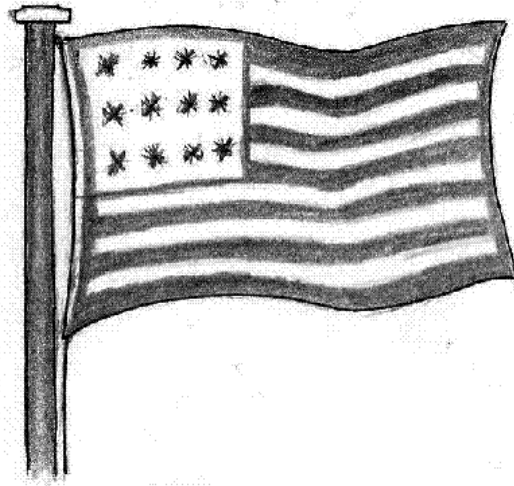


ELECTION

2004



SOME STRANGE, BUT TRUE THINGS ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS:

Two elections happen to elect a president, one in November and one in December.

When people vote, they don't really vote for their candidate.

The Electoral College elects the president.

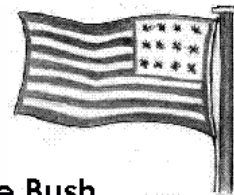
It only takes 270 votes to win the presidency.

A candidate can win the popular vote and lose the election.

IT IS ALL EXPLAINED ON THE NEXT PAGE ...



THE ELECTION 2004



It is a presidential election year this year. John Kerry is running against George Bush. Whoever wins will be President of the United States for four years.

HOW WE ELECT A PRESIDENT:

It actually takes two elections to elect a president. First the people in each state vote. The people aren't really voting for their candidate, they are voting for a group of people called "electorates" who will represent their state in the "Electoral College". (The Electoral College is a group of people, not a real college). The people's vote is called the "popular vote". The people vote on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. (This year that falls on November 2).

After the Electoral College has been selected, then the Electoral College votes. **The Electoral College elects the President.** The Electoral College votes on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December (December 13 this year). In 2000 Al Gore won the popular election, but lost the Electoral College election, so he did not become President. This can happen because the electorates from each state are elected in a **winner take all** system.

Electoral College winner take all system: The Electoral College is made up of a group of electorates from every state. Each state has a particular number of electorates depending on how many people live in that state. (It is the same number as the number of US Senators and Representatives that state has). Look at the map on the next page. It shows how many electorates are assigned to each state.

People think that when they vote they are voting for their chosen candidate, actually they are really voting for which group of electorates will represent their state. For example: if the majority of people from Pennsylvania vote for Kerry, that really means that they have voted for the group of electorates from Pennsylvania that will vote for Kerry in the Electoral College. **The winner of the popular vote takes ALL of the electoral votes,** (but not in Maine and Nebraska). Even if Kerry wins by a small amount in Pennsylvania, **ALL** 21 of Pennsylvania's electorates will vote for Kerry in the Electoral College election. There are 538 total electorates from all the states, so whichever candidate gets the majority, or 270 electoral votes, wins. The electorates will vote in December, but since the electorates are committed to vote for the candidate that won the popular vote in their state, we know right after the popular election how the Electoral College will vote.

SO, STRANGE BUT TRUE:

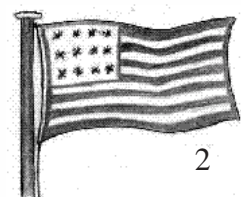
Two elections happen to elect a president, one in November and one in December.
(the popular vote, the Electoral College vote)

People don't really vote for their candidate.
(they vote for electorates to the Electoral College)

The Electoral College elects the president.
(the people elect the Electoral College)

