

Teacher's Guide for FACES: Elections Voting Around the World

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Objectives:

- To gain an understanding of how elections take place in the United States
- To learn about elections in other parts of the world
- To appreciate that young people can prepare themselves for voting even though they are too young to vote

High 5 (pages 2-3)

Use the following ideas to help discuss each of the five concepts:

1. How do you feel about kids voting on Election Day?
2. Where would you find out about the various candidates on the website?
3. Research different types of systems.
4. Discuss why it would be difficult to use beans to cast a vote or to shout out loud your choice.
5. Research each party and what they stand for.

A Real Political Animal (pages 6-7)

Questions for discussion-

- Explain how Laddie Boy was treated like royalty?
- Why did Fala make Roosevelt's opponents look cruel?
- Why did Checkers help Richard Nixon's career?
- Why do you think that presidents like to have pets in the White House?

From Marbles to Machines (pages 8-11)

Some ideas for use with this article are the following:

- Make a list of items that have been used to cast votes.
- What is "kangaroo voting"?
- Why is private voting important?
- Explain why there is concern about mechanical voting.
- Describe systems that prevent a voter from voting more than once.
- How are the needs of voters taken into consideration?
- Tell how some countries assist voters who live in remote areas.
- Why is voting important?
- What do you think about E-voting?
- Explain the problem that existed in the 2000 elections.

The Carter Center (pages 12-15)

Questions to help with comprehension-

- What is the mandate of the Carter Center?
- Which countries does the Carter Center help?
- Write an informative paragraph that describes the roles of the LTO's.
- Why is it important that the LTO's remain impartial?
- What is the role of a STO?

- Why does Pottie hope each election is his last?

Election Violence (pages 16-18)

Ideas to consider-

- Provide reasons why violence might occur during an election.
- Explain why violence may be part of a country's national history.
- Why do you think that democracy takes a long time to develop in a country?
- Explain why historical issues might contribute to violence during an election.
- Why do political leaders play an important part in an election?

A Dream Come True (page 19)

- Why did a dream come true on April 28, 1994?

Old Enough to Vote? (pages 20-21)

- Choose an age that you think is appropriate to begin voting. Provide reasons to support your decision.
- Organise a debate within the class to support different ages for voting.

Diary of a First-Time Voter (pages 22-23)

Possible questions-

- Why did Gabriel register as "undeclared"?
- How did he make use of a chart?
- What type of things related to the election irritated Gabriel?

Picking the Best (pages 24-27)

- Think-Pair-Share: Ask the students to work with a partner. They are to read and discuss this article and its pictures. When they have completed this task hold a class discussion using the following questions. Or, provide the questions to the students before they read the article to focus the discussion between partners.
 1. Why is representative democracy important?
 2. How would you prepare yourself wisely to vote?
 3. Why do you think that it took so many years before everyone in the USA was given the right to vote?

Understand Your Rights (page 28)

- There are 6 rights listed in this article. Divide the class into 6 groups and assign 1 right to each group. Ask the students to discuss the implications of that right and be prepared to make an oral presentation to the rest of the class. Be sure to have them include both positive and negative issues.
- Creative Work: Ask the students to make posters informing people of these 6 rights.

Fishing for Votes (pages 30-31)

During or after the reading use these prompts to focus on the content.

- Why do you think that only 60% of possible voters vote in the US?
- What is Kids Voting USA?

- Why is Kids Voting USA so important?

A Senator's Daughter Goes to Washington (pages 32-34)

- Use the Read Aloud method to read this article. Pause to discuss Amy's feelings and the changes that took place in her life
- Create a chart. Make a list of the positive and negative aspects that the students think might be involved in being the child of a political leader.

See You on Capitol Hill (pages 36-37)

- What is the U.S. Model Congress?
- Who can become a member?
- Describe the activities of the representatives while they are in Washington.

The Conclave (pages 38-39)

Ideas for discussion-

- What is the role of the Vatican for the rest of the world?
- Why was it necessary to develop a conclave?
- What happens immediately after a pope dies?
- Describe how a new pope is elected.

Women Will Vote (pages 42-45)

- Read this play with the students. Discuss the concepts before letting them act out this play.

Culminating Activity

- Choose a topic and hold an election in the class. A topic could be an election for a position such as a class president or an issue that is important to the students e.g. receiving an allowance, changing a school rule.