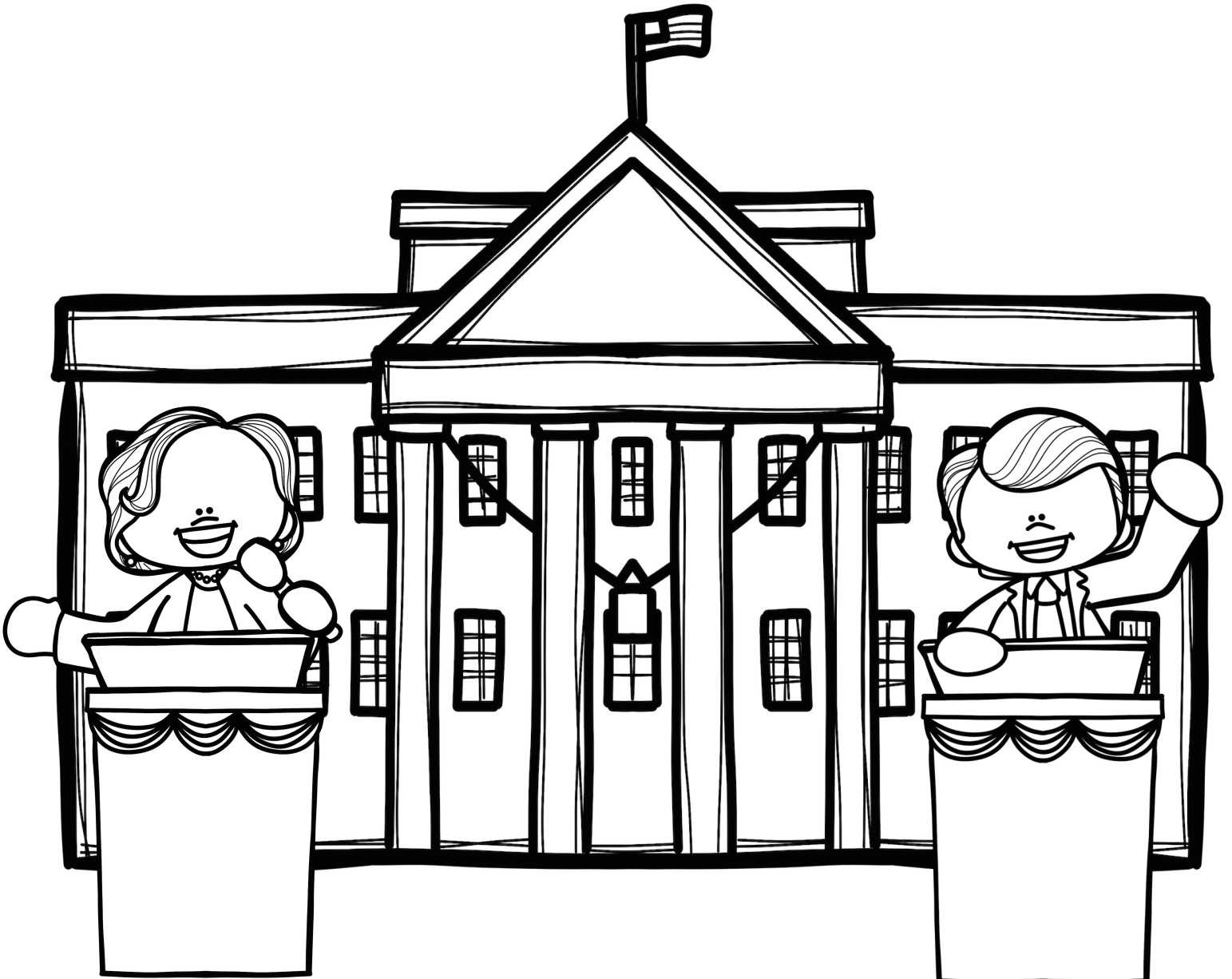


Becoming President!

