

Election Night Tracker

Time Needed: Portions of two consecutive class periods

Materials Needed:

Student worksheets

Access to media broadcasts on Election Day

Projector for post election review

Copy Instructions:

Activity (2 pages; class set)

Learning Objectives Students will be able to:

- Track state election results
- Monitor the media's election coverage
- Identify states and corresponding Electoral Votes
- Define the terms "projected winner" and "too close to call" as they relate to election coverage
- Compare and contrast media coverage of election night results by format and provider

STEP BY STEP

❑ ANTICIPATE

by asking students how many Electoral Votes are needed to win the presidency. (270+) Then ask if they have ever watched election results reported live on the news or other media outlets. Here are some questions to start a brief discussion and preview some terms or processes students may experience when viewing results:

- Did all the results come in at once? Why might the east coast states declare winners before west coast states?
 - Polls close based on what time it is in different time zones, so the reporting will be staggered since the polling places close at different times.
- Does anyone know what "projected" winner means?
 - Many media outlets will report a "projected winner" well before all the votes are counted in a state. This outcome is determined from a number of data points- exit polls, early reporting precincts, and a lot of statistical mathematics. Sometimes, there is not enough of a lead to determine a projected winner, so news outlets may call the race "too close to call". This just means that we all have to wait until all the votes are actually and officially counted.

❑ DISTRIBUTE

the activity page and review the instructions. (You may chose to have students complete both sides as homework, or in class on the day after the election.)

---ELECTION NIGHT--

❑ PROJECT

the activity pages after the election results are in. (You may fill these pages in together, or show a completed map and tally sheet.)

