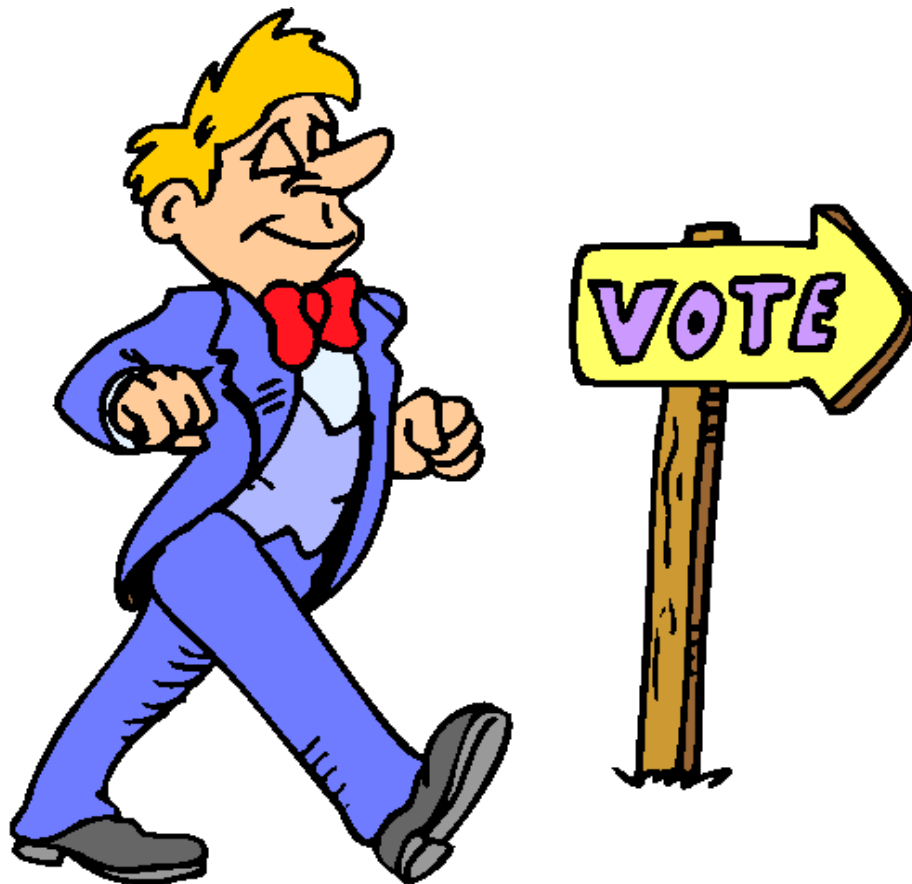




Grades 2-7

# Government and the Election Process

Learning Lapbook with Study Guide



A Journey Through Learning  
[www.ajourneythroughlearning.com](http://www.ajourneythroughlearning.com)

**Authors-Paula Winget and Nancy Fileccia  
Copyright © 2009 A Journey Through Learning**

**Pages may be copied for other members of household only. For group use,  
please see our website to purchase a classroom/co-op license.**

**Please check our website at:  
[www.ajourneythroughlearning.com](http://www.ajourneythroughlearning.com)**

**While you are there, sign up for our email newsletter and  
receive a FREE lapbook!  
You'll also receive great discount codes, special offers, find out  
what's new and what's to come!**

**Join us on Facebook!**

**Clipart is from [www.clipart.com](http://www.clipart.com) with permission and  
Art Explosion 800,000 by Nova Development**

**ISBN-978-0-9841297-7-5 Printed Format  
ISBN-978-1-936146-42-0 CD Format**

## How It All Goes Together

### What you need to get started

- \*A printed copy of the lapbook by A Journey Through Learning
- \*colored file folders
- \*Scissors
- \*Glue (We recommend Zip Dry Glue)
- \*Hole puncher
- \*Brads
- \*Stapler

