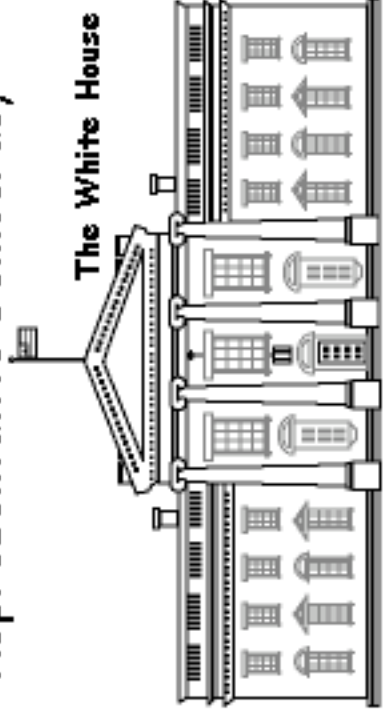


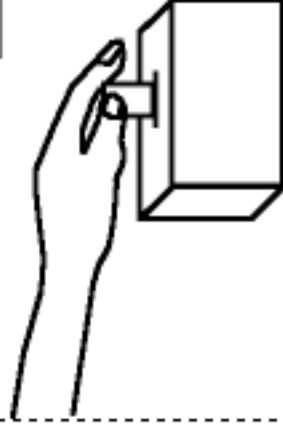
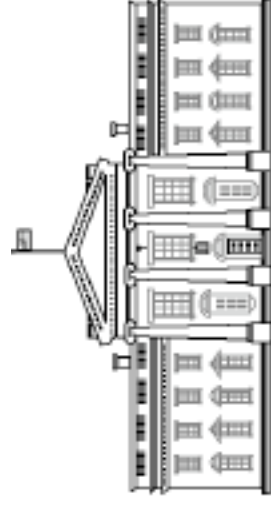
Representative Democracy



An election is a process in which people vote to choose a leader or to decide an issue. The United

States is a representative democracy, a country in which the adult citizens of the country vote to elect the country's leaders. These elected leaders make the governmental decisions.

Every four years, the adult citizens of the USA elect a President.

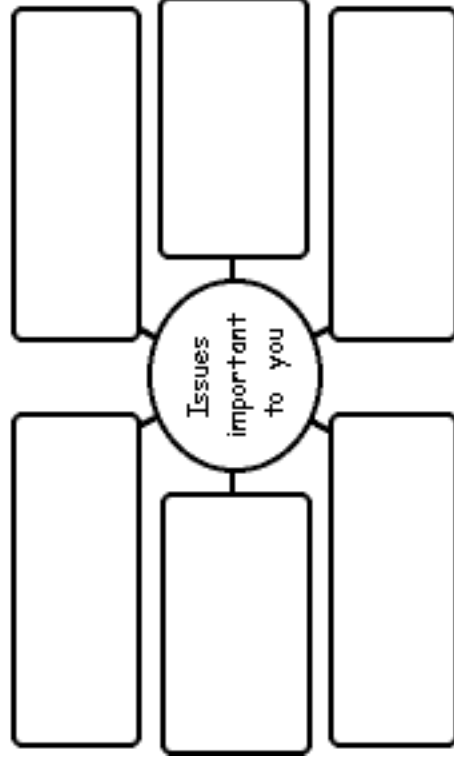


Electing the US President



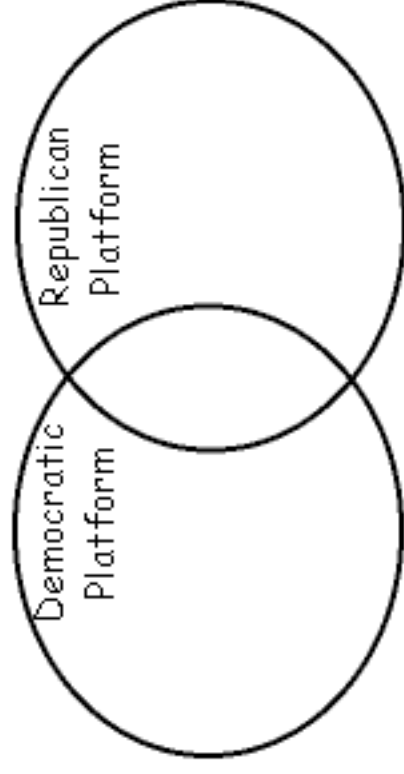
Name _____

Issues You Care About



There are many government issues that affect our lives, and our elected officials make decisions about these issues. For example, they decide on national defense, school support, health care reforms, social security, taxes, immigration, and many other issues. **What issues do you care about?**

Political Parties



There are two major political parties in the USA, the Democrats and the Republicans; there are also smaller parties.

The different political parties approach government differently. Some emphasize the government's role in our lives, while others emphasize individual freedom & responsibility.

Primary Elections



The donkey is the symbol of the Democratic Party



The elephant is the symbol of the Republican Party

Every four years, before each Presidential election, the Democrats and Republicans have primary elections in order to determine their party's candidate.

In a primary election, members of each political party vote to choose their party's candidate. For example, Democrats vote for their favorite Democratic candidate and Republicans vote for their favorite Republican candidate.

Political Conventions

Political Party	Presidential Candidate

List the political parties and their Presidential candidates for this election

At a political party convention, a political party formally decides who their candidates for President and Vice-President will be. They also formalize their party's platform (the position of that political party on important issues).

Registering to Vote

Name
Date of Birth
Address
Phone Number

Before Adult US citizens can vote, they have to register with their county (for example, where they renew their driver's license). When you register to vote, you will be told the location of your polling place (this is where you vote on election day). If you can't make it to the polls, you can vote by mail.

How to Vote

Most US elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Polling places (the locations where people vote) include schools, post offices, community centers, and other public places. This is called the popular vote.

When you vote for President, you are also voting for that party's Vice-President.

After the election, the votes are counted. This is not the end of the election.

