

COMMON CORE
Lessons & Activities

Political Parties

and

ELECTIONS

Reading for Information

Higher-Order Thinking

Writing Prompts

Primary Source Analysis

Vocabulary

Graphic Organizers

Map Activities

& More!

REPRODUCIBLE

One teacher is allowed to make copies for use in her/his classroom!



About this Book

This Common Core Lessons and Activities Book allows you to immediately meet new Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, as well as Literacy and Writing in History/Social Studies. It is designed to supplement your Social Studies resources, adding new Common Core rigor, analysis, writing, inference, text-dependent questions, and more into your daily instruction.

How to Use this Book:

- Work through the lessons and activities as a class to teach your students higher-order thinking, analysis, and 21st century skills necessary to meet new Common Core expectations.
- Allow students to work through the lessons independently to build and practice these new skills.
- Include technology, collaboration, presentation, and discussion in the activities as you desire—you can decide how in-depth to go.
- Watch your class develop new abilities to meet the rigor of Common Core State Standards, right before your eyes!

Tips:

- Use some of the pages—or use them all—based on your grade, your students, your curriculum, and your needs.
- Use the pages at their current size, or if you prefer them to be 8-1/2" x 11", enlarge them 125% on your copy machine.
- Download graphic organizers labeled “GO” in the Table of Contents by going to: www.gallopade.com/client/go
- Use the correlations grid to easily see which Common Core standards are covered in each lesson.

Common Core Lessons & Activities: Political Parties and Elections

By Carole Marsh

Published by Gallopade International, Inc.

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Printed in the U.S.A. (Peachtree City, Georgia)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Purpose of Political Parties: Reading Informational Text.....	2
The Democratic Party: Reading Informational Text.....	3
The Republican Party: Reading Informational Text.....	4
Republicans and Democrats: Compare and Contrast GO¹	5
The Role of Third Parties: Reading Informational Text.....	6
Political Parties and Elections Vocabulary: Vocabulary GO¹⁰	7
Electoral College: Map Activity.....	8
Summer Schedule: Primary Source Analysis.....	10
Electoral College: Problem-Solution Results GO⁹	11
Steps to Elect the President: Chronological Order GO⁸	12
Campaign Poster: Primary Source Analysis.....	14
The Role of Media in Elections: Reading Informational Text.....	15
Requirements to become a U.S. Politician: Graphic Analysis G	16
Voter Turnout: Data Analysis.....	17
Campaign Slogans: Primary Source Analysis.....	18
2000 Presidential Election: Reading Informational Text.....	19
Importance of Voting: Primary Source Analysis.....	20
Campaign Costs: Data Analysis.....	21
Why Elections Matter: Cause and Effect.....	22
Right to Vote for Women: Primary Source Analysis.....	23
Common Core Correlations	24

G: Includes Graphic Organizer

GO: Graphic Organizer is also available 8½" x 11" online
download at www.gallopade.com/client/go

(numbers above correspond to the graphic organizer numbers online)

The Role of Third Parties

Read the text and answer the questions.

The United States operates on a two-party system made up of the Republican and Democratic parties. However, other political parties can present candidates for government offices. These political parties are called “third parties.”

Third parties usually develop when groups of people have specific issues they care about and want to fight for. For example, the Jobless Party formed in 1932. Its goal was to bring attention to the many people without jobs during the Great Depression. In 1970, people who wanted increased individual rights formed the Libertarian Party. The Libertarian Party still exists today.

While third parties have not succeeded in getting a presidential candidate elected, they can have a powerful influence on politics. They bring attention to specific issues that might otherwise be overlooked. Third parties can also have a major effect on a presidential election by taking support from Republican or Democratic candidates. They can also boost another party’s candidates by endorsing them and their policies.

- Define endorsing as it is used in the text. Find a synonym.
 - Infer how a third party could help another party’s candidate by endorsing him or her.
- Describe several ways that third parties can influence government. Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.
- Divide into groups. Use classroom and online resources to research other third parties in United States history. Find out how these parties changed government policies, brought awareness to specific issues, or influenced political elections. Create a computer presentation with graphics to present to the class. Discuss your findings.
- Have you heard of the “Tea Party”? The Tea Party is a political movement, not an official political party. Use online resources to research the Tea Party. Write a blog about their role in politics today.
- Create an imaginary third party around a cause that’s important to you. Create a poster advertising it, and write a narrative to describe it.

VOCABULARY

Political Parties and Elections Vocabulary

Use a dictionary and other resources to complete the graphic organizer for each vocabulary word.