Name: _____



So You Want to be President?

As you may know, the United States of America has a government known as a democratic-republic. This means that we, the people of the United States choose who we would like to represent our government. We vote for those who we think are going to do a good job when making decisions for our country. We vote for the leaders of Congress, for the Senators, and for many other positions in our government, including the President of the United States.

The United States of America has a very interesting and unique way of picking a new President. We choose a new President every 4 years, but those who would like to become President start working hard to get people to vote for him/her long before voting day.

Where to Begin?

Usually, someone who is very interested in the United States government begins the process by saying that he/she would like to be President. As long as you were born in the United States, are at least 35 years old, and have lived in America for 14 years, you can be the President. Candidates may even announce that they want to be president 2 years before voting day. The candidates must make sure that they can get people to vote for them. Now, there may be more than one person who wants to run in her party, so the candidates in the same party go around the country to talk about their beliefs and what he/she will do to make the country a better place to live for all Americans.

There are two major parties in the United States; Democrats and Republicans.

Color by Comprehension

Circle in red = Unknown words

Underline in green = Facts about electoral votes.

Underline in blue = Facts about who can be become President

Circle in purple = Important dates and time requirements

Write the **MOST**
important details from
this page below.



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Each party has primary elections in the year leading up to the actual vote. Primary elections help the party select just ONE candidate to lead for the Democrats and ONE candidate to lead for the Republicans. This is done at each party's convention. After this date, the American people know the two candidates who will run for office. (It should be noted that there are other parties, as well. There is a Green party, whose main focus is on making the world a better place, while also improving the quality of our environment.)

I'm a Candidate. Now What?

The two candidates running for office in 2016 are Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Hillary Clinton is the Democratic candidate, while Donald Trump is the Republican candidate. When these two candidates were picked during the primaries, they again began traveling around the United States making speeches about their beliefs and ideas for our country. Many people know early on who they are going to choose on voting day, but Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump try to convince those who may not know who they are going to vote for. They visit cities to give speeches, and also have debates on television which millions of people watch. One or two people ask both candidates questions during the debates. Each candidate answers the same question to help the American people determine which candidate they will vote for.

The Big Day

Then comes the big day. Voting day is on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November. All Americans over the age of 18 and who are registered to vote can go to their polling place on the day of the election.



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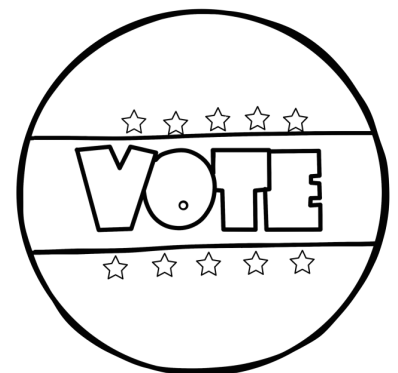
Sometimes polling places are in schools, churches, town halls, or other local locations. Each person gets one vote. These votes are counted by the end of the day.

Each state has a number of electoral votes. They are like points that each state has been given based on the number of people living in that state. For example, New York has 29 electoral votes in the election. The state with the largest population is California, and they have a total of 55 electoral votes, while a few states with the lowest populations have only 3 electoral votes. Although it sounds like those smaller states don't matter as much, they absolutely matter. There have been many elections which have come down to just a few electoral votes. Every vote counts!

And the Winner Is...

Once everyone has voted on election day, each state announces which candidate won. The electoral votes are then given to the candidate. There are a total of 538 electoral votes available, so the first candidate to get to 270 announced as the next President of the United States of America.

The winning candidate is sworn into office in January of the next year, and the previous President steps out of office. The new President also moves into the White House and begins the very difficult job of leading the country and making the United States an even better place to live for all Americans.



When I'm President

Before you become President, you need to tell the American people what you believe and what you want to do to make the world a better place. Draw a picture of yourself behind the podium below, and then list at least 4 things you will do as President.

