

3rd Grade Social Studies
2-Day Election Lesson Plan

Topic: Voting Process

Objectives:

- 1) Students will discuss the need for voting registration given a demonstration of registration's importance.
- 2) Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the voting process (registration, picking a candidate) given a voting simulation.

Background Information:

The students will have concluded their third grade civics unit in Social Studies the Friday before Day 1 of the lesson. The focus of social studies for the week of these two lessons will be on voting and the election. Activities and games in the lesson were adopted from plans supplied by Kids' Voting USA

Day 1 – October 27th

- Introduction to voting – “Would you rather?” interactive game 2:50-3:00
 - 1) Students will choose their preference on an issue by picking a wall.
 - 2) Teacher says: “Would you rather....
 - A. swim (*point to one wall*) or play in the snow (*point to other wall*)?
 - B. take a bath or a shower?
 - C. eat dirt or bugs?
 - D. watch TV or play outside?
 - 3) For each question, students will pick which wall based on their decision.
 - 4) Follow up questions:
 - A. Did you like showing what you would rather do by choosing a wall?
 - B. What were you doing when choosing a wall? (*Voting for what you liked best*)
 - 5) Explain that on Tuesday, Nov. 4, parents and other adults will vote. In order to vote, they must sign-up or register.

- Name game 3:00-3:20
 - 1) Each student will write down a “secret name” that no one knows but him/herself.
 - 2) In seat order, each student will say their secret name while everyone LISTENS closely.
 - 3) Students will then draw one of two slips of paper and say either their secret name or a different made-up name. (This is determined by drawing “same” or “different”.)
 - 4) Ask students to remember whether it was the same name as the student said earlier or a different name. Check appropriate column on Name Sheet (done with elmo or overhead). (See handout.)
 - 5) See how students did remembering the names.
 - 6) Repeat step 2 but write down the name instead of just listening.
 - 7) Repeat steps 3, 4, 5.
Follow up questions: Why it is important that people register to vote?

- Make student registration cards (to be used in vote simulation next day). 3:20-3:40
 - 1) Pass out registration cards (see handout)
 - 2) Have students fill out the cards and decorate.

Day 2 – October 29th

- Discuss candidates – you vote for a candidate to represent you. 2:50-3:10
Candidate: a person who is chosen as a representative
Representative:
 - 1) Who are the candidates running for President?
 - 2) Talk about how candidates can be national (President) local – community, school.
- Voter simulation 3:10-3:40
 - 1) Have two teddy bears that are the two candidates. One represents having Halloween pencils at the party; the other represents Halloween stickers at the party.
 - 2) Students are called by table to come up to the voting booth and cast their vote. In order to vote, they must present their registration card (Day 1).
 - 3) Follow up: Discuss at end how the vote worked. Count ballots and write tallies on board. Will Halloween pencils or stickers be at the Halloween party? How do we know? Talk about John McCain and Barack Obama and how they represent different points of views on issues. Why is it important to have a *secret ballot*?

Example Script:

Today we are going to have a classroom vote. Who can raise their hand to remind the class what voting means? What are we doing when we vote?

So today we will vote for one of two candidates: Pleasant Penny and Sticky Steve. What is another way to describe who a candidate is?

Candidate: a person who represents a certain belief or idea

Representative: a person who stands in for a cause

Now Sticky Steve represents wanting Halloween stickers at the Halloween party on Friday. Pleasant Penny represents having Halloween pencils at the party. We are going to vote to see which candidate is the most popular (has the most votes). If you vote for Pleasant Penny, you are saying you want pencils. If you vote for Sticky Steve, what do you want?

In order to vote, you must have your registration card. Can anyone tell me from Monday's lesson why it is important that voters show their registration card when voting?

When you vote, you will sign your registration card and either Mrs. Simon or I will sign your card as a witness, meaning we watched you vote.

So when your table is called, you will each come up to the voting booth and fill out a ballot to vote. What's a ballot?

Ballot: what is used to cast (give) a vote; it can be on paper or on a computer

After vote, count ballots out loud and use tally marks on the board under the campaign slogans. Discuss there is always a winner and loser, and if need be, discuss how to win and lose graciously.