

VOTING MATTERS!

Your students may be too young to register to vote, but it's never too early to learn about what it takes to get to the ballot! This activity is a great way to kick off the election season, and promote voter registration in the larger community. Students will learn about how registration and voting works in their state, and create a flyer to share with someone in their life. National Voter Registration Day is September 23, 2014 and has a mission of registering voters across the country.

THE BASICS

Time Needed: 20-40 minutes depending on class discussion and access to internet

Materials Needed:

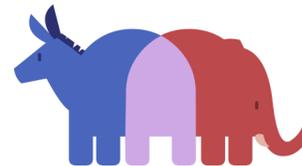
Brainstorm Transparency
 Student worksheets
 Art materials for flyer (optional)
 Internet access for state specific voting information

Copy Instructions:

Student worksheet (*class set*)

Learning Objectives. Students will be able to:

- Describe the typical process of registering to vote in their state
- Explain the importance of voting in local, state and national elections

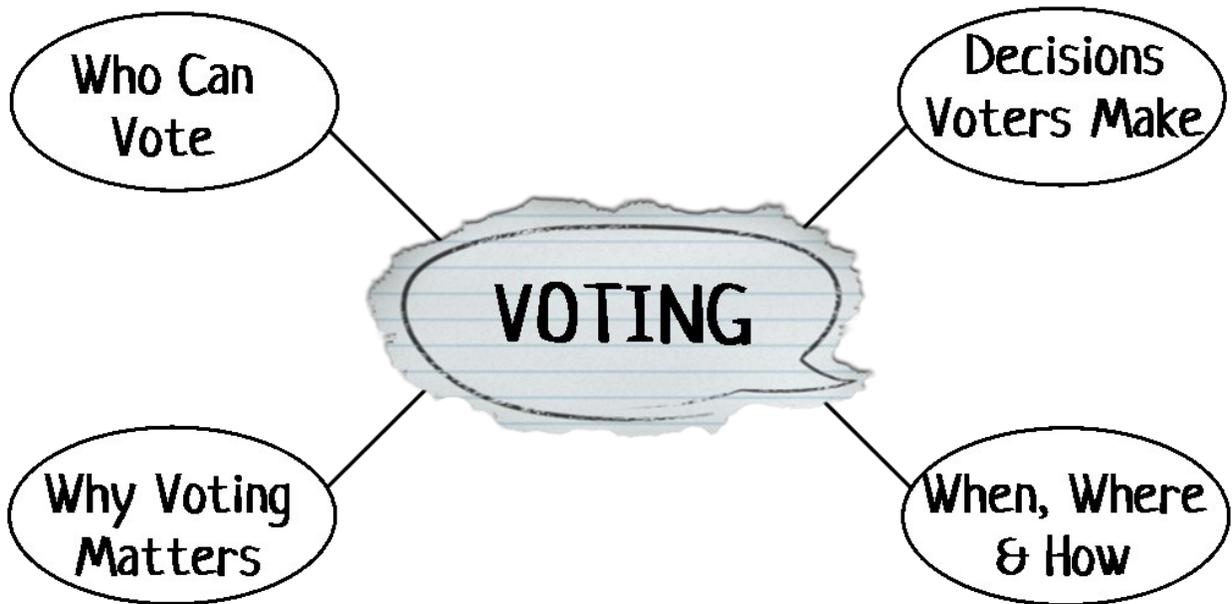


STEP BY STEP

- ANTICIPATE** by projecting the Voting Mind Map for the class. Challenge the students to help you fill it out and discuss each topic. (You may also print and distribute.)
- DISTRIBUTE** one reading and activity sheet to each student.
- READ** the material on the top half of the page, pausing to discuss as appropriate.
- DISPLAY** the webpage <http://www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/> for the class, or send students to the page if they are using individual computers.
- FIND** your state and click on it to see specific information about voting.
- TELL** students to note the answers on the bottom half of their hand out.
- REVIEW** the answers to check for understanding.
- ASK** the students to think of at least 3-5 reasons why voting is important and have them add them to the area of the hand out that says, "Voting is important because..."
- CLOSE** by asking students to share their information with an adult that they'd like to make sure registers to vote. (If there is extra time, you can have them make posters or more involved flyers with this information.)

For more detailed description of the voting process, check out our lesson called *Got Ballot?*

Voting Mind Map



Voting Matters!

Name: _____

Democracies Need Voters

Ask anyone what it means to live in a democracy, and you're likely to hear something about voting. There's more to a democracy than voting, but the citizens' right to determine their own government is a basic democratic concept. But here's the thing: It's not really "the citizens" who choose our leaders. It's the people who show up at the polls on election day. So yes, your vote may be just one in millions — but if you don't use it, you're letting all those other people decide how you're going to be governed. You may not be old enough to vote yet, but it probably won't be long. When that day comes, will you know what to do?



Get Registered



You don't magically become a voter. You have to register first. Each state has its own set of requirements, but all require at least three things: you must be a citizen of the United States, you must be 18 years old by election day, and you must live in the state where you will be voting. In many states, you can register to vote online or when you renew your driver's license. Once you have registered, you'll receive a voter registration card. You're all set to vote!

Fill out the space below to create a flyer you can give someone. Use the information provided by your teacher, or go to www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state/ for the details.

Our State

Voter Registration Deadline

General Election Date

Polls are Open

Voting is important because...

