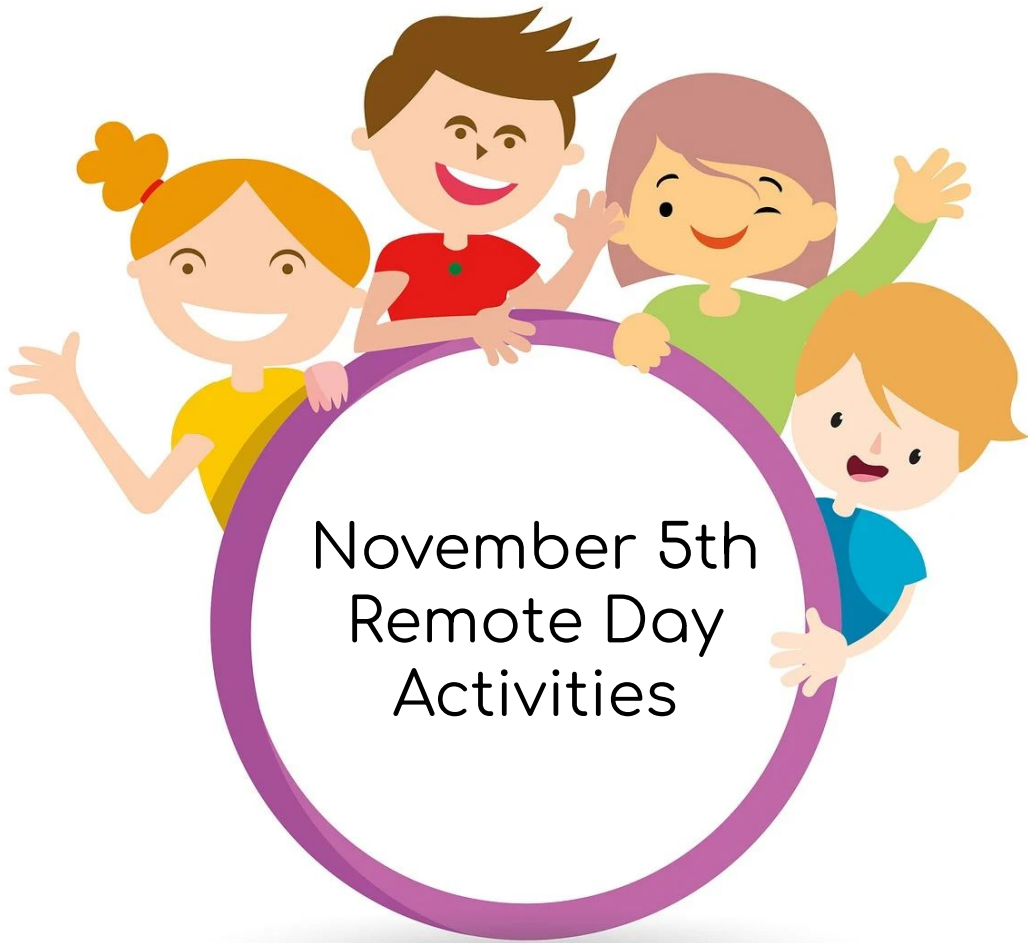


# 5th Grade



Complete the following activities and return the work  
on November 6th.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# American Government - Get Out the Vote

by ReadWorks



Have you ever heard someone being called an "idiot"? This word actually has been around for many centuries. The word "idiot" comes from the Greek word *idiotes*. In ancient Greece, this was the word for people who kept to themselves. *Idiotes* did not participate in ancient Greece's public life or politics. They did not vote or debate important issues.

Today, voting is a very important way a country's citizens can participate in its politics. In the United States, American citizens can vote for candidates in national and state elections. On the national level, they can vote for the president and members of Congress. On the state and local level, they can vote for the governor, state representatives, state senators, and people like the mayor and city council. Different candidates have different beliefs. People usually vote for the candidate whose beliefs are closest to their own. Most people want a candidate who will represent them and their beliefs in office.

Only American citizens 18 years of age and older can vote in the United States. Even though voting is a right, citizens also must register to vote beforehand. Registered voters are each assigned a place to vote. This is called a voter's polling place. When Election Day comes, voters go to the place and sign in. This is how the government makes sure that people only vote once in the same election. Some places also have a system of voting by mail for voters who can't go in person.

The people working at a polling place give voters a ballot. Some ballots look similar to a multiple-choice test. There are little bubbles that voters fill in next to the person's name that they want to win. Other ballots are electronic. Voters choose who they want to vote for directly on a computer screen or by turning levers on a voting machine. Whichever type of ballot a polling place uses, voting is very private. No one should be able to see whom a voter chooses.

Even before Election Day in the U.S., citizens can learn about important issues. They can read the newspaper, write a letter to their representative in Congress, or participate in community activities. The important thing is to get involved!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the text, what is a very important way citizens can participate in its country's politics?

- A. by being called an "idiot"
- B. by voting
- C. by working at a polling place
- D. by reading the newspaper

2. What does the author describe in the text?

- A. how people can become candidates in U.S. elections
- B. what kinds of issues are important in the U.S.
- C. who can vote in the United States
- D. who could vote in ancient Greece

3. Read these sentences from the text.

Only American citizens 18 years of age and older can vote in the United States. Even though voting is a right, citizens also must register to vote beforehand. Registered voters are each assigned a place to vote. This is called a voter's polling place. When Election Day comes, voters go to the place and sign in.

Based on this evidence, what can you conclude about voters in the U.S.?

- A. Voters can vote at any polling place they want.
- B. Voters can sign into more than one polling place.
- C. Only registered voters can vote at any polling place they want.
- D. Only the voters assigned to a polling place can vote there.

