

Hands-On History Lap-Pak:

U.S. Elections

Scope and Sequence

Grades: 3rd – 8th

The *U.S. Elections Lap-Pak* introduces you to the fast-paced world of Elections in the United States of America! The lap book and accompanying text and/or audio book takes you through a brief history of the U.S. government and how it elects its leaders. This study goes through the process of a U.S. election through reading material and hands-on projects that will reinforce topics, as well as introduce you to new information. Included are 21 lap booking project topics that incorporate creative writing, coloring and drawing, research, and more. The Lap-Pak is designed to teach students through kinesthetic means, utilizing their senses and motor skills. Where younger students may need more guidance and assistance with the projects, older students should be able to handle the majority of the unit independently. Along with the projects is a printable booklet of text giving information on each topic covered. The booklet is also reproduced in an audio format to be played along with or instead of the reading of the text if desired.

I. History / Social Studies (Cultural Studies)

a. Reading text booklet

- i. The Different Forms of Government
 1. The Rule of One
 2. The Rule of a Few
 3. The Rule of Many
 4. Anarchy

- ii. Governments of the People in History
 1. Athens
 2. Rome
 3. England

- iii. America: A New Creation from Old Roots

- iv. The Three Branches of Government
 1. The Legislative Branch
 2. The Executive Branch
 3. The Judicial Branch

- v. Suffrage
 1. Qualifications to Vote

- vi. The Election Process
 1. Who Do We Vote For
 - a. The President
 - b. The Vice President
 - c. Senators
 - d. Representatives
 2. Term Limits

- vii. Running for Office
 - 1. Political Parties
- viii. Caucuses and Primaries
 - 1. Caucuses
 - 2. Primaries
 - 3. “Frontloading”
 - 4. National Conventions
- ix. Running a Presidential Campaign
 - 1. Speaking
 - 2. Interest Groups
 - 3. Media and Propaganda
- x. Raising Money
- xi. Statistics
- xii. Election Day
 - 1. Voter Turnout
- xiii. The Electoral College
- xiv. Inauguration Day
- xv. The Importance of Elections

b. Projects

- i. “Definition of ‘Election’” project
- ii. “Different Forms of Government” project
- iii. “The American Experiment” project
- iv. “The Three Branches of Government” project
- v. “Suffrage” project
- vi. “Who Do We Vote For?” project
- vii. “Terms of Office” project
- viii. “A ‘Handful’ of Political Parties” project
- ix. “Caucuses & Primaries” project
- x. “National Conventions” project
- xi. “The Presidential Campaign: Platform” project
- xii. “The Presidential Campaign: Stump Speaking” project
- xiii. “The Presidential Campaign: Media – News Source” project
- xiv. “The Presidential Campaign: Campaign Advertising – Spreading the Word!” project
- xv. “Raising Money” project
- xvi. “Statistics” project
- xvii. “Election Day” project
- xviii. “The Electoral College” project
- xix. “Inauguration Day” project
- xx. “The Electoral Race!” project
- xxi. “The ‘Vocabinet’” project

c. Audio

- i. Over 60 minutes of audio split into two sections. This is a read aloud of the accompanying text.
 1. Section I
 - a. The Different Forms of Government
 - b. Government of the People in History
 - c. America: A New Creation from Old Roots
 - d. The Three Branches of Government
 - e. Suffrage
 - f. The Election Process
 2. Section II
 - a. Running for Office
 - b. Primaries and Caucuses
 - c. Running a Presidential Campaign
 - d. Raising Money
 - e. Statistics
 - f. Election Day
 - g. The Electoral College
 - h. Inauguration Day
 - i. The Importance of Elections