



ELECTION DAY CIVICS LAB

A practical, nonpartisan learning adventure
Vote. Count. Graph. Think.



Start where your family is

Short learning blocks, any time of day. Read aloud, draw, dictate, or write.

You need: a pencil, crayons, and these pages. Optional: scraps of paper and an empty box for a family vote. No account or online lesson is required.

Choose your pace

One session: use pages 3-8 in about 45-60 minutes.

Three short sessions: words + process; ballot + tally; graph + sorting.

Six small blocks: complete one activity page at a time, about 10-15 minutes each.

Make it fit

Younger children can point, match, count, color, or dictate. Older children can explain their reasoning and try percentages. Skip extensions that your child has not learned yet.

Our fictional election

Maple Town can add one feature to its park: a walking trail, a community garden, or a playground. All names, votes, and news examples in this kit are invented.

Keep the conversation respectful

Ask, "What is your reason?" and "What evidence would help?" People can disagree and still listen kindly. A family vote is a simplified model; real elections follow state and local rules.

For the optional real-world page

Use an official state or local election office website with an adult. Public reports on Election Day can be unofficial. Officials count valid ballots, check totals, and certify results under their rules.

Parent reference: U.S. Election Assistance Commission
eac.gov/election-officials/election-results-canvass-and-certification
Educational resource; not affiliated with a government agency.

Words that help us understand

Write the matching letter beside each word. Read together if you prefer.

____ 1. Election

A. Information that helps support or check a claim.

____ 2. Ballot

B. A person seeking an elected position.

____ 3. Voter

____ 4. Candidate

C. More than half of a total.

____ 5. Tally

D. A process for choosing people or deciding a question by voting.

____ 6. Majority

____ 7. Opinion

E. A personal belief, preference, or judgment.

____ 8. Evidence

F. A paper or electronic form used to record choices.

G. A way to keep track of a count.

H. A person who casts a vote.

Say it in your own words: How is an opinion different from evidence?

How a vote becomes a result

Number the steps 1-5. This is a simplified model of an election process.

____ Officials count the valid votes.

____ Voters learn about the choices.

____ After required checks, officials certify the results.

____ Voters mark and submit their ballots.

____ Officials review the totals and complete required checks.

Think about it: Why might results reported right away still be unofficial?

Your community ballot

Maple Town Park has space for one new feature. Which would you choose?

☐

Walking trail

A path for walking and enjoying the park.

☐

Community garden

A shared space to grow flowers and vegetables.

☐

Playground

A space with equipment for play.

Practice ballot: Mark one box. This is an educational activity, not an official ballot.

My reason for choosing this feature:

Optional family vote: Agree on one vote per participant, copy the three choices onto paper, vote privately, and count together. Use the supplied sample votes on the next page for the graph activity.

Count the sample votes

These 20 fictional votes are practice data. Use them for pages 6 and 7.

1. Trail	2. Garden	3. Playground	4. Trail
5. Playground	6. Garden	7. Trail	8. Playground
9. Garden	10. Playground	11. Trail	12. Garden
13. Playground	14. Trail	15. Playground	16. Garden
17. Trail	18. Playground	19. Trail	20. Playground

Record tally marks. Then write the number of votes.

