Election 2016

- KidsPost Reprint: “Campaign 2016: Understanding the Presidential Election”
- KidsPost Reprint: “After ‘super’ day of elections, Clinton and Trump move closer to nominations”
- Word Find: Race to the Voting Booth
- Crossword Puzzle: 2016 Electable Terms
- Answers: Race to the Voting Booth and 2016 Electable Terms
- Student Activity: Design Your Message
- Student Activity: Test Your Voter Knowledge
Even the youngest of our students are aware that primaries are being held. Individuals are seeking votes from citizens in every state and D.C. to be the preferred candidate for president.

The KidsPost article, “Campaign 2016: Understanding the Presidential Election,” is a good starting point to cover the basics. Current events can be added as students determine who has dropped out of the race and who continues in the running. The Word Find provides 2016 candidates and terms related to elections to locate. The crossword puzzle offers a more challenging approach to working with these terms and people.

Students are asked to work with words and art to write a slogan and design a campaign button. This activity can be placed in the context of historic campaigns — the slogans, buttons, songs and posters created to get attention and demonstrate support every four years.

A comprehensive look at the election process is provided in “Test Your Voter Knowledge.” Some of the answers are found in the KidsPost article and others require research.
You may already know that 2016 is a presidential election year. Under the Constitution, Barack Obama cannot seek a third term, so in November, voters will elect a new president, who will be sworn in next January.

The field of would-be presidents is big. The two major political parties, Republicans and Democrats, will choose their party’s nominee through a series of events called state primaries and caucuses. That process begins Monday in Iowa.

The two parties hold their national conventions in July. That’s when their choices for president and vice president (known as the party’s “ticket”) will be formally approved.

In addition to the Republican and Democratic candidates, there are several independent and third-party hopefuls in the race. It promises to be a mad dash to the finish line on Election Day.

Who can run for president?
The Constitution lists three requirements: You must be at least 35 years old, have been a U.S. resident for at least 14 years and be a “natural-born citizen” of the United States.

That last requirement is tricky. The Founding Fathers did not spell out what “natural-born” means. One of the 2016 Republican contenders is Ted Cruz, a U.S. senator from Texas. He was born in Canada to an American mother and a Cuban father. His mother’s American citizenship automatically made Cruz a U.S. citizen. But is he a “natural-born” citizen? A court might be asked to decide.

Political parties
People who share political views join together to win elections and
advance their goals. The two major U.S. parties are the Republicans (also known as the GOP, or “grand old party”) and the Democrats.

The Democrats trace their history to the 1790s and Thomas Jefferson. The Republican Party formed in the 1850s, before the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president, elected in 1860.

In all, 18 presidents have been Republicans and 16 have been Democrats. (Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, counts twice; he was the 22nd and 24th president.) The last one from a different party was Millard Fillmore in the early 1850s. He was a Whig.

**Where they stand**

At their nominating conventions in July, each party will approve a “platform” of its positions on many issues. Their candidates will usually support those positions, but they aren’t required to.

In general, Republicans favor a smaller federal government, with more power given to the states. They favor widespread tax cuts as a way to boost the economy. Democrats believe in a bigger federal government that makes rules for business and that spends more money on social services such as health care. They back some tax cuts but not for the wealthy or corporations.

**The issues**

Education, climate change, the environment and foreign policy are among the important issues the candidates face. Here are a few more:

- **Immigration:** Should people who entered this country illegally be allowed to stay?
- **Gun control:** Should there be stricter rules about guns and who can buy them?
- **Health care:** What role should the government play in providing this
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and other social services?
■ Terrorism and national security: How should the government protect America and its allies, or friendly foreign countries?
■ The economy: What should be done to boost the recovery from the 2008-2009 financial crisis?

Did you know . . .?

Donkeys and elephants

The Republican symbol is an elephant. The Democrats’ is a donkey. The donkey dates to the election of 1828, when opponents of Andrew Jackson labeled him a “jackass.” He thought it was funny and featured the image in campaign posters. In 1870, political cartoonist Thomas Nast used the donkey to refer to the Democratic Party. A few years later, Nast drew a cartoon that included an elephant with the words “the Republican vote” on its side. Soon after, the animals became widely associated with the two political parties.

