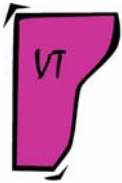
21

NEW YORK



31

VERMONT



3

NEW
HAMPSHIRE



4

MAINE



4

MASSACHUSETTS



12

RHODE
ISLAND



4

CONNECTICUT



7

NEW JERSEY



12

DELAWARE



3

MARYLAND








10

VIRGINIA



13

<p>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</p> <p>(look inside the state of Maryland!)</p> <p>3</p>				
<p>WEST VIRGINIA</p>  <p>5</p>	<p>NORTH CAROLINA</p>  <p>15</p>	<p>SOUTH CAROLINA</p>  <p>8</p>	<p>ALASKA</p>  <p>3</p>	<p>HAWAII</p>  <p>4</p>