

## IDEAS FOR USING EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## Voting Matters

### Skill CAST A BALLOT

Give students different ways to access the content of the lesson with curated extension activities. Preview the links ahead of time and share the ones you think will be useful with the class, or assign one activity to one group of students and another to a second group, and so on. Explore these resources to extend this lesson:

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#### **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC / Why Voting is Important** - *Article estimated length: 10 minutes*

Have students read this article and learn about the historical and civic significance of voting in the United States.

- Click the “vocabulary” tab for a breakdown of key terms used in the text.
  - Select “text level” to differentiate reading levels from 5th-12th grade.
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#### **iCIVICS / Cast Your Vote** - *Game estimated length: 15 minutes*

In this game students see the value in educating oneself on the candidates before voting in an election. Students learn about the importance of local elections, watch candidates debate issues, and identify issues that matter to themselves.

- This game has accessibility tools for students with visual or mobile impairments.
  - This game has Spanish translation and voiceover for English and multilingual learners.
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#### **iCIVICS / Voting Rights** - *Lesson estimated length: 90 minutes*

In this lesson, complete with teaching and student materials, students learn how voting rights have expanded and contracted over time, the associated amendments, and obstacles to voting.

- This lesson comes with a google slides presentation and student handouts including a notes sheet, a chart, and activities.
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**PRESSED FOR TIME?** Depending on students’ needs, present students with either more instructional content or present students with practice activities.

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**KQED Learn / Is Voting Too Hard in the U.S.?** - *Video length: 9:03 minutes*

This video tells about the obstacles that Americans face when it comes to voting, from getting registered to getting to the polls.

- This video comes with a lesson plan that can be accessed to the right of the video.
- This video has a glossary of terms and a transcript.

**GOT MORE TIME?** Have students respond to the question posed, *What would you say to encourage young people to vote?*

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**CURRIKI STUDIO / Project Civicate: Voting and Elections** - *Lesson*

*estimated length: 10 minutes*

In this video, students learn about the process of campaigning and engaging in national elections.

- This video pauses at four moments to provide students with formative assessments.
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**Your Own Favorite Resources:**

**Disclaimer:** By clicking on a link or copying and pasting a URL, you will be leaving the *Civics Interactive* program and entering into an external website (third party) that may contain content or resources for adults. Take note that certain links may require you to create a login in order to access the content. Savvas Learning Company LLC does not guarantee, approve or endorse the content, resources or products available at these websites, nor does a link indicate any association with, or endorsement between third party and Savvas. The linked website has its own legal terms, policies, privacy policy and community guidelines, which we recommend that you review before supplying information to the websites or their products and services. Savvas does not control these third party websites and are not responsible or liable for the performance of these websites, their services, accessibility features or any of the content and resources contained on them.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

## ACT ON IT ACTIVITY SHEET - VOTING MATTERS

# Voting Simulation

## Skill Cast a Ballot

**What to Do:** You are going to participate in a voting simulation but first you will work with a small group and create a candidate that will represent your assigned political party. Note that in this simulation, the specifics of the political office are less relevant than the process of casting a ballot.

My assigned party: \_\_\_\_\_

Meet with your groupmates to begin brainstorming and researching the stances that someone within your assigned party might take on issues. Remember that within a party there is a spectrum from center to extreme, and someone who is extreme in one area may be more centered in another area. Not all candidates will make every issue part of their platform, you may wish to focus on the three to five most significant issues to your candidate.

My candidate's platform:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

What will the candidate be named? \_\_\_\_\_

Now it's time to listen to each candidate as your classmates present. Listen with an open mind. Simply because you proposed a candidate does not mean they are the only person you should vote for. You should vote for the person you feel most aligns with your vision for the position. After listening to your classmates, it will be time to vote.

You may wish to jot some notes about the other candidates in the space here:

## Reflect

Are you satisfied with the results? Why or why not?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

### **Tear-off Ballot**

Use the space below to write in your vote.