

NAME: _____



Activity One

City of Webster Election Results

Directions: The table below contains the results of four elections in the city of Webster. Use the information in the table to answer the questions.

Election Year	Major Issue	Voter Turnout (%)
2003	Road Construction	47
2005	Raising School Taxes	64
2007	Construction of a New Recycling Center	52
2009	Crime Prevention	56

1. What year was voter turnout the greatest? _____
2. In the year that crime prevention was a major election issue, what was the percentage of voter turnout? _____
3. What two years had the lowest voter turnout? _____
4. What were the major election issues in the years with the lowest voter turnout?

5. In 2009, what was the main election issue? _____
6. The issue that had the greatest percentage of voter turnout was raising school taxes. In your opinion, why do you think more people voted on this issue than any other issue?

NAME: _____



Activity Two

Government Profile

Directions: Select a country. Using the research tools available to you, provide the answers to the prompts below.

1. Identify your country _____
2. Name the head of state _____
3. How long has this person been head of state? _____
4. Name the head of government _____
5. How long has this person been head of government? _____
6. Who creates the laws in this country? _____
7. Who chooses the leader of the country? _____
8. How long does the leader serve? _____
9. Identify the system of government _____
10. Explain your answer to number 9 in one to two sentences. Be sure to give factual information to support your answer.

NAME: _____



Activity Three

The Carter Center

Not every country has free and safe elections. Throughout the world, many countries have needed help from other organizations in order to have safe and fair elections.

The Carter Center was founded in 1982 by Jimmy Carter, a former U.S. President. The purpose of the Carter Center is to advance human rights and help end suffering. One of the main areas of interest is observing international elections.

The Carter Center helps in the entire election process. They arrive months before the elections to help make sure there are proper voter registration and education programs. Workers from the Carter Center also make sure that campaigning is fair.

On Election Day, Carter Center workers make sure voters can safely enter and exit polling places. They also make sure that no one tampers with votes or try to scare voters.

Since 1989, the Carter Center has monitored over 60 elections in many countries throughout the world. Some of those countries include Ethiopia, Israel, Nigeria, and Indonesia.

1. What is the purpose of the Carter Center?

2. What does the Carter Center do before the election?

3. What do Carter Center workers do to help prevent vote fraud?

4. How many countries has the Carter Center helped since 1989?



Activity Four

Women's Suffrage

Directions; Use the timeline below to answer the following questions.

- 1838- Women can vote in the Pitcairn Islands.
- 1862- Women can vote in local elections in Australia.
- 1883- Widows can vote in Canada.
- 1918- Women can vote in the United Kingdom and Canada.
- 1920- Women can vote in the United States.
- 1945- The United Nations declares that all citizens should have the right to vote.
- 1980- Women are allowed to vote in Iraq.

1. Which country was the first to allow women to vote?

2. What year were widows granted the right to vote in Canada?

3. What event occurred in 1980?

4. What decision did the United Nations make in 1945?

5. What year did all women gain the right to vote in Canada?

NAME: _____



Activity Five

The United Nations

The United Nations was established in 1945, after World War II. At that time, the main purpose of the United Nations was to help countries settle disagreements and conflicts before they became major problems. The hope was to avoid another world war.

The United Nations was built in New York City on land donated by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Although it is located in the United States, the United Nations is international territory and does not belong to any one country. The United Nations recently began moving to another location in New York City because the original building was out of date.

When the United Nations opened, they had 50 members. The countries that were the main victors of World War II each had a permanent membership and had veto powers. Those countries included China, the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and France.

The United Nations now has 192 countries as members, which means that almost all the people of the world are represented. One of the main purposes of the United Nations now is to ensure safe and free elections throughout the world. They have helped monitor elections in Afghanistan and East Timor, helping them become democratic countries.

1. What was the main purpose of the United Nations after World War II?

2. What country owns the United Nations?

3. Who were the first permanent members?

4. How has the United Nations helped East Timor and Afghanistan become democratic countries?

NAME: _____



Activity Six

The Electoral College

In the United States, the people do vote for the president in the popular vote, but the Electoral College chooses which candidate will serve as leader. This system was created by the U.S. founding fathers as a way to protect the best interests of the people. Each state is allowed a number of electors, based on the state's population. The summer before the election, the electors are chosen. Each state has a different process, but electors may not be government representatives. On Election Day, the electors vote. In most states, the candidate that wins receives all of the state's electoral votes. A few states divide their electoral votes. Although the result of the Electoral College is usually the same as the popular vote, this is not always the case. For example, the winner of the popular vote was Al Gore, but the winner of the Electoral College was George W. Bush. As a result, George W. Bush became president.

1. What is the popular vote?

2. What determines the amount of electoral votes given to each state?

3. When do electors vote?

4. Explain how the results of the 2000 U.S. Presidential Election were impacted by the Electoral College?
