



# Election and Voting Resources

**THESE ARE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS TO TEACH AND LEARN ABOUT THE 2008 ELECTION**



The presidential election is an opportunity for students to examine the presidential candidates and their election platforms. Since the year of 2008 is an election year, it gives social studies teachers a wonderful advantage of focusing on lessons that address how social studies skills enhance the students' learning of the democratic process of election of officials and voting. Students will be able to discover through meaningful and engaging lessons on how the democratic process affects the civic lives of people in the United States of America.

Duck for President is written by Doreen Cronin and beautifully illustrated by Betsy Lewin. This book's humor makes it funny. With a presidential election coming up in this country, this is a great introduction to voting, campaigning, and job responsibilities.

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

Copyright: March 2, 2004

ISBN: 0689863772

A K-5 lesson plan using this book can be found at:

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=2946>

Activities to use with Duck for President:

<http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/activities/government>



**Vote** is written by Eileen Christelow. It is a notable Social Studies tradebook. The book provides an excellent introduction to voting.

Published by: Clarion Books

Publication Date: February 18, 2008

ISBN-10: 0547059736

To find wonderful K-5 lesson plans to accompany the book:

<http://www.Christelow.com/classroom/vote.html>

Teacher's guide for extensions and activities:

[http://www.houghtnmifflinbooks.com/readers\\_hugides/christelow\\_vote.shtml](http://www.houghtnmifflinbooks.com/readers_hugides/christelow_vote.shtml)

### **2008 Election Webliography for Teachers, Students and Parents**

These resources will be valuable tools for teacher planning and instruction and student research. Located in these resources are lessons, project ideas, voter registration, video clips and more to enhance student learning.

<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/> CNN political news focused on election primaries and caucuses in the 2008 road to the White House.

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/socialstudies/> PBS Teachers is PBS' national web destination for high-quality preK-12 educational resources. Here you'll find classroom materials suitable for a wide range of subjects and grade levels. They provide thousands of lesson plans, teaching activities, on-demand video assets, and interactive games and simulations. These resources are correlated to state and national educational standards and are tied to PBS' award-winning on-air and online programming like NOVA, Nature, Cyber chase, and more.

[www.pbs.org/elections/kids](http://www.pbs.org/elections/kids)

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/election/home.html>

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/politics/vote2008\\_candidates.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/politics/vote2008_candidates.html) This site houses lesson plans for analyzing candidates in the 2008 election for president.

<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/3775/> This link houses lesson plans focusing of understanding the election process.

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/links2html> The attached site provides electoral college history, calculator and interactive maps as well as state electoral calculations.

#### STATE-NORTH CAROLINA

<http://www.uselections.com/nc/nc.htm> You'll find information on your federal, state, and local representatives, voter registration and more procedures.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North\\_Carolina\\_gubernatorial\\_election\\_2008](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Carolina_gubernatorial_election_2008) This article or section contains information about the upcoming election in N. C. and the U.S. It is updated as changes occur.

<http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/> This is the official site of the State Board of Elections.

<http://www.usaelectionpolls.com/2008/north-carolina.html> The attached link provides poll information and statistics for the N.C. 2008 state political races.

[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2008president/nc/north\\_carolina\\_democratic\\_primary-275.html#polls](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2008president/nc/north_carolina_democratic_primary-275.html#polls) This site is dedicated to up to the moment commentary on politics and political issues.

<http://www.thegreenpapers.com/G08/NC.phtml> This link is dedicated to the dissemination of facts on the election.

#### NATIONAL

<http://www.kidsvotingusa.org/age9650.cfm> Kids Voting USA has enriched its classroom activities.

<http://www.kidsvotingnc.org> Kids Voting North Carolina is a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes voter participation by educating America's youth about the importance of being an informed citizen and the responsibilities of voting to sustain democracy.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/guide> [Whitehousekids.gov](http://Whitehousekids.gov) is an educational opportunity for young Americans to learn about the White House and the President through fun and exciting features. This guide gives teachers ideas on how to use the site in the classroom.

<http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us> The Living Room Candidate: Presidential Campaign Commercials 1952-2004 is an innovative online exhibition presenting more than 250 television commercials from every election beginning in 1952, when the first campaign ads aired, and including ads from this year's campaign. The site includes a searchable database and features commentary, historical background, election results, and navigation organized by both year and theme.

<http://www.cnn.com/studentnews> To find current news video clips for students and student interests and podcasting..

<http://www.uselectionatlas.org> An atlas of U.S. elections from 2004-2008.

<http://millercenter.org/academic/americanpresident> A national meeting place to research, reflect and report on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with special attention to the central role and history of the presidency.

<http://tinyurl.com/4um8y3> Video libraries from CBS News that focus on election news.

[http://www.wral.com/news/local/politics/asset\\_gallery/2529683](http://www.wral.com/news/local/politics/asset_gallery/2529683) WRAL Raleigh news coverage of the 2008 election campaigns.

# Mock Election

Students who practice democracy in action by voting in mock elections in their classrooms learn the history of the most important right in our constitution. Students that participate in mock elections learn about the service and sacrifice made by our forefathers throughout history that made it possible for every citizen to have the right and responsibility to practice voting which is the most important role as an American citizen. It is important that the students study and learn about the candidates and their debated issues before casting their votes.

## Mock Elections Weblibliography:

[www.nationalmockelection.org/curriculum.html](http://www.nationalmockelection.org/curriculum.html) This website provides lesson plans, activities and articles for all grades on how to organize a mock election in your classroom.

[www.theteacherscorner.net/thematicunits/elections.htm](http://www.theteacherscorner.net/thematicunits/elections.htm) (Grades 3-6) This link provides thematic units, lesson plans and teacher resources on mock elections that make students and parents aware of the democratic election process.

The attached website provides a (K-12) selection of top rated election lesson sites for student mock elections. <http://www.lessonplanspage.com/Elections.htm>

<http://www.pbs.org/elections>

These are lesson plans for teachers that provide materials to guide students, teachers & parents through a presidential election.

## Weblibliography of activities for students to use with Mock Elections:

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browser/article.jsp?id=3655> (Grades K-8) This link helps provide students with authentic experiences about the voting process by giving information on how to hold mock elections.

Voting is a privilege; nobody has to vote. The attached link provides Grades K-12 students with lessons using hands-on experiments that teach them why voting is important. They learn the potential impact of deciding not to vote.

[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_lesson/002/lp2087.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/002/lp2087.shtml)

<http://PbsKidsgo.org/democracy>

The attached website is designed for elementary school students and their parents which consists of lesson plans centering around 3 interactive features: “Inside the Voting Booth”, “President for a Day” and “How Does the Government Affect Me?”

\*For a suggestion to review instructional materials go to EvaluTech [www.evalutech.sreb.org](http://www.evalutech.sreb.org).

This is an online, keyword-searchable database of reviews of instructional materials. This provides a wealth of resources for schools and library media specialists in North Carolina Schools to support teacher instructional needs. These include links to lesson plans and Web resources, policy information and resources about virtual learning, online professional development and other organizations that evaluate instructional materials, and information about accessibility and research-based programs and materials.