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Elections and Voting

Have you ever wanted to be the leader of your country? In many countries, you would need to be elected by your country's citizens in order to have that power. Elections are held at different times of the year all around the world. Many countries hold elections to choose the officials who will represent them in the government. Use this webquest to learn more about the election process and voting.



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Find It!

Use the World Book Advanced search tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about elections, it is recommended you start by searching the key word "election." Sometimes "hints" will also suggest other articles.

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. An election is the process by which people _____ for the _____ or _____ of their choice.
2. What system of governmental holds free, fair, and competitive elections?
3. What types of organizations hold nongovernmental elections?

True or False?

Write "true" or "false" next to each statement below. If the statement is false, correct the statement.

4. In a democratic government, citizens have the right to choose the officials who will govern and represent them.
5. Some countries hold elections for propaganda reasons to show support for the government.

6. All countries have the same voting procedures.
7. Citizens of a country vote by secret ballot.
8. During an election in the United States, the mass media is not allowed to talk about the candidates.
9. The Constitution of the United States requires that a congressional election be held every ten years.
10. The Constitution of the United States requires the election of a president and a vice president every four years.

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Matching

Match each key word with its correct definition. Write the letter of the definition on the line next to each key word.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 11. ____ Ballot voting | a. the method of secret voting by means of paper slips, voting machines, or other devices |
| 12. ____ Nonpartisan candidate | b. a type of election where people select representatives, called electors, to choose public officials |
| 13. ____ Direct election | c. a meeting or national, state, or local convention where members of a political party gather to nominate party candidates |
| 14. ____ Indirect election | d. a group of people, called electors, who are selected by voters to choose public officials |
| 15. ____ Electoral College | e. a place where votes will be cast during an election |
| 16. ____ Cabinet system | f. a candidate who is not identified by a political party |
| 17. ____ Caucus | g. a group of citizens who observe polling places to ensure that election officials perform their tasks honestly |
| 18. ____ Precincts | h. the division of a local county or ward into voting districts |
| 19. ____ Polling place | i. a type of election where the people themselves vote for public officials |
| 20. ____ Poll watchers | j. a parliamentary system of government where citizens elect members of the legislature |



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I Voted!

To many citizens, voting in an election is a civic duty—that is, a social responsibility. Answer the questions below about the process of voting in an election. (Hint: To answer these questions, see the “voting” article.)

21. What is the minimum voting age for national elections in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom?

22. Name the two Amendments to the Constitution of the United States that extended voting rights.
 1. _____
 2. _____

23. In what year was the Fifteenth Amendment adopted? Why did some states adopt a poll tax after the Fifteenth Amendment was adopted?

24. In the United States, how can a person register to vote?

25. Until the 1800’s, voting was usually conducted _____ and in _____.

26. Today, most countries use a system in which each voter marks a _____ while alone in a _____.

27. Name at least 4 dishonest voting practices. (Hint: To answer these questions, return to the “election” article.)
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____



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See It!

Go to the “voting” article on *World Book Advanced*. Find and examine the picture titled “Nineteenth Amendment” in the article or in the “Images, Video, and Audio” tab. Read the caption to answer the questions below.

28. The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave _____ the right to vote.
29. A. In what year was the Nineteenth Amendment proposed to the government?

B. In what year was the Nineteenth Amendment approved by the states?
30. Name the two members of the government who signed the resolution.

Read more about voting rights in World Book’s eBook collection:

Women’s Right to Vote. Chicago: World Book, 2014. Documenting History. *World eBook*.
Web. 24. Aug. 2016. <<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instit/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-2574-2/detail.do>>



Teacher Page

Answers:

1. An election is the process by which people **vote** for the **candidate** or **proposal** of their choice.
2. Democratic governments hold free, fair, and competitive elections
3. Labor unions, social clubs, and the student bodies of schools hold nongovernmental elections.
4. true
5. true
6. false – Voting procedures vary from country to country.
7. true
8. false – In democratic countries, the mass media may freely discuss the candidates and issues.
9. false - The Constitution of the United States requires that a congressional election be held every *two* years.
10. true
11. a
12. f
13. i
14. b
15. d
16. j
17. c
18. h
19. e
20. g
21. The minimum voting age for national elections in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom is 18 years old.
22. The two Amendments to the Constitution of the United States that extended voting rights are the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments.

23. The 15th Amendment, adopted in 1870, prohibited states from denying a citizen the right to vote because of race. Several states adopted a poll tax as an attempt to deter citizens of color and poor white citizens from voting.
24. In the United States, voters can usually register in person or by mail.
25. Until the 1800's, voting was usually conducted **orally** and in **public**.
26. Today, most countries use a system in which each voter marks a **ballot** while alone in a **booth**.
27. Answers may vary, but could include: bribing voters, impersonating another voter, stuffing a ballot box with forged votes, and tampering with voting machines.
28. The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave **women** the right to vote.
29. A. The Nineteenth Amendment was proposed to the government in 1919. B. The Nineteenth Amendment was approved by the states in 1920.
30. The Nineteenth Amendment was signed by Vice President Thomas Riley Marshall and by Frederick H. Gillett, speaker of the House of Representatives.