Walking trail		
Community garden		
Playground		

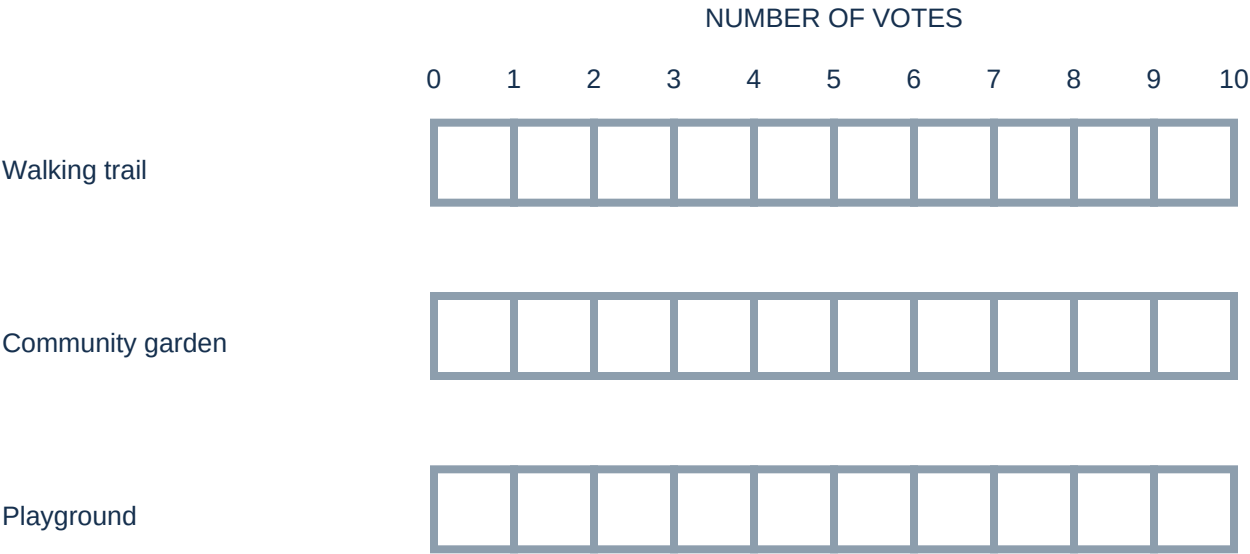
Total votes: _____ Most votes: _____

A majority is more than half. Half of 20 is _____.
Did any choice get a majority? ____ Explain: _____

Show the results

Use the sample totals from page 6. Color one square for each vote.

Title: _____



How many more votes did Playground receive than Garden? _____

Which two choices together received 12 votes? _____

Older learner extension: Percentage = votes / total votes x 100.
Example: 2 out of 20 = 2 / 20 x 100 = 10%.

Trail: _____% Garden: _____% Playground: _____%

Check: do the three percentages add to 100%? _____

Fact, opinion, or prediction?

Read each statement about our fictional town. Write F, O, or P.

Fact: can be checked with evidence. **Opinion:** a preference or judgment.
Prediction: says what someone expects to happen in the future.

- ____ 1. The sample election contains 20 votes.
- ____ 2. A playground is the best park feature.
- ____ 3. The garden will receive the most votes next year.
- ____ 4. The sample garden total is five votes.
- ____ 5. Walking trails are more fun than playgrounds.
- ____ 6. More people will visit the park next summer.
- ____ 7. Eight sample votes are for the playground.
- ____ 8. Every park should have a garden.

Check a claim: What source would help verify statement 4?

Ask before sharing: Who made this claim? What evidence is offered?
When was it published? Can I check an official or original source?

Observe an election together

Optional: use a public official election source with an adult, on or after Election Day.

Date: _____ Place or election: _____

Official source name or web address: _____

What offices or questions are being decided?

What did you notice about the voting or counting process?

Does the source call these results unofficial or certified?

One question I still have:

You can draw, dictate, or write. Observe public information; respect private ballots.
Check again later if results are still unofficial.

Answers and personal-use terms

Keep this page for the adult helping with the activities.

Page 3: 1-D, 2-F, 3-H, 4-B, 5-G, 6-C, 7-E, 8-A.

Page 4: From top to bottom: 3, 1, 5, 2, 4. Results may be unofficial while counting and required checks continue.

Page 5: Choices and reasons vary.

Page 6: Trail 7; Garden 5; Playground 8. Total 20. Playground has the most votes. Half is 10; no choice has a majority because none has more than 10 votes.

Page 7: Bars: 7, 5, 8. Difference: 3 votes. Trail + Garden = 12. Percentages: 35%, 25%, 40%; total 100%.

Page 8: F, O, P, F, O, P, F, O. Check statement 4 against the sample ballots or a carefully verified tally. Predictions are expectations, not established facts.

Page 9: Answers vary; use the source's own result label.

Adapt the activities

For younger learners, read aloud, use counters, and omit percentages. For older learners, ask them to explain why the most votes is not always a majority. A plurality means more votes than any other choice; our sample playground wins under a simple plurality rule.

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Print at actual size (100%) on US Letter paper. Select individual pages as needed. Work directly on paper or use a reusable sleeve with a dry-erase marker. This is a printable PDF, not a fillable form. The kit illustrates a simplified process, not every election rule. Original activities and simple graphics; no political endorsements.