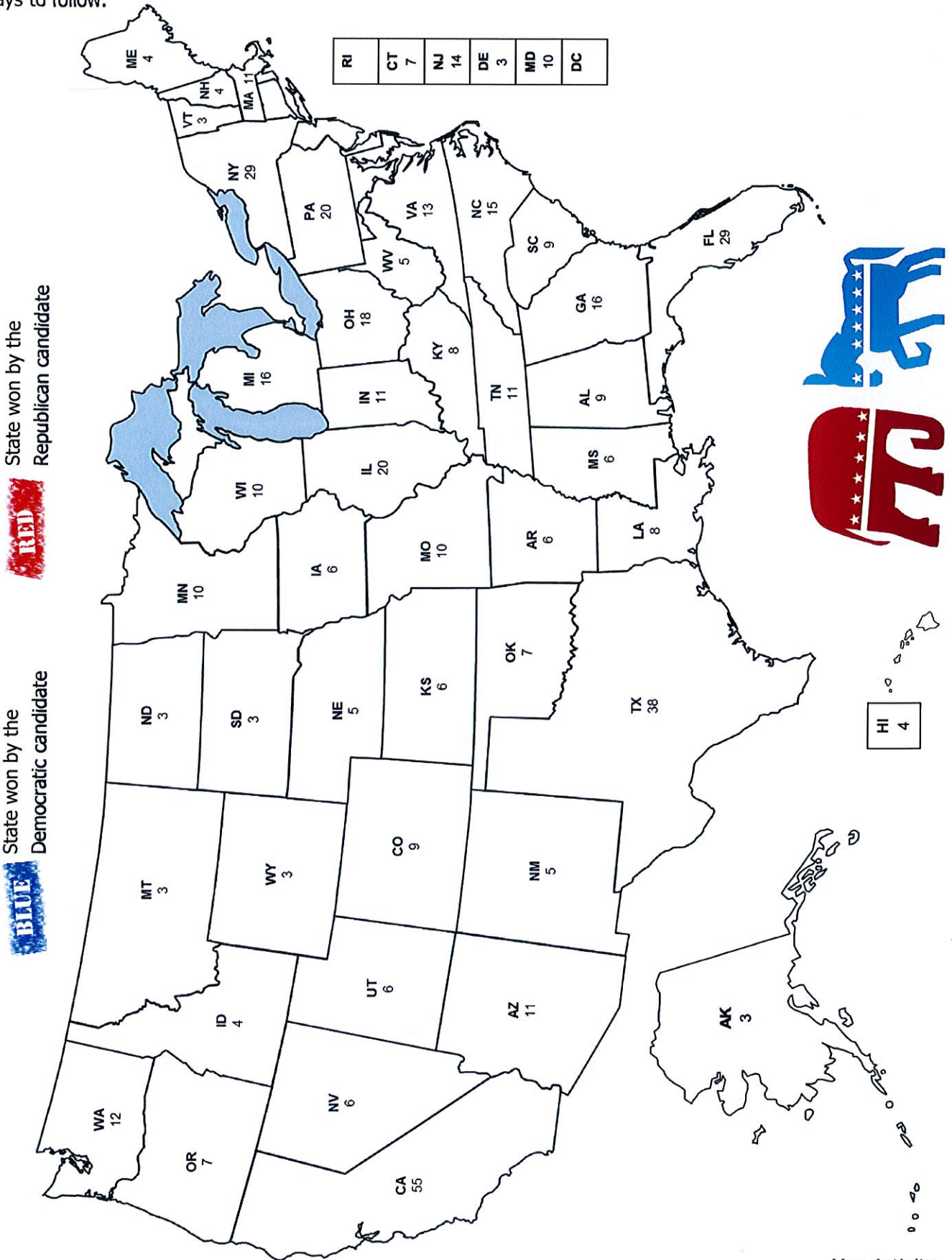
❑ DISCUSS

results and any observations students had from their election night experience. Ask what media outlets they watched, if they watched or accessed multiple media formats (internet, tv, radio) and how they would compare or contrast.

Election Night Tracker

Name: _____

Can you keep up with the votes as they roll in? Use news updates on the TV, internet, and radio to follow the results from each state. If the state goes to the Democratic candidate, color it **blue**- if the Republican wins the state, color it **red**. Leave contested or "too close to call" states blank until the state confirms a winner in the days to follow.



Election Night Tracker

Name: _____

Electoral Vote Tally Seeing a sea of red or blue on the map doesn't always translate into a clear election winner. Some states carry more Electoral College votes than others. So keep a tally of the numbers as you color in the map.

Table One	Electoral Votes	Democrat	Republican
Alabama (AL)	9		
Alaska (AK)	3		
Arizona (AZ)	11		
Arkansas (AR)	6		
California (CA)	55		
Colorado (CO)	9		
Connecticut (CT)	7		
Delaware (DE)	3		
Florida (FL)	29		
Georgia (GA)	16		
Hawaii (HI)	4		
Idaho (ID)	4		
Illinois (IL)	20		
Indiana (IN)	11		
Iowa (IA)	6		
Kansas (KS)	6		
Kentucky (KY)	8		
Louisiana (LA)	8		
Maine (ME)	4		
Maryland (MD)	10		
Massachusetts (MA)	11		
Michigan (MI)	16		
Minnesota (MN)	10		
Mississippi (MS)	6		
Missouri (MO)	10		
PARTY TOTALS	-		

Table Two	Electoral Votes	Democrat	Republican
Montana (MT)	3		
Nebraska (NE)	5		
Nevada (NV)	6		
New Hampshire (NH)	4		
New Jersey (NJ)	14		
New Mexico (NM)	5		
New York (NY)	29		
North Carolina (NC)	15		
North Dakota (ND)	3		
Ohio (OH)	18		
Oklahoma (OK)	7		
Oregon (OR)	7		
Pennsylvania (PA)	20		
Rhode Island (RI)	4		
South Carolina (SC)	9		
South Dakota (SD)	3		
Tennessee (TN)	11		
Texas (TX)	38		
Utah (UT)	6		
Vermont (VT)	3		
Virginia (VA)	13		
Washington (WA)	12		
West Virginia (WV)	5		
Wisconsin (WI)	10		
Wyoming (WY)	3		
PARTY TOTALS	-		

Final Count: Add the totals for each party and enter the outcome below. Remember, it takes 270 to win!



DEMOCRATIC

Table One

Table Two +

Electoral Votes



REPUBLICAN

Table One

Table Two +

Electoral Votes

And the winner is... _____ !