

Name: _____

Date: _____

ELECTORAL VOTES - HOW WE ELECT THE PRESIDENT

Read the Information. Then use the information on page 2 to answer the questions.

United States Presidents are *not* chosen by popular vote. (The term “popular vote” refers to the total number of votes cast in an election.) Instead, they are chosen by electoral vote. Usually, the candidate who wins the popular vote also wins the electoral vote, but not always.

Each state gets a certain number of electoral votes, based on the number of U.S. senators and representatives in the state. (Remember, each state has two senators and at least one representative. The number of representatives is based on population.)

A presidential candidate must receive a majority of the 538 electoral votes —270 or more— in order to win the election. Use the map to help you answer the questions. (Hint: You might need a calculator.)

1.	How many electoral votes does your state have?																							
2.	Which State has the most electoral votes?																							
3.	Which 8 states (and district) have just 3 electoral votes?	<table border="1"> <tr><td>1.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	1.		2.		3.		4.		5.		6.		7.		8.							
1.																								
2.																								
3.																								
4.																								
5.																								
6.																								
7.																								
8.																								
4.	If you only won 11 states, which states would you choose?	<table border="1"> <tr><td>1.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	1.		2.		3.		4.		5.		6.		7.		8.		9.		10.		11.	
1.																								
2.																								
3.																								
4.																								
5.																								
6.																								
7.																								
8.																								
9.																								
10.																								
11.																								
5.	How is the number of electoral votes decided for each state?																							

The Electoral College

Name: _____

Entry # _____

Terms to know:

- Popular vote = the vote of the people
- Electors = people chosen to vote in Electoral College system
 - Each state gets a number of electors equal to the number of Representatives and Senators from that state.
 - Virginia has 13 (11 Representatives + 2 Senators)
- Electoral vote = the votes that the electors cast at the Electoral College

The Election Process:

1. Election Day:

- **Citizens vote for the candidate of their choice,** but they are actually choosing electors for their state.
- The candidate that receives the most popular votes in a state gets all (winner-take-all) of that state's electors to vote for him.

2. **Electors meet** to cast their votes for President and Vice President at the Electoral College.

3. Congress counts the electoral votes.

A majority (270 or more) is required to win.

4. **If no candidate receives a majority**, the House of Representatives decides who will become President.

5. **The new President is inaugurated** (takes over the job).

States, Abbreviations, and Electoral Votes	
Alabama	AL 9
Alaska	AK 3
Arizona	AZ 11
Arkansas	AR 6
California	CA 55
Colorado	CO 9
Connecticut	CT 7
Delaware	DE 3
Florida	FL 29
Georgia	GA 16
Hawaii	HI 4
Idaho	ID 4
Illinois	IL 20
Indiana	IN 11
Iowa	IA 6
Kansas	KS 6
Kentucky	KY 8
Louisiana	LA 8
Maine	ME 4
Maryland	MD 10
Massachusetts	MA 11
Michigan	MI 16
Minnesota	MN 10
Mississippi	MS 6
Missouri	MO 10
Montana	MT 3
Nebraska	NE 5
Nevada	NV 6
New Hampshire	NH 4
New Jersey	NJ 14
New Mexico	NM 5
New York	NY 29
North Carolina	NC 15
North Dakota	ND 3
Ohio	OH 18
Oklahoma	OK 7
Oregon	OR 7
Pennsylvania	PA 20
Rhode Island	RI 4
South Carolina	SC 9
South Dakota	SD 3
Tennessee	TN 11
Texas	TX 38
Utah	UT 6
Vermont	VT 3
Virginia	VA 13
Washington	WA 12
West Virginia	WV 5
Wisconsin	WI 10
Wyoming	WY 3
Washington, D.C.*	3
Total electors	538

435	House of Representatives
100	Senate
+ 3	Washington, D.C.
538	Total Electors