

Name: _____

Date: _____

ELECTORAL VOTES - HOW WE ELECT THE PRESIDENT

Read the Information. Then use the information on page 2 to answer the questions.

United States Presidents are *not* chosen by popular vote. (The term “popular vote” refers to the total number of votes cast in an election.) Instead, they are chosen by electoral vote. Usually, the candidate who wins the popular vote also wins the electoral vote, but not always.

Each state gets a certain number of electoral votes, based on the number of U.S. senators and representatives in the state. (Remember, each state has two senators and at least one representative. The number of representatives is based on population.)

A presidential candidate must receive a majority of the 538 electoral votes —270 or more— in order to win the election. Use the map to help you answer the questions. (Hint: You might need a calculator.)

1.	How many electoral votes does your state have?		
2.	Which State has the most electoral votes?		
3.	Which 8 states (and district) have just 3 electoral votes?	1.	
		2.	
		3.	
		4.	
		5.	
		6.	
		7.	
		8.	
4.	If you only won 11 states, which states would you choose?	1.	
		2.	
		3.	
		4.	
		5.	
		6.	
		7.	
		8.	
		9.	
		10.	
		11.	
5.	How is the number of electoral votes decided for each state?		

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A presidential candidate must receive a majority of the 538 electoral votes —270 or more— in order to win the election. Use the map to help you answer the questions. (Hint: You might need a calculator.)

1.	How many electoral votes does your state have?	
2.	Which State has the most electoral votes?	California
3.	Which 8 states (and district) have just 3 electoral votes?	1. Wyoming
		2. Montana
		3. Delaware
		4. South Dakota
		5. North Dakota
		6. Alaska
		7. Vermont
		8. Washington, D. C.
4.	If you only won 11 states, which states would you choose?	1. California
		2. Texas
		3. New York
		4. Florida
		5. Illinois
		6. Pennsylvania
		7. Ohio
		8. Michigan
		9. New Jersey
		10. Georgia
		11. North Carolina
5.	How is the number of electoral votes decided for each state?	By population of the state