



The 2016 Presidential Election is Coming!

by

Gail Skroback Hennessey

Do you know who is running? Do you know who can vote? Do you know what the Electoral College is? Learn about the Presidential Election and the process with this webquest.

1. Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Democratic nominee for President and the first woman to ever be the **nominee** of a major party. In which state was she born?_____After being the First Lady (her husband Bill Clinton was president), what did Hillary Clinton get elected to do(the first First Lady to ever do this)?_____ She ran for president in 2004 and lost the nomination to Barack Obama. What did he select her to do for four years in his administration?_____Find the answers at this link: <http://www.timeforkids.com/news/meet-hillary-clinton/415951>
2. Donald Trump is the Republican nominee for President. In which state was he born?_____In which business is Donald Trump? _____ In which television series did he star for five years?_____ Find the answers at this link: <http://www.timeforkids.com/news/meet-donald-j-trump/415956>

3. What is the symbol of the Democratic party?_____ What is the symbol of the Republican party?_____ Which famous cartoonist drew both symbols?_____ Find the answers at this link: <http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0881985.html>

4. What are the THREE requirements to VOTE in the United States? _____ Find the answer at this link: http://www.gallopade.com/client/electionsForKids/can_you_vote.html

5. To be eligible to run for President of the United States, how old must you be?_____ Another requirement is that you are a "natural born" U.S. citizen. You can be born in another country but only if this **requirement** is met. _____ How many years must you have lived in the United States to be eligible to run for President? _____ Find the answers at this link: http://americanhistory.about.com/od/uspresidents/f/presidential_requirements.htm

6. Once the election is over, on which date is the new president sworn into office?_____ Why was the date moved from March 4th? _____ Who swears the president into office on this day? _____ Where is the **inauguration** ceremony held? _____ Find the answers at this link: http://www.congressforkids.net/Elections_inauguration.htm

7. A president has a "**term limit**". That means, a person can be elected for just _____ terms. Before this, there were no limits. Which president was elected FOUR times? _____ Find the answers at this link: <http://www.infoplease.com/askeds/presidential-term-limits.html>

8. Who was the first president to actually live in the White House?
_____ How many rooms are in the White House? _____ How
many bathrooms are in the White House? _____ Before being
called the White House, what are 3 other names which were used for
the house of the president? _____
_____ Which president is credited with calling the house, the
"White House"? _____ Find the answers at this link: [http://
www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0877632.html](http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0877632.html)

9. Hillary's running mate is Tim Kaine. Donald Trump's running mate is
Mike Pence. The Vice President's role is very important. They are next in
line to become president should something happen to the president.
There have been several Vice Presidents who have become president.
How many Vice Presidents became president of the United States with
the death of the President? _____ Which Vice President became
president with the **resignation**(left office before term was over) of the
president? _____ Who is the only Vice President who was forced
to resign? _____ Which Vice Presidents were elected to a full term
as president? _____ Find the answers at this
link: [http://www.classroomhelp.com/lessons/Presidents/
vicepresidents.html](http://www.classroomhelp.com/lessons/Presidents/vicepresidents.html)

10. The **Presidential Succession Act** states the order of whom assumes
the office as president of the United States, should the President be
unable to complete his/her term in office. After the Vice President, who
is next in the Succession Act? _____ Before 1967, what was the
law about filling the vacancy of the Vice President if he/she was needed
to become president? _____ When it comes to the cabinet
members, how did the Succession Act determine which cabinet members'
ranking to become president? _____ Find the answers at this
link: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0101032.html>

11. In the early days of our **democracy**, some people wanted the citizens
to elect the president. Others wanted the vote to be by which group of

people?_____ A **compromise** was made. The **Electoral College** was created as the way to elect the president of the United States. How are the number of electoral votes determined for each state?_____ In most states, the candidate with the most votes wins all the electoral votes for that state. Which states use a different method of determining the electoral votes given the candidate?_____ Are **territories** like Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., given any electoral votes?_____ Is it possible for the person with the most popular votes to LOSE the election because the other candidate has more electoral votes?

_____ Find the answers at this link: <https://www.usa.gov/election#item-36072>

12. Did you know that on election day, people don't actually vote for one of the candidates? You'll be hearing a lot about electoral votes! Depending on population, each state has a number of electoral votes. In each state, the candidate with the most votes receives that state's electoral votes. In order to win the Presidential election, the candidate with 270 (of the 538 total possible electoral votes) wins. Which state has the most electoral votes?_____ Which states have the least amount of votes(2)? _____ and _____ How many electoral votes does the home state of Donald Trump have?_____ How many electoral votes does the home state of Hillary Clinton have?

_____ How many electoral votes does the **District of Columbia** have?_____ Which states would most easily help a candidate reach the 270 number needed to win the election?

_____ Find the answers at this link: <http://www.electoral-vote.com/>

Did You Know?

The President of the United States receives a salary of \$400,000 plus \$50,000 for expenses.

Both John Kennedy and Herbert Hoover did not accept their salaries! Herbert Hoover earned \$75,000 and John F. Kennedy's salary was \$100,000 per year as president.

In addition to the Republican and Democratic candidates, there are two other parties listed. Gary Johnson is the **Libertarian** candidate and Jill Stein is the **Green Party's** candidate for president.

James Garfield, Harry Truman, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama were left-handed presidents. Some books say Herbert Hoover was also but his Presidential Library says he was not.

Martin Van Buren was the first president born a U.S. citizen. The expression OK is said to have come from Van Buren, who was called "Old Kinderhook" and signed papers with "OK".

President Herbert Hoover decided to make the Star-Spangled Banner our national anthem.