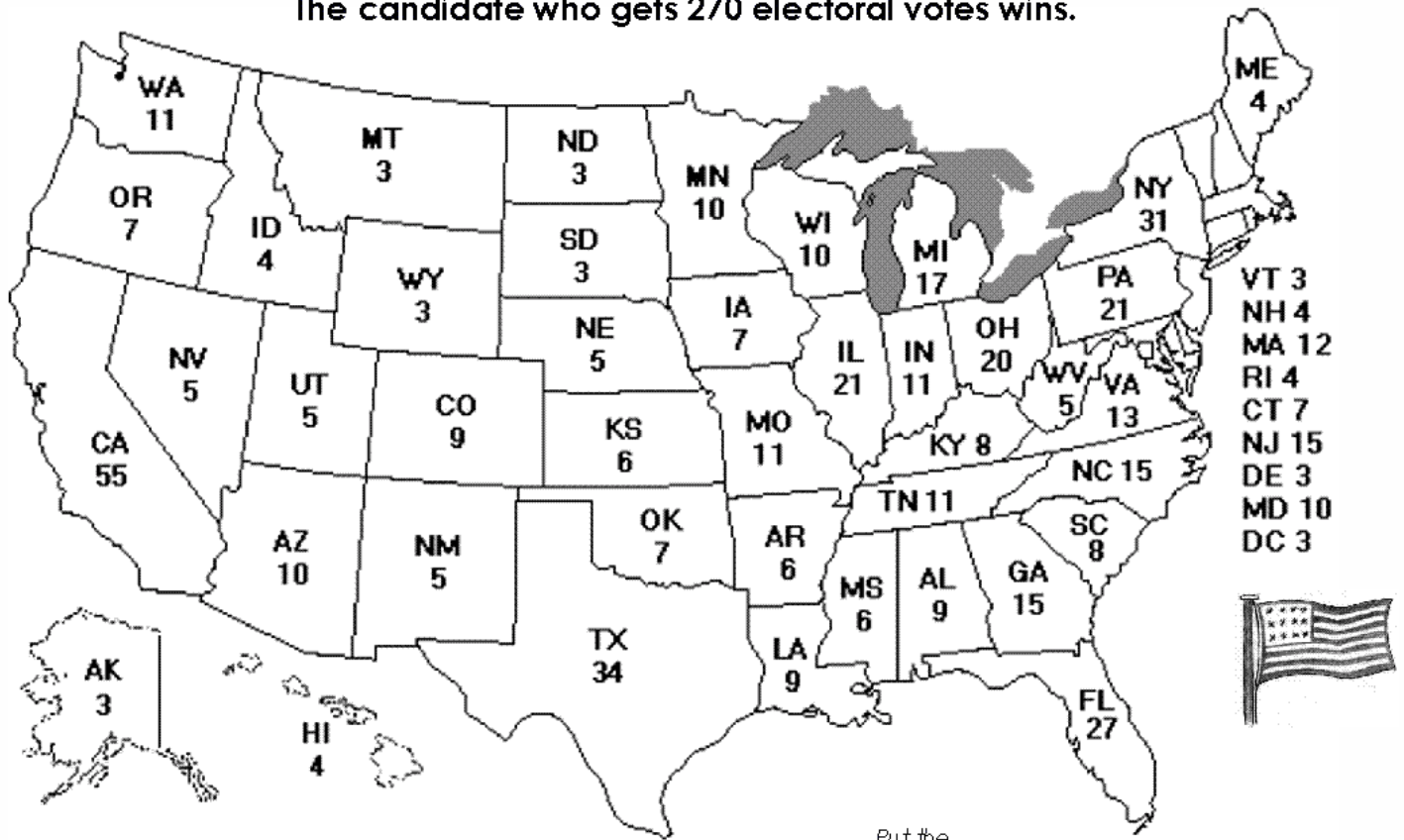
It only takes 270 votes to win the presidency.
(Electoral College votes)

A candidate can win the popular vote and lose the election.
(It happened in 1824, 1876, 1888 and 2000)



ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP

This map shows the number of Electoral College votes for each state.
The candidate who gets 270 electoral votes wins.



KEEP SCORE ON ELECTION DAY:

Watch the election results on November 2. The results will start coming in after 8:00 at night. Keep track of which candidate wins which state as the results are announced. Color states that John Kerry wins BLUE, color states that George Bush wins RED.

You can keep track of the Electoral College votes. When a candidate wins a state he wins ALL the electorates for that state. For example, if Kerry wins Pennsylvania, give him **all** 21 electoral votes. Add all the votes up. The candidate who gets 270 electoral votes wins.

SCORE CARD

	Kerry	Bush
Alabama AL		
Alaska AK		
Arizona AZ		
Arkansas AR		
California CA		
Colorado CO		
Connecticut CT		
Delaware DE		
District of Columbia DC		
Florida FL		
Georgia GA		
Hawaii HI		
Idaho ID		
Illinois IL		
Indiana IN		
Iowa IA		
Kansas KS		
Kentucky KY		
Louisiana LA		
Maine ME		
Maryland MD		
Massachusetts MA		
Michigan MI		
Minnesota MN		
Mississippi MS		

Put the number of electoral votes won here:
↓

SCORE CARD

	Kerry	Bush
Missouri MO		
Montana MT		
Nebraska NE		
Nevada NV		
New Hampshire NH		
New Jersey NJ		
New Mexico NM		
New York NY		
North Carolina NC		
North Dakota ND		
Ohio OH		
Oklahoma OK		
Oregon OR		
Pennsylvania PA		
Rhode Island RI		
South Carolina SC		
South Dakota SD		
Tennessee TN		
Texas TX		
Utah UT		
Vermont VT		
Virginia VA		
Washington WA		
West Virginia WV		
Wisconsin WI		
Wyoming WY		