



Name: _____

The Presidential Election: Choosing Our Leader

Every four years in the United States, something very important happens, we hold a presidential election. This election is a bit like a big, national job interview, but instead of hiring someone for a regular job, we are choosing the leader of our country. Let's learn more about how it all works.

In a presidential election, different people want to become the President of the United States. These people are called candidates. They usually belong to one of the two major political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. Each candidate tells the voters what they plan to do if they become the President.

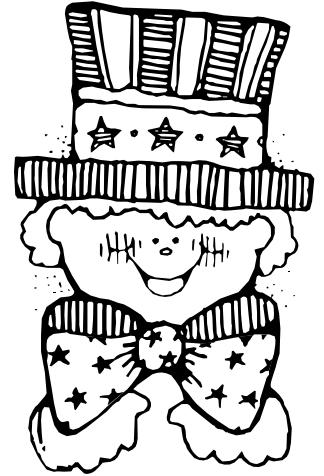
Before the election, candidates travel around the country giving speeches and talking to people. They also take part in debates, where they discuss their ideas and plans. The goal is to convince voters that they are the best person for the job.

Election Day is when all registered voters, who are citizens old enough to vote, go to their local polling places to cast their votes. In some states, people can also vote early, or they can mail in their votes. Every vote is like a voice, and together, they decide who the next President will be.

In the United States, we use something called the Electoral College to elect the President. It's a bit like a points system. Each state has a certain number of points, and the candidate who gets the most points becomes the President. To win, a candidate needs to get more than half of all the points, or at least 270 out of 538.

After the election, the President-elect has to wait a bit before becoming the President. This period is called the transition. On January 20th, the new President is officially sworn in during a big event called the Presidential Inauguration. It's like a big party and a special ceremony where the new President takes an oath to do their best for the country.

The President is an important leader, but they don't have all the power. In the United States, there are checks and balances. This means that different parts of the government, like Congress and the Supreme Court, have their say and help make sure everything is fair and just.





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The presidential election is crucial because the President helps make important decisions about the country's laws, economy, and foreign relations. They are like the captain of a big ship, and they work to steer the country in the right direction.

So, the next time you hear about a presidential election, remember that it's all about choosing our leader, who will help make our country a better place to live for everyone. And one day, when you are old enough, you'll have the chance to vote and be a part of this important process too.

1. What is the text structure of this passage? (circle all that apply)

description

cause and effect

compare and contrast

problem and solution

sequence

2. Number the paragraphs in the passage.

3. What are the two main political parties in the U.S? _____

4. How many points does a candidate need to be elected as President of the United States? _____

5. When does the new President of the United States take over? _____

6. In which paragraph would the following sentence fit the best? **paragraph** _____

Other political parties that can promote candidates include the Reform, Libertarian, Socialist, Constitution, Natural Law, and Green Parties.

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YOTE!

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