What is the Electoral College?

__ Lesson plan duration: 90 minutes

__ Grade level applicable: 6th grade

__ Learning objectives

- Students will KNOW what the electoral college is.
- Students will UNDERSTAND how the results affect the election process.
- Students will BE ABLE TO complete a simulation and fill out a worksheet answering reflection questions.

__ Essential Questions

- What would be the lowest number of states that a candidate would need to win in order to become President?
- How might each state's number of electoral votes impact how presidential candidates campaign before the election?
- Do you think this current electoral process, using the Electoral College, should be the system we use to determine who wins an election? Explain why or why not.

__ Colorado State Standards

6th grade Social Studies, Standard 4: Civics - 8. Analyze the origins, structures, and functions of governments to evaluate the impact on citizens and the global society.

__ Lesson Content/ procedures:

This Electoral College activity simulates a mock presidential election. For this activity, you will work in pairs, with one die, an Electoral College map of the U.S., and a tally sheet. Once the activity begins, you will need to keep a record after every die roll. (use digital dice roll provided by Google)

First show these two video which introduce the electoral college:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9H3gvnN468
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajavsMbCapY

Students will also use CNN's Interactive electoral college map:
https://www.cnn.com/election/2020/electoral-college-interactive-maps#build-your-own

How to Play:

1. The object of the simulation is to collect as many electoral votes as possible.
2. Write both participant

s' names on the two spaces provided on the tally sheet.
3. Roll the die to see who goes first – highest roll goes first.
4. That person then selects a state. Both players write the full name of the state on the tally sheet.
5. Both players take turns rolling the die. Your roll should be recorded on the tally sheet.
6. The player who rolled the highest number gets all the Electoral College votes from that state. Record that number on the tally sheet. The losing player will record 0 for this state.
7. Whoever won the previous roll gets to choose the next state, and both players write this down on the tally sheet. Repeat steps 5 and 6 for all 50 states and D.C.
8. In the event of a tie during the die roll, re-roll until the tie is broken.
9. Once all 538 of the Electoral College votes have been decided, add up all four columns on the tally sheet. These totals should be recorded at the bottom.
10. The person with 270 electoral votes or more wins the election.

Allow students an hour to play, 20 minutes to answer reflection questions, and 10 minutes to discuss whole group what they learned.

__ Lesson materials (attached to lesson plan)

- Simulation tally sheet.
- Reflection Questions

Electoral College Simulation Directions

This Electoral College activity simulates a mock presidential election. For this activity, you will work in pairs, with one die, an Electoral College map of the U.S., and a tally sheet. Once the activity begins, you will need to keep a record after every die roll.

How to Play:

1. The object of the simulation is to collect as many electoral votes as possible.

2. Write both participants' names on the two spaces provided on the tally sheet.

3. Roll the die to see who goes first – highest roll goes first.

4. That person then selects a state. Both players write the full name of the state on the tally sheet.

5. Both players take turns rolling the die. Your roll should be recorded on the tally sheet.

6. The player who rolled the highest number gets all the Electoral College votes from that state. Record that number on the tally sheet. The losing player will record 0 for this state.

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10. The person with 270 electoral votes or more wins the election.

Electoral College Simulation Tally Sheet

Name: _____ Name: _____

State	PERSON 1		PERSON 2	
	Electoral Votes	Die Number Rolled	Electoral Votes	Die Number Rolled
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				

19.				
20.				
21.				
22.				
23.				
24.				
25.				

State	PERSON 1		PERSON 2	
	Electoral Votes	Die Number Rolled	Electoral Votes	Die Number Rolled
26.				
27.				
28.				
29.				
30.				
31.				
32.				
33.				
34.				
35.				
36.				

37.				
38.				
39.				
40.				
41.				
42.				
43.				
44.				
45.				
46.				
47.				
48.				
49.				
50.				
Washington D.C.				
GRAND TOTAL				

Electoral College Simulation Reflection Questions

1. What were the first five states selected by you and your partner at the beginning of the activity?

2. Why did you or your partner select these states first?

3. How might each state's number of electoral votes impact how presidential candidates campaign before the election?

4. Was the popular vote (die roll total) as close as the electoral vote?

5. Was the winner of the popular vote also the winner of the electoral vote?

6. What would be the lowest number of states that a candidate would need to win in order to become President?

7. Do you think this current electoral process, using the Electoral College, should be the system we use to determine who wins an election? Explain why or why not.

Teacher Name: Brooke Dannar
School: University Middle School
Email: bdannar@universityschools.com