



# What is the Electoral College?

By: Dr. Shemmicca Moore

Director of Secondary Instruction; Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, Gardner-Webb University, NC

Social Studies  
Grades 3–5



## Introduction

This lesson allows the students to become familiar with the Electoral College and its importance to the election of the United States of America. The students should understand how voting impacts the Electoral College which determines who will be the next president of the United States of America.

## Learning Objectives

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3](#). Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.10](#). By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

## Materials Needed

- [What is the Electoral College for Kids?](#)
- [Does Your Vote Count? The Electoral College Explained](#)

## Procedure

### Activity Day 1-3

1. Ask the students how the president of the United States of America is selected. Chart the responses as the students are responding.
2. Introduce the Electoral College by providing the students with a working definition.
3. Play the videos and have the students take notes as they are viewing.
4. Go back to your chart and have the students reconsider their responses (Their responses should now include the electoral college and should guide the discussion).

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- The students should create a virtual presentation that defines the Electoral College as well as describe how it works. Each presentation should include how many electors the students' state has, as well as if their state is considered a swing state or stable. In addition, assign the students three additional states (different states for each student) to research. Have them define the states as swing or stable as well as tell the number of electors that those states have. Allow the students to use virtual presentations such as Prezi, PowerPoint, Videos, and etc. for their project.
- Have the students present their project to the class.

## Evaluation

Item	Explanation	Point Value
Clear definition of the Electoral College and how electors are assigned to each state	The students should have a definition of Electoral College as well as address how electors are assigned.	25 points
Identified how many electors their state has assigned as well as state if the state is swing or stable	The students are to research and find out how many electors their state is assigned and if their state is swing or stable.	25 points
Researched 3 states and identified how many electors for each as well as if they are swing or stable	The students should research 3 states (assigned by teacher) and tell how many electors they are assigned and if they are stable or swing.	30 points (10 per state)
Grammar	The presentation should be free of grammatical errors.	10 points
Overall Presentation	The presentation should be neat and easy to follow.	10 points