John F. Kennedy was the first President to have been a Boy Scout.

In 2000, Al Gore (Democrat) had more **popular** votes (people voting for him) but lost the election to George W. Bush, who had more electoral votes.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What are two requirements to become President of the United States?
2. What skill(s) do people think Donald Trump has to be president? What skill(s) do people think Hillary Clinton has to be president?
3. After the election in November, the current president, who will leave office on Inauguration Day, is often called a "lame duck" president. What do you think this means and why?
4. Why do you think the 22nd Amendment was passed limiting the term of a president?
5. Which act was established to make sure we always have a president between elections? After the Vice President, who is next in line to be president? Who is the last in the line? How was it decided which cabinet member ranked in this order?

6. People disagreed with who should VOTE for president. What were the two ways people thought should be used to elect a president? What was the compromise? What is the number needed to be elected president? Can someone have MORE votes and still LOSE the Presidential Election?

Teacher Page:

Before doing the webquest, have students share prior knowledge they may have on the election process. Ask the students what they might know about the presidential candidates. Have students do the webquest in small groups. Next, have the students create 5 comprehension questions to exchange with another group to answer. Regroup as a class and discuss the webquest. Encourage having students make text-to-self connections. Would they want to run for president? What type of character traits must a president have? The election of 2016 is historic in that it is the very first time a woman is a candidate for one of the two major parties. Do you think more women will vote for the woman candidate? Why, why not? Review some of the highlighted vocabulary.

1. Learn about the Electoral College. Find the answers at this link:

http://www.congressforkids.net/Elections_electoralcollege.htm

2. Make a list of the 5 issues (ie: climate change, immigration, free college tuition, etc.) and ask the students to write down their positions. Have the students write a reason for their position on each of the issues. Ask the students to then state which candidate they support for President. Review the issues stating the position of the candidates. Have students compare their positions and the candidate they support with whether or not they share the same positions.

<http://2016election.procon.org/view.source-summary-chart.php>

3. Have students learn the nicknames of some of the presidents. Find the Secret Service Code name for different presidents, too. Ask the students if they have a nickname (to make connections). How did they obtain their nickname? Do they like being addressed by their name or nickname? Etc.

<http://www.classroomhelp.com/lessons/Presidents/nicknames.html>

4. Write a diary pretending to be one of the candidates running for president. Tell about a day in your life. Include 3 facts learned about the election process/ candidates in your diary entry.

5. Write a paragraph explaining the 3 issues that would be most important to you as President. Include why these issues are important to you.

6. Have students learn about some of pets of our presidents. John Q. Adams actually had an alligator! Have students draw/color a picture of one of the presidents with their pet. <http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0768598.html> Write a paragraph pretending to be the president and tell about something you and your pet did together.

Key:

1. NY/real estate/The Apprentice
2. Illinois/Senator from NY/Sec. of State
- 3 . donkey/elephant/Nast
4. 18/citizen/sound mind/ no felonies/live in the state you wish to vote
5. 35/both parents are U.S. Citizens/14
6. January 20/too long between election and new president being sworn into office?Supreme Court Chief Justice/outside the Capitol Building
7. 2/Franklin D. Roosevelt
8. John Adams/132 rooms/ 35 bathrooms.President's house, Executive Mansion, President's Palace/Theodore Roosevelt
19. 8/Gerald Ford/Spiro Agnew/Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson
10. Speaker of the House/ not filled/date cabinet office was created.
11. Congress/2 and by House of Representative members per state/ Maine and Nebraska/no/yes
12. CA/DE, VT/ New York 29, Illinois 20/ 3/Answers may vary but the least needed to get to 270 include CA,NY,TX,FL, IL, PA, OH, MI, NJ, GA, NC,VA and one other.

Key to Comprehension Question:

1. What are two requirements to become President of the United States?
2. He is a business man/Senator and was Secretary of State as well as First Lady of the United States.
3. Someone in the last few months of their term / difficult to get things done.

4. Fear of a person as president becoming too powerful.
5. Succession Act/Speaker of the House/Homeland Security/Last cabinet office established to date.
6. people voted for the President, Congress voted for president/Electoral College/ 270 /Yes

Check out these other resources on this topic:

1. **White House Webquest:** <https://www.tes.com/us/teacher-lessons/the-white-house-learn-about-the-white-house-a-webquest-11149828>
2. **Presidential Trivia Webquest:** <https://www.tes.com/us/teacher-lessons/presidents-a-webquest-11148786>
3. **First Ladies' Webquest:** <https://www.tes.com/us/teacher-lessons/first-ladies-webquest-11148787>
4. **Hillary Clinton Reader's Theater Script:** <https://www.tes.com/us/teacher-lessons/hillary-clinton-a-reader-s-theater-script-11149869>
5. **Michelle Obama Reader's Theater Script:** <https://www.tes.com/us/teacher-lessons/michelle-obama-a-reader-s-theater-script-11149919>
6. **Abraham Lincoln Reader's Theater Script:** <https://www.tes.com/us/teacher-lessons/abraham-lincoln-a-reader-s-theater-script-11148763>
7. **Presidential Challenges:**(quizzes-What do you know about the presidents): <https://www.tes.com/us/teacher-lessons/abraham-lincoln-a-reader-s-theater-script-11148763>

Gail Hennessey

*Illustrations from wpclipart.com Additional resources:

<http://www.timeforkids.com/minisite/election-2016>

<http://election.scholastic.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFJ2e82Nvnw> Fun video(about 3 minutes) on the Electoral College (Schoolhouse Rock)

*Illustrations from wpclipart.com

