



Why We Vote

Part 1

Teacher Reads When people vote, they make a choice between two or more things. Voting can help a group come to a decision about what to do.

When people want to choose food for a meal at home,
11 they might have different ways of thinking about it. When
21 kids in a classroom want to pick a game to play, they might
34 have different ways of thinking, too. That's where voting can
44 help. Each person gets one vote. It is a way for each person to
58 have a say in what a **group** of people will do. Voting can be
72 important in day-to-day life.

Part 2

Teacher Reads A candidate is a person who wants to get elected, or chosen to serve in government. Candidates try to prove to voters that they will do a good job if they are elected.

78 Voting is important beyond home and school, too.
86 In the U.S., people use voting to choose leaders. A person
97 who wants to be elected as a leader is called a **candidate**.
109 Voters may need to choose from a group of candidates.



Part 2 continued

119 Before voting day, each candidate will make speeches,
127 run ads, and meet with lots of voters. Each candidate
137 wants to show that she or he is right for the job. Boosters,
150 or supporters, help each candidate try to get votes and
161 get elected.

Part 3

Teacher Reads In the United States, there are rules about who can vote in elections and how they can vote.

162 As soon as U.S. **citizens** turn 18, they may become voters
173 if they want to vote. On voting day, voters can go in person
186 to vote. They might vote in a school or another public spot.
198 Inside, people cast votes in voting booths. No one can see
209 how other people vote. If people do not wish to vote in
221 person, they may get to send in a vote by mail. When voting
234 time ends, the votes for each candidate are added up. The
245 candidate with the highest number of votes wins.

253 Voting is a right. It is an important thing for citizens to
265 do, too. Each person's vote matters. People get to choose the
276 leaders they want. But if leaders do not do jobs well, they
288 may not get elected again. [Learn More](#)
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