Red versus blue

More recently, the colors red and blue have been used to distinguish one party from another. The practice began in 2000, when the TV networks colored their maps to indicate which party was winning where. States that voted for the Republican presidential candidate were shown in red; those that voted for the Democrat were blue.

Get out and vote

You must be at least 18 years old to vote in a presidential election. In 2012, fewer than 6 in 10 eligible voters cast ballots, a slight drop from 2008. Minnesota led all states, with more than 75 percent of eligible voters going to the polls. Hawaii was last, at 44 percent.

Family ties

Two of the 2016 candidates are hoping to keep the White House in the family. Democrat Hillary Clinton, a former secretary of state and U.S. senator, is married to former president Bill Clinton. And Republican Jeb Bush, a former governor of Florida, is the son and brother of two former U.S. presidents, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush.

On the other hand . . .

Three of the Republican candidates have never been elected to a state or national office. They are businessman Donald Trump, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former business executive Carly Fiorina.

What’s the tab?

Democracy doesn’t come cheap. Estimates of the cost of the 2016 election start at $3 billion. It will be spent on campaign ads, air travel, hotel stays, staff salaries and other expenses.

Let us hear from you

KidsPost will be checking in on the campaign between now and Election Day in November. Tell us what you would like to read about. More about the candidates? Is there an issue you want us to explore? Are you interested in presidential history? Presidential pets? Kids who lived in the White House?

Send your suggestions and questions to kidspost@washpost.com or KidsPost, The Washington Post, 1301 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20071.
KIDSPOST

After ‘super’ day of elections, Clinton and Trump move closer to nominations

Both front-runners won in Virginia on Tuesday, the busiest day of the primary season

The presidential election moved into a new phase this week, with Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump emerging as their parties’ likely candidates for the general election in November.

Both candidates scored big wins on Super Tuesday, so named because more states hold primary elections or caucuses on that day than at any other time in the primary season.

Clinton, a former secretary of state, won seven states, including Virginia. Her Democratic rival, Senator Bernie Sanders, won four.

On the Republican side, Trump, a businessman, won seven states, including Virginia. Senator Ted Cruz won three, and Senator Marco Rubio picked up his first victory of the race. The two other Republican candidates, Ohio Governor John Kasich and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, have yet to win a state contest.

Maryland holds its party primaries in April, and the Washington, D.C., Democratic primary in June is the last of the season. Both nomination races will be over well before then if the front-runners continue racking up wins.

— Harrison Smith
March 2, 2016

Harrison Smith is a news aide on The Washington Post’s obituaries and KidsPost desks, reporting cradle to grave.
Race to the Voting Booth

Find the 20 terms associated with running for office and governing and locate eight of the individuals who want to be their party’s nominee to be president of the United States. The words will be found reading right to left, left to right, up and down and on the diagonal.

Here is a list of the words and names you are to find.

Ad  Issue  Trust  Clinton
Announce  Law  Tweet  Cruz
Caucus  Media  Veto  Kasich
Candidate  Nominate  Vote  Martin
Debate  Primary  Word  Sanders
Elect  Poll  Whip  Trump
Image  Speech  Bush  Rubio

Did you find any additional words or abbreviations of other hopefuls? List them below.
2016 Electable Terms

