

Guided Reading Activity

networks

Choosing the President

Lesson 3 *Electing the President*

Review Questions

Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

I. Road to the White House

- A. In a presidential election, voters are actually casting their ballots for _____.
- B. Since the Framers were concerned about the ability of the average citizen to be an informed _____ and about giving _____ too much power in selecting the president, they created the _____.
- C. The Electoral College is a _____ system, which means that, with the exception of two states, the candidate who receives the most popular votes in a given state wins _____ the electoral votes for that state.
- D. Although he or she may already have a _____ _____ _____ (PAC), a candidate makes his or her candidacy official by registering with the _____ _____ (FEC).
- E. Candidates try to convince members of their party to choose them by running against other candidates from their party in a series of _____ or _____.
- F. The party candidate is selected at a national _____.
- G. In the final weeks of a presidential campaign, both parties spend heavily on advertising and both candidates travel extensively, especially to the "_____ _____" where the vote is undecided.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.***networks****Choosing the President****II. Electoral College Issues**

- A. Usually, the electoral system works well, supporting the principle of _____ by giving small states more weight and allowing states to decide how to choose their _____.
- B. The winner-take-all system of the Electoral College makes it possible for a candidate who loses the _____ vote to win the _____ vote, and a strong third-party candidate could win enough _____ votes to prevent either major-party candidate from receiving a majority of votes.
- C. If neither presidential candidate wins _____ electoral votes, the _____ must decide the winner.
- D. There are several ideas for reforming the _____, such as distributing each state's electors according to various systems.

III. The Inauguration

- A. The new president is inaugurated in late January, when he or she takes the _____ and delivers an inaugural _____.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

Why did the Framers of the Constitution create the Electoral College system? Describe the three ideas for reform of the Electoral College.
