

Teacher's Guide for Apple Seeds™: *Becoming President*

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Job Opening: POTUS (2-3)

Reading for Understanding

1. List three responsibilities the president of the United States. *Command the Armed Forces, make agreements with other countries, choose justices for the Supreme Court, make sure laws are followed, sign or veto bills, and pardon criminals.*
2. What qualities do you think would make a good president? *Answers will vary.*
3. What are the benefits to being the president? *Large salary, houses, jet plane, helicopter, limousine, health care, assistants, travel, and meeting famous people.*
4. What are the drawbacks to being the president? *No time for vacation, always must be ready to work, and dangerous job.*

Activity

Imagine you are in charge of writing a job advertisement for the newspaper. You are looking for people interested in becoming the president of the United States. Your advertisement should include the job title and a description of the job. It should also include qualifications needed for getting the job.

Follow the Campaign Trail (4-7)

Reading for Understanding

1. What does *campaigning* mean? *A candidate for president travels around the country and talks with people, telling people what he or she believes is important and what he or she will do if elected president.*
2. What is the first step to become a party's presidential candidate? *Each state holds early elections called primaries or caucuses. These early elections help to choose the delegates who will attend the conventions.*
3. What is the next step to become a party's presidential candidate? *Each party holds a convention where the delegates vote. Whoever gets the most votes becomes the party's candidate.*
4. What is the Electoral College? *It is the organization that chooses the president of the United States. Its members are chosen based on how many votes each candidate receives in each state on Election Day.*

It's Party Time (8-9)

Activity

You've learned that a political party is a group of people who have the same political ideas. The two largest parties are the Democratic and Republican Parties. Others

include Green, Libertarian, Labor, Peace and Freedom, and American Independent. Break the class into small groups. Each group can make a poster for one party. The poster should include the party's name, the party's candidate in the 2008 election, and one or two of the party's most important issues.

Presidential Elections That Were Too Close To Call (10-11)

Activity

"Every vote counts!" Most U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years old are eligible to vote, but many of them do not. A presidential election can come down to the last few votes, so how can you encourage more people to vote? With a partner, create a slogan to convince people to vote on Election Day. Make a poster to show off your slogan.

On the Move: A Day in the Life of a Candidate (12-13)

Activity

When Senator Tori Moore speaks to people on the campaign trail, she wants to convince them to vote for her. Imagine you are running for president. List three things you would tell voters so that they will want to vote for you. Share your ideas with your class.

What the Kids Did (14-15)

Activity

You've read about some of the children of presidential candidates. Write an imaginary letter to one of the children in the article. What questions would you like to ask? Remember to format your letter correctly: heading (including your name and return address), date, salutation, body, and signature.

Who Has the Right to Vote? (16-17)

Reading for Understanding

1. In 1789, the Constitution left which groups out of voting? *Women, African-Americans, poor people, anyone under 21 years old.*
2. What did the 15th Amendment do? *Gave African-American men the right to vote.*
3. When did women get the right to vote? *1920.*
4. Which Amendment lowered the voting age to 18? *The 26th Amendment.*

What Would George Say? (18-19)

Reading for Understanding

What do George Washington's sayings mean?

1. "A man ought not to value of himself of his achievements."
2. "Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparagement of any."
3. "I would never speak evil of the absent for it is unjust."

4. "Utter not base and frivolous things amongst grave and learned men."
5. "I let my countenance be pleasant but in serious matters somewhat grave."

Vote 4 Me! (20-21)

Activity

Imagine you are running for president. Create a campaign poster to encourage people to vote for you. If you include a slogan, be sure to keep it short—two or three words at most. Be creative!

Do Presidents Need Pets? (22)

Activity

You've read about past presidents' pets. What animal would you take with you to the White House? Write a paragraph explaining your choice. Remember to format it correctly: topic sentence, two or three supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence.

Buttons and Bumper Stickers: Getting the Message Out (23)

Activity

Work with a partner to design a political button for the presidential candidate of your choice. Remember, catchy phrases are short and sometimes even rhyme. Be creative!

Me and the Iowa Caucuses (24-27)

Activity

Most voting takes place in secret, but in a caucus, people vote in public. In this activity, you will see how a caucus works.

1. Announce the caucus: "Today, students get to choose the p.e. activity. Options include kickball, basketball, jump rope relay, and four-square."
2. Designate each corner of the classroom as the gathering point for one of the options.
3. Invite students to caucus for their choice. "Stand in the corner to show support for your choice."
4. Students observe their classmates' choices and then have an opportunity to convince people to join their group.
5. Students make their final decisions.

Women Who Have Run (28-29)

Reading for Understanding

Write two interesting facts about each of the following women who have run for president of the United States.

1. Victoria Woodhull. *First woman to run for president, ran in 1872, ran for Equal Rights Party.*
2. Belva Lockwood. *Ran twice, ran in 1884 and 1888, was a lawyer, first woman to try a case before the Supreme Court, ran for Equal Rights Party, won 4000 votes.*
3. Margaret Chase Smith. *Had served in Congress, ran in 1964.*
4. Shirley Chisholm. *First African-American woman to run, ran in 1972.*

Culminating Activity

Put up the posters you have made around the classroom. Set up a ballot box and invite other classes to vote on Election Day. Students can help tally election results.