



# Elections 2018

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# INTRODUCTION

Election time is rapidly approaching here in the United States, and you are about to begin the new *Elections 2018* Unit Study Adventure. Every two years, we have national elections, and they are often accompanied by state and local elections. In 2018, the national elections are in the spotlight, while there are also many state and local elections on the ballots.

With this study, I hope that your child learns that their vote will be their voice in our government as they grow older. The freedom to vote and choose our government representatives is a freedom that has been obtained and defended at the cost of many precious lives. It is a privilege that they need to understand, and with this privilege comes the need for understanding the election process, the workings of American government and the impact that they can have on the process as well as the future of our country.

With this unit study, your students will learn about:

- History of elections
- Basic structure of representative government
- Voting and election process
- Importance of all levels of U.S. elections
- Campaign participation and opportunities
- Presidents, their families and their opponents

While some consider the congressional elections of 2018 most important, this study focuses on the U.S. congressional races, as well as historical elections, American presidents, and the importance of state and local elections.

As this new generation of Americans grows up, they need to be fully aware of their own capabilities and responsibilities within the framework of our American government. This unit study can open the doors to further learning and understanding in these areas. It will get the whole family involved in elections and politics.

We need to make sure this up and coming generation understands that the government is not like a corporation or company—some distant entity that they can't impact or change. The American government is of the people, by the people and FOR the people. It is ours to control with our votes and our voices. We, the American people ARE the government.

With this study, your child will learn about this great country through a wonderful and interesting adventure into American elections and government. They will discover exciting elections, unpredictable outcomes and discover the stories of our Presidents and their lives.

This will be a great year for the study of elections. Be a part of the process as they learn that every single vote counts. With this study, your children will learn the importance of this responsibility for all American citizens, and stay engaged in the process as a family. Dinner table conversations will be lively, and the world of electronics will pale when compared to the strategies and surprises involved in American elections. Enjoy the adventure!

Blessings,  
Amanda B.



# ELECTIONS: WEEK TWO

## Learning Objectives

- Study the federal government—its purpose and structure.
- Learn about American presidents and their elections and campaigns.
- Become familiar with the basic structure of national American elections.
- Learn about the campaign process.
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be an American citizen.
- Develop an understanding of American political parties.
- Investigate the American Constitution.



# ELECTIONS: WEEK TWO – DAY THREE

## LOWER LEVEL

### Take Me There

**Video:** [Andrew Jackson](#)

**Video:** [Checks and Balances](#)

### Today's Quote

Carefully copy today's quote into your Elections Journal:

**"I've got big shoes to fill. This is my chance to do something.  
I have to seize the moment."**

Andrew Jackson, President of the United States

### Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Elections Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#), [Word Central](#), [Election Vocabulary](#), and [Vote Smart Vocabulary](#)

**count**  
**alike**  
**debate**  
**county**

### Interesting People and Places

Using books or the Internet sites shown below, look up **Andrew Jackson**. Who was he, and why is he important? When was he born, and where was he from? Did he have any children? Write or narrate your answers in your journal, and draw a picture of him. **Website suggestions:** [Andrew Jackson](#) and [Andrew Jackson](#)

## Read and Discover

Using books or the Internet sites shown below, read the following questions and find the answers. Write your answers in your journal.

1. What are the main responsibilities of the legislative branch of our government?  
**Website suggestions:** [Legislative Branch](#) and [Legislative Branch](#)
2. What are the main responsibilities of the executive branch? **Website suggestions:** [Executive Branch](#) and [Executive Branch](#)
3. What are the main responsibilities of the judicial branch? **Website suggestions:** [Judicial Branch](#) and [Judicial Branch](#)
4. How many seats are in the U.S. House of Representatives? How many seats are in the U.S. Senate? **Website suggestions:** [U.S. House of Representatives](#) and [U.S. Senate](#)

## Internet Resources

[Andrew Jackson's Hermitage](#)

[Andrew Jackson Coloring Page](#)



# ELECTIONS: WEEK TWO – DAY THREE

## UPPER LEVEL

### Take Me There

**Video:** [Andrew Jackson](#)

**Video:** [The Hermitage](#)

### Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Elections Journal:

**“As long as our government is administered for the good of the people, and is regulated by their will; as long as it secures to us the rights of persons and of property, liberty of conscience and of the press, it will be worth defending.”**

Andrew Jackson, President of the United States

### Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Elections Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#), [Dictionary.com](#), [Election Terms](#), and [Political Glossary](#)

**inauguration**  
**legislate**  
**majority**  
**national**

### Interesting People and Places

Using books or the Internet sites shown below, look up **Andrew Jackson**. Who was he? What political party was he affiliated with, and when did he serve as President? What was his religious affiliation? Describe his life and contributions to American history in your journal.

**Website suggestions:** [Andrew Jackson](#) and [Andrew Jackson](#)

## Read and Discover

Using books or the Internet sites shown below, find the answers to these questions and record your answers in your journal along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

1. Who did President Jackson have to campaign against when he was running to become President of the United States? **Website suggestions:** [Learn about Elections](#) and [Campaign and Elections](#)
2. What are the main responsibilities of the legislative branch of our government? **Website suggestions:** [Legislative Branch](#) and [Legislative Branch](#)
3. What are the main responsibilities of the executive branch? **Website suggestions:** [Executive Branch](#) and [Executive Branch](#)
4. What are the main responsibilities of the judicial branch? **Website suggestions:** [Judicial Branch](#) and [Judicial Branch](#)
5. Describe the history of political parties in America. Does the Constitution describe political parties? What were the first two main political parties in America? **Website suggestions:** [Political Party History](#) and [Political Parties](#)
6. Consider the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. What number of seats must be held by one political party to have a majority in the U.S. Senate? How many seats must be held in the U.S. House of Representatives for one party to hold a majority there? **Website suggestions:** [U.S. Congress](#) and [U.S. Senate](#)

## Internet Resource

[Andrew Jackson's Hermitage](#)

