



- The feature also mentions that the next President of the United States will actually be selected by the Electoral College. What kind of a college elects the president? Present concept to students.
- Watch this very well done cartoon produced by Boomtoons about the electoral votes:  
<http://www.fraboom.com/boomtoons/prezindex.php>
- This is another excellent yet very simply presented video provided by Brain Pop explaining the election process:  
<http://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/usgovernmentandlaw/presidentialelection/>

## 2. **Activity #2** (grades 5-6) Q&A Discussion About the NewsDepth feature

- This can be a discussion or a quiz
  - The NewsDepth feature about the electoral votes states that we don't have a direct democracy, we have a \_\_\_\_\_ democracy. What kind do we have and what does that mean?
  - Ohio has \_\_\_\_\_ votes. How is that determined?
  - How many electoral votes does a candidate need to be declared the winner?
  - According to the story, John McCain has given up trying to get votes from \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ is still very important.
  - The CNN Electoral College Map estimates that if the election were held today, \_\_\_\_\_ would win the election.
  - The two cartoons referenced in the above activity are very applicable to this age group as well.
  - Visit any of the websites listed below for complete and comprehensive coverage of the Election Process, the Electoral College in particular, very appropriate for this grade level.

## 3. **Activity #3** (grades 3-5) Discovering the Election Process Through Movement.

The purpose of this activity is to better understand, through movement, the way in which a candidate wins an electoral race and the number of votes necessary to win the Electoral College.

<http://www.pecentral.org/lessonideas/ViewLesson.asp?ID=1128>

References for more information about the Electoral College for both age groups:

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/> The Electoral College homepage

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/20/getsource.cfm?id=4973> PBS resource for kids, parents, and teachers

<http://pbskids.org/zoom/fromyou/elections/elections101.html> Zoom out the vote! Elections 101

[http://www.congressforkids.net/Elections\\_electoralcollege.htm](http://www.congressforkids.net/Elections_electoralcollege.htm) Simplified explanation of the Electoral College.

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/index.html> This is government sponsored website using Ben Franklin as the host as he provides a Guide to the U.S. Government for kids.

## Online Lesson Plans:

The following are a list of references that provide lessons about the Electoral College for Grades 5-8: These lessons are provided by the US Government, PBS, and C-Span to provide a few:

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/socialstudies/Vote2004/electoral\\_college.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/socialstudies/Vote2004/electoral_college.html) This is a lesson plan provided by PBS's Newshour Program. Students will understand how the Electoral College works and they will analyze the pros and cons of the Electoral College.

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20001109thursday.html> A lesson provided by the New York Times Lesson Plan bank entitled "Rock the Vote" that explores popular and electoral votes and their influence in determining the presidency.

<http://www.c-span.org/classroom/govt/electoralcollege.asp> C-Span's lessons for teaching about the Electoral College including standards.

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/media/lessons/davidwalbert7232004-02/electoralcollege.html> Does My Vote Count? Another lesson explaining the Electoral College.

<http://history.howstuffworks.com/american-history/electoral-college.htm> How the Electoral College work.

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/elections/lesson-plan/3246.html> This is a lesson provided by TeacherVision that has students using the Electoral College Map as an activity. (This is a subscription website but offers a free lesson as well as a 7 day free trial).

<http://www.angelfire.com/stars3/education/elections.html> An excellent website that has a plethora of valuable links about the election as well as the election process.

<http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/2008/president/electoratemap.php> This is an Electoral College Road Map that can be used as part of a lesson tracking the Electoral College votes.

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/teach.html> The US Electoral College Website's Teacher Resources. This is just one link from their official website. There are many more useful links.