ACROSS
1. Family name of two presidents and a Florida governor
4. First lady, senator and secretary of state
10. Put into action
12. An adverb indicating a simile
13. 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
14. Businessman making his first run for elected office
17. Pronoun referring to an object
18. American term for group of like-minded people gathered to select candidates or to decide on policy
20. Love of a Beatles’ life
22. Exercise one of your rights
23. ___ and behold!
25. The antonym of yes
26. Related to citizens; polite
29. Every U.S. president has been a ____, not a she
31. Not a slacker
32. Work that you do to earn money
33. ___ Hominem attacks should be avoided.
35. Deeply distressing or disturbing experience
36. Senator from Vermont, longest serving independent in Congress
37. Northwest University, briefly
38. Iranian rial, abbreviated
39. _____ Sweet _____
40. Collection or preparedness
41. The first state caucus is held here.
42. Preposition indicating where
43. Questions about this person’s eligibility to run for president were based on one of the requirements to be president.
44. Party of William Henry Harrison and Zachary Taylor
45. Wife of the 42nd president, initially
46. Information technology, abbreviation
47. John Adams, initially

DOWN
1. Most candidates travel from campaign stop to campaign stop by ____.
2. United States, briefly
3. Only three men — Warren G. Harding, John F. Kennedy and Barack Obama — went directly from being this to being president.
5. _____ Deo, Latin meaning praise (be) to God
6. Suffix indicating a theory or doctrine
7. President who rode in Cuba, briefly
8. Home state of seven presidents
9. A negative expression
11. A list extender
15. Junior senator from Florida who won 172 delegates in primaries
16. Interviews and surveys to get public opinion
18. Not a pro
19. United Europe, abbreviated
21. Number, abbreviated
24. A campaign activity
26. Compact disk, briefly
27. Providing care for them is a campaign issue, briefly
28. Iranian rial, abbreviated
29._____ Sweet _____
30. Ohio governor making a nomination bid
32. What is right and fair
34. Defensive Area of Operational Responsibility, abbreviated
37. Northwest University, briefly
38. State of bewilderment
39. Results Only Work Environment, abbreviation
42. Attorney General, briefly
45. Wife of the 42nd president, initially
46. Information technology, abbreviation
Answers

2016 Electable Terms

Race to the Voting Booth

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Design Your Message

Candidates use buttons, bumper stickers, placards and posters — even baseball caps and T-shirts — to bring attention to themselves and their supporters. Colors, fonts, images and concise word choice are carefully chosen to make an impact and to quickly communicate.

You are running for political office. First, write a slogan that will catch attention and communicate an idea about you and your political positions. You want potential voters to remember it — and vote for you.

**YOUR SLOGAN:**

Next, design a campaign button for your supporters to wear. You have a small space to convey your image, slogan or name. Be brief. Be bold. Be unmistakably you.
Test Your Voter Knowledge

THE PROCESS
Everyone can be president! Citizens have the right to seek political or public office — as individuals or representatives of political parties. What does this really mean for you and your friends? Let’s begin by taking a look at the steps to becoming president of the United States. You must formally announce your candidacy for the presidential nomination, file as a presidential candidate with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) or successfully file for a place on a jurisdiction’s primary ballot.

1. An individual who wants to run for president must first meet the Constitution’s requirements. What are the three stated requirements?
   A.
   B.
   C.

2. You are not a candidate until you are on state ballots. Independent and third party candidates and their supporters (or paid circulators) must gather signatures of support on petitions in every state and the District of Columbia. The number of signatures needed varies from state to state. Do you think third party candidates and independents should have this level of civic engagement? Support your response.

3. Don’t neglect the importance of money in running for office — and keeping records. The Federal Election Commission enforces the Federal Election Campaign Act, including overseeing public funding of presidential elections. Check the FEC website. When must an individual running for federal office register and designate a principal campaign committee?

4. Next review the FEC website to learn the contribution limits for 2015-2016 federal elections. How much may an individual contribute to the following:
   A. Candidate committee
   B. PAC
   C. State/district/local party committee
   D. National Party Committee
1. Editorial cartoonists may allude to literary works as they make visual commentary on current events. The March 29 editorial commentary builds on an allusion to which literary work? “Level” in the first bubble is a hint.

2. Who is riding in the elevator? In the lower right corner, Toles’ alter ego appears in all his cartoons to add an additional comment. “You’re fired” is a direct reference to which of the persons seeking the party nomination? How do these and other details work together to make a richer commentary?