absentee ballot

convention

liberal

ballot

delegate

nominee

bipartisan

electorate

platform

campaign

GOP

poll

conservative

incumbent

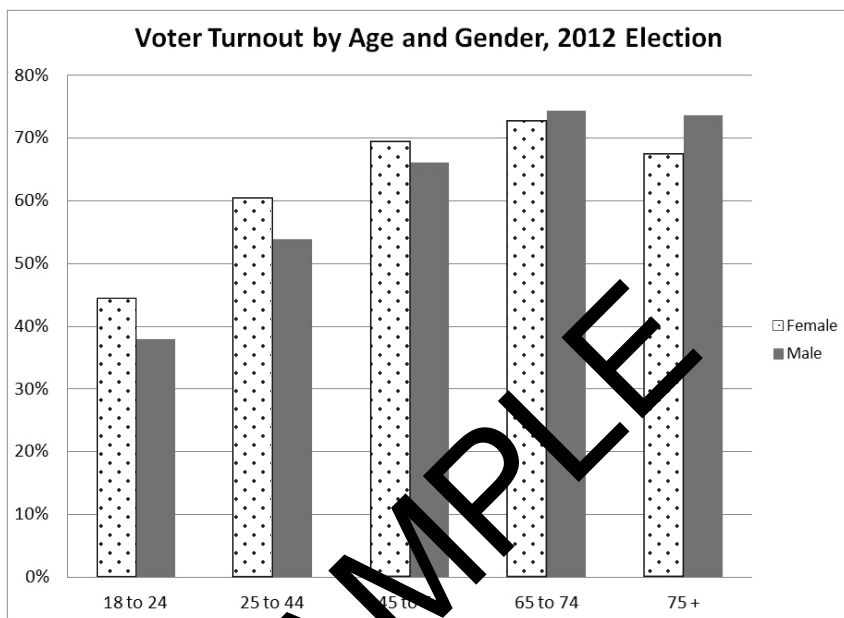
primary

DEFINITION	FACTS/CHARACTERISTICS
WORD	
EXAMPLES	NON-EXAMPLES

SAMPLE

Voter Turnout

Study the chart and answer the questions.



Courtesy of the Hartford Courant

1. What is the purpose of this chart?
2. Which gender age 25-44 voted more in the 2012 election?
3. What percentage of male voters age 45-64 voted in the 2012 election?
4. Which age and gender voted the least in the 2012 election?
5. Which age group had the most similar percentage of male and female voters?
6. In your opinion, did age or gender most affect voter turnout? Cite evidence from the chart to support your answer.
7. Why do you think voters age 65 and above have the highest turnout? Why do younger voters have the lowest turnout? Discuss as a class.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Why Elections Matter

Read the fictional narrative and answer the questions.

Dear Local Representative,

I was upset to hear that our local schools have cut the number of art and music classes offered. My children have always loved band and chorus. In fact, both of them sang in this year's school choral concert. They also loved the painting class. My son is a talented artist. His ability has improved greatly since he took that class at school.

It does not seem fair to take these options from my children's education. Unfortunately, I did not have time to vote on the issue in the last election. What can you do to change this policy?

Sincerely,

A Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned Parent,

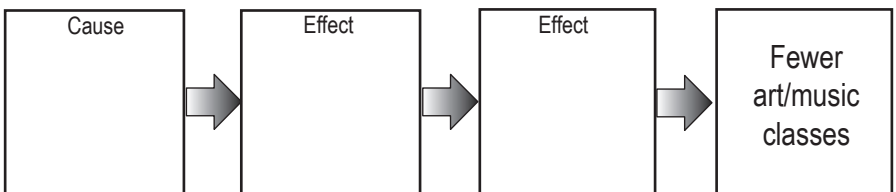
I am also very disappointed that music and art classes are being cut in our local schools. The election held last month gave each citizen the opportunity to vote against this decision. Unfortunately, voter turnout was low, and the extra funding bill for schools did not pass. I would encourage you to vote whenever you can in local and national elections to make sure your voice is heard.

Thank you for contacting me. As your representative, I will always do my best to fight for your goals and concerns.

Sincerely,

Your Local Representative

1. Summarize the situation described in the narrative above.
2. A. What was the effect of the Concerned Parent not voting in the recent local election?
B. Predict what could have happened if many more concerned parents had voted in the local election.
3. Complete the graphic organizer to show why every vote counts.



Common Core Lessons & Activities Books

Social Studies Titles:

- Declaration of Independence
- U.S. Constitution
- Bill of Rights
- Road to the Civil War
- The Civil War: Key Battles & Events
- Jamestown
- Key Events of World War II
- Civil Rights Movement
- Branches of Government
- Basic Economic Concepts
- Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment
- The American Revolution
- Explorers
- The Olympics
- Underground Railroad
- Forms of Government: Democracy, Monarchy, & Oligarchy & More
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Egypt
- Native Americans
- Indian Removal & the Trail of Tears
- Inventors & Inventions
- Map Skills
- Westward Expansion
- Communities
- Colonial America
- Key Events Of World War I
- Ancient Civilizations
- Political Parties & Elections
- Environmental Issues Around The World
- Personal Finance

Science Titles:

- Habitats
- States of Matter
- Cell Structure
- Weather
- Water Cycle
- Energy
- Solar System
- Sound
- Mammals
- Light
- Rocks and Minerals
- Oceans
- Heredity & Genetics
- Magnetism
- Natural Resources
- Ecosystems
- Force & Motion
- History of the Earth
- Life Cycles
- Wave Properties
- Landforms
- Classification of Organisms
- Electricity
- The Scientific Method
- Space Science
- The Human Body
- Environmental Science
- Health & Nutrition
- Chemical Reactions
- Plants

COMMON CORE Lessons & Activities

Are you expected to change how you teach because of new CCSS for English Language Arts & new CCSS for Literacy and Writing in History/Social Studies and Science?

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-Amy Johnson, Common Core Specialist

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