

How We Vote

In this lesson, students will discover the various ways that American voters cast their ballots in elections.

Grades: K-5	Subject: Social Studies
Essential Question(s)	What are the roles and responsibilities of U.S. citizens?
Focus Standard(s)	D2.Civ.1.K-2 Describe roles and responsibilities of people in authority and how they are chosen, such as through elections. D2.Civ.2.K-2 Explain how people make decisions and influence government by voting. D2.Civ.7.K-2 Identify and explain the purpose of voting in civic life, such as how it helps people express their preferences for leaders and policies. D2.Civ.2.3-5 Explain how a democracy relies on people's responsible participation, and draw implications for how individuals should participate. D2.Civ.7.3-5 Apply civic virtues and democratic principles in school settings.
Learning Objective(s)	Students will be able to learn the basics of voting, how Americans choose leaders, and the different ways people can vote.
Materials/Resources	How We Vote Ballots (one for each student) Stickers Voting Box (one or two)
Vocabulary	Disabilities: conditions that limit one's abilities; candidate: person running for a job; neutral: not taking a side; ballot: voting paper; polling station: place where people vote in an election; campaigning: trying to get support
Anticipatory Set	Think-Pair-Share: Ask students to think about the following questions, "Why do people vote? Why do some people choose not to vote?" Allow time for students to discuss their thoughts with a partner.
Guided Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read the first sentence of the article, How We Vote, and ask students, "Who are the leaders of our school, community, and country?" [Sample response: principal, mayor, governor, president, etc.]• Continue reading the article aloud, pausing to clarify any vocabulary words or misconceptions.• After reading the article, have students view the Slide Show to further enhance their comprehension of the article.
Group Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell students that they will be participating in a mock election to vote for a new line leader.2. Explain to the class that three students are in the running to be the next line leader. (Share with the class the three candidates.)3. Ask for four volunteers. These volunteers will be helping out at the polling stations.4. Designate two areas in your classroom as polling stations and assign two volunteers per station. Each station should have ballots and stickers (I Voted!). The volunteers will be responsible for checking student's IDs

	<p>and handing out ballots. They will also instruct students to choose one student to be the next line leader and then place their ballot in the box. The volunteers will then give the student who voted a sticker.</p> <p>5. Have students proceed to the polling stations to vote for their new line leader.</p>
Closure/Assessment	<p>After students have voted, ask them to return to their seat and reflect on the following question in their notebooks or on a sticky note. "Why is it important for people to vote?" [Sample response: Voting helps everyone's voice be heard; it's a fair way to make choices for the whole community]</p>
Differentiation	<p>Adjust lexile levels as needed; use accessibility tools and Read-to-Me feature as needed; print copies of article</p>

Example of a ballot:

Ballot	
1. Jane Doe	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. John Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Alex Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ballot	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>