3. Editorial cartoonists select particular features (face, ears, hair, dress) to exaggerate in order to identify individuals, especially if the person will be a reoccurring presence. Who is the subject of the April 1 cartoon? Toles has decided on which features to emphasize to identify him?

4. Both cartoons are direct commentary on statements made in campaign speeches or interviews. What is Toles’ point of view?

5. Select one of the two visual commentaries. Discuss the original statement(s), Toles’ presentation and perspective on it, and your reaction to Toles’ commentary.
CHOICE AND VOICE
Citizens get to be involved in the selection of candidates who run for president of the United States. This is done through direct primaries and caucuses where citizens indicate the person they prefer to represent their party or their presidential preference. The voting also indicates the number of delegates each candidate has secured to vote for him or her.

5. Explain the difference between a closed primary, a semi-closed partisan primary, and open partisan primary. In your answer, name one or more states that have each type of primary.

6. What is a caucus? In your response, give the name of the state in which the first caucus is held and the benefits of this approach.

7. What is meant by a “winner take all” state? What is meant by a “proportional” state?

8. The last presidential preference primaries are held on June 7 (six states) and June 14 (D.C., Democrats). The states with the most delegates to be gained on June 7 are California (546, proportional) and New Jersey (142, winner take all).

   A. If you were the adviser to one of the presidential hopefuls, what would your strategic advice be? Visit all the states? Focus on the two with the most delegates at stake? When should the visits take place? Kind of events — large rallies, home visits, only in big population centers, collegiate centers, other?

   B. Select a poll. Who is projected to win in April in Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland? Would wins in these states influence the strategies employed while campaigning in May? Explain your response.
1. What historic allusions are made in Toles’ cartoons?

2. Select an editorial cartoon. Explain its relation to the primary debates and candidates’ images.
Write the responses to these questions on your own paper.

**PARTY CONVENTIONS**

9. The Republican Party convention will convene in Cleveland, Ohio, July 18-21.
   
   *Required to win the party nomination:* 1,237 delegates
   
   Many questions were posed before this gathering: Would this be a contested convention? Should guns be permitted at Quicken Loans Arena? Will the many individuals seeking the party nomination support the person who begins the convention with the most delegates? Discuss how much influence you think the many candidates seeking the Republican Party nomination will have on the formation of the Party platform that will emerge from the convention.

    
    *Required to win the party nomination:* 2,383 delegates
    
    Discuss the impact of Bernie Sanders on the campaign of Hillary Clinton to be the Democratic Party presidential candidate?

**THE TICKET**

The ticket is composed of the presidential and vice presidential candidates of each party.

11. Who selects the vice presidential running mate? What considerations are made to balance the ticket?

12. What are the constitutional duties of the vice president?

**THE OFFICE**

13. For how many years does the person who is elected president serve?

14. List four constitutional duties of the president. Select one of them to discuss its importance in today’s national and/or international environment.
**Tom Toles | March 7, 2016**

**Tom Toles | March 10, 2016**

**Tom Toles | March 28, 2016**

**Tom Toles | March 31, 2016**
Write the responses to these questions on your own paper.

THE ISSUES
Select two of the candidates hoping to be president of the U.S. Compare and contrast their positions on the following issues.

15. Immigration

16. Health care

17. Topic of your choice

ELECTION DAY

18. One cannot deny media’s presence from Iowa and New Hampshire to Election Day. Discuss the influence media has had on fair coverage of each primary candidate, through news articles, commentary, televised debates and social media.

19. Do you think younger citizens would vote in larger numbers if they could vote online rather than going to their polling places? Explain your response.

20. So you think we have elected a new president on November 8, 2016. Well, we have and we haven’t. One more step is required. Holding the meeting of the Electoral College. Write an article to explain how the Electoral College works so students will understand this last step before an inaugural can be held.

Bonus
Research these: Millionaires’ Amendment; First or Fifth Amendment rights of a candidate who chooses to finance his campaign with his personal wealth instead of small contributions from citizens; Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976). What are the stipulations of each of these and their impact on the 2016 presidential primaries.