4. Based on the text, what is probably true about the beliefs of the U.S. president and members of Congress?

- A. Their beliefs are similar to the beliefs of ancient Greece.
- B. Their beliefs are similar to the beliefs of many American citizens.
- C. Their beliefs are similar to the beliefs of state representatives and senators.
- D. Their beliefs are similar to the beliefs of the people working at polling places.

5. What is this text mostly about?

- A. how and why U.S. citizens vote
- B. differences between paper and electronic ballots
- C. differences between local and national elections
- D. similarities between voting in the U.S. and ancient Greece

6. Read these sentences from the text.

People usually vote for the candidate whose beliefs are closest to their own. Most people want a candidate who will **represent** them and their beliefs in office.

As used in these sentences, what does the word "**represent**" mean?

- A. argue with
- B. replace
- C. stand for
- D. complain about

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

A lot of voters want a candidate who will represent them and their beliefs, \_\_\_\_\_ they usually vote for the candidate whose beliefs are closest to their own.

- A. because
- B. so
- C. after
- D. otherwise

8. According to the text, what are three ways citizens can learn about important issues before Election Day in the U.S.?

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9. Why might it be important for U.S. voters to learn about important issues before Election Day? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Election Day

## Word Search

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the  
vocabulary words  
in the grid. Look  
for them in all  
directions including  
backwards and  
diagonally.

ABSENTEE

BALLOT

BOOTH

BOX

CAMPAIGN

CANDIDATE

CAUCUS

DEMOCRACY

ELECTOR

INCUMBENT

R	A	J	T	E	I	N	X	H	K	D	Q	G	Y	G	U	C	F	G
M	M	K	N	Y	R	A	B	B	F	F	V	F	A	O	V	O	W	O
A	S	B	W	Q	G	J	Q	A	P	Y	T	R	A	P	G	O	P	S
Y	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	Z	U	N	B	Z	Q	R	T	W
O	Y	C	A	R	C	O	M	E	D	S	E	U	S	S	I	R	J	E
R	R	S	Q	H	Y	A	V	N	T	O	K	M	K	M	M	O	K	I
A	Z	S	S	L	Y	B	U	Y	V	H	R	M	A	W	C	T	N	T
K	U	I	L	Q	T	S	C	O	V	W	S	R	H	V	A	C	E	W
H	D	A	J	F	I	E	A	A	L	X	Y	L	L	R	U	E	O	B
P	T	J	A	G	R	N	M	T	Y	P	Z	B	F	M	C	L	U	M
G	P	O	K	R	O	T	P	T	I	M	S	I	B	A	U	E	D	A
R	F	Q	O	L	J	E	A	S	E	Q	M	E	C	Z	S	B	O	X
F	G	E	D	B	A	E	I	I	C	A	N	D	I	D	A	T	E	F
Y	F	S	P	E	M	Q	G	Y	G	T	J	B	G	H	U	L	W	K
Y	Z	O	G	R	C	S	N	B	J	T	O	A	J	C	S	H	X	H
C	J	L	N	A	Y	H	S	B	D	K	F	L	Q	E	Y	E	K	C
A	A	K	P	U	R	E	C	O	U	N	T	L	A	E	I	W	R	X
E	S	I	M	O	R	P	Q	L	A	O	J	O	M	P	X	F	F	D
Q	Y	O	Z	W	Z	I	J	T	W	C	K	T	Q	S	G	Y	V	Z



ISSUES

PRIMARY

LOBBYIST

PROMISE

LOSE

RECOUNT

MAJORITY

RUNOFF

MAYOR

SPEECH

PARTY

TALLY

PRESIDENT

VOTE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine you were just elected President of the United States! On your first day in the White House, you find a magical key that can open any door and make any wish come true.

Write a story about your first day as President. What are some of the first things you would do with the magical key? Who would you invite to the White House, and what kinds of wishes would you make to help people and make your country a better place? Be sure to describe what happens and how your decisions make a difference!

Brainstorming/Planning:



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## Set 1: Compare Whole Numbers

Write  $<$ ,  $>$ , or  $=$  in each circle to compare the numbers.

1  $21,442 \bigcirc 214,420$

2  $372 \bigcirc 3,151$

3  $9,000 \bigcirc 8,999$

4  $201,253 \bigcirc 201,189$

5  $915,298 \bigcirc 915,298$

6  $55,000 \bigcirc 50,555$

## Set 2: Round Whole Numbers

Round each number to the nearest ten for problems 1–3.

1  $621,583 \dots\dots\dots$

2  $77 \dots\dots\dots$

3  $596 \dots\dots\dots$

Round each number to the nearest hundred for problems 4–6.

4  $1,547 \dots\dots\dots$

5  $45,951 \dots\dots\dots$

6  $312,672 \dots\dots\dots$

Round each number to the nearest thousand for problems 7–9.

7  $52,131 \dots\dots\dots$

8  $98,912 \dots\dots\dots$

9  $672 \dots\dots\dots$

Round each number to the nearest ten thousand for problems 10–12.

10  $915,039 \dots\dots\dots$

11  $81,987 \dots\dots\dots$

12  $8,645 \dots\dots\dots$

## Set 3: Add and Subtract Whole Numbers

Add or subtract. Show your work.

1 
$$\begin{array}{r} 54,138 \\ + 24,231 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

2 
$$\begin{array}{r} 9,135 \\ + 5,897 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

3 
$$\begin{array}{r} 17,821 \\ + 4,830 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

4 
$$\begin{array}{r} 98,568 \\ - 32,421 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

5 
$$\begin{array}{r} 15,293 \\ - 9,424 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

6 
$$\begin{array}{r} 9,295 \\ - 8,931 \\ \hline \end{array}$$