### To make the storage system (optional-see directions)

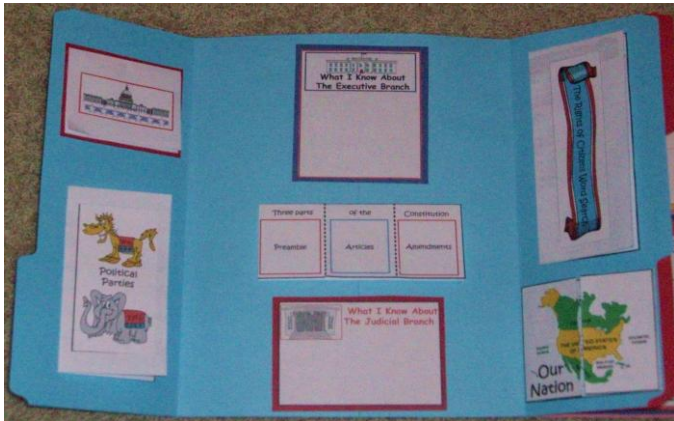
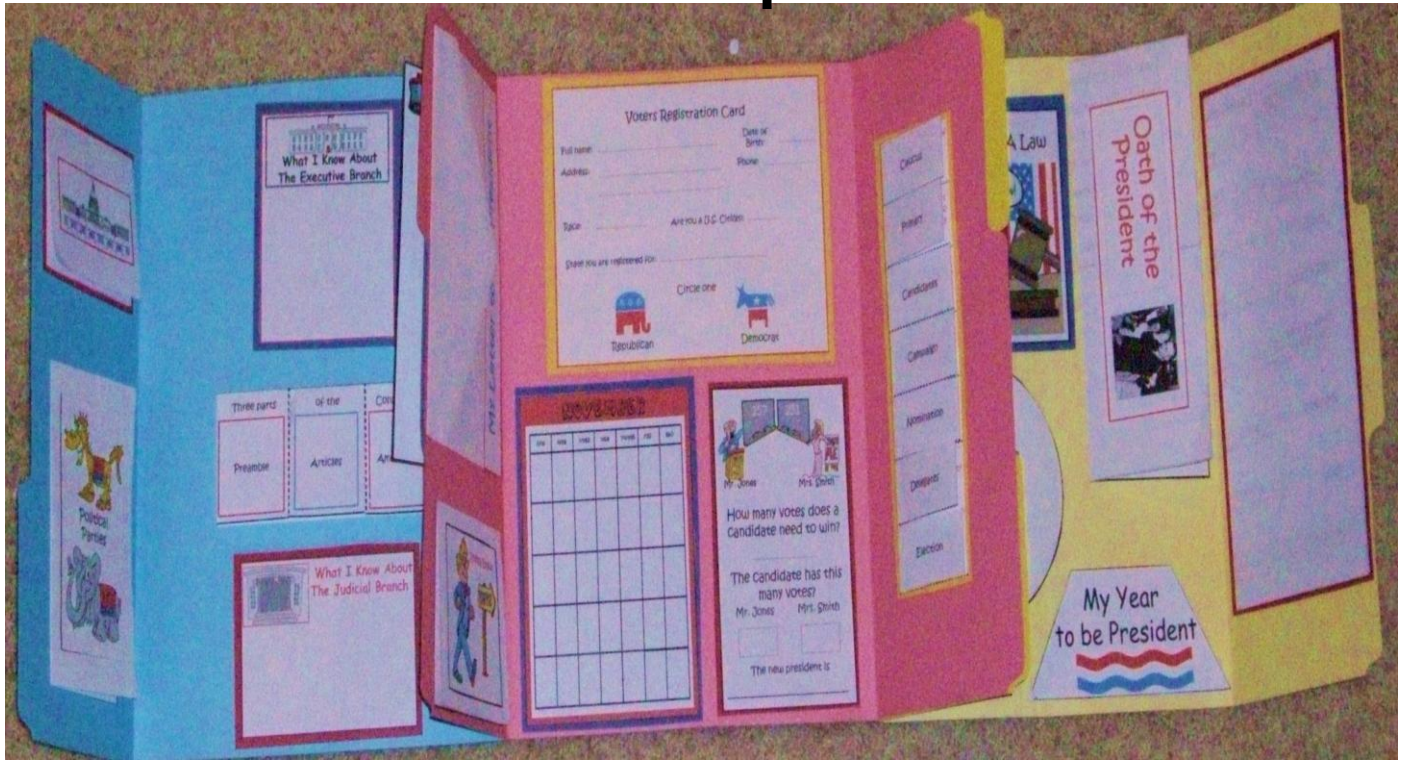
- \*Duct tape
- One 3-ring binder

## Study Choices

Choice #1- Read the first page of the study guide. Then use the internet and fun children's books to learn more about the topic that is covered in that study guide. For instance-our American Indians lapbook has a study guide page about Geronimo. Dig into Geronimo. There are probably lots of interesting things to learn about him that the study guide does not cover. Spend a day on Geronimo or spend a week! The pace you take for the lapbook is completely up to you. When your child has completed studying that particular topic, it will be time to do the mini-booklet for that topic. The mini-booklet patterns are found right after the study guide page that it goes with. Or, your child might want to do the mini-booklet before he/she delves deeper into the subject. Once again, the order is completely up to you and your child.

Choice #2- Read only the study guide page and do the mini-booklet that goes with it. The mini-booklet patterns are found right after the study guide page that it goes with. You may choose to do one study guide/mini-booklet per day, two per day, two per week, three per week, etc. It doesn't matter. The pace is completely up to you. At one per day, it will take about a month to complete a 3 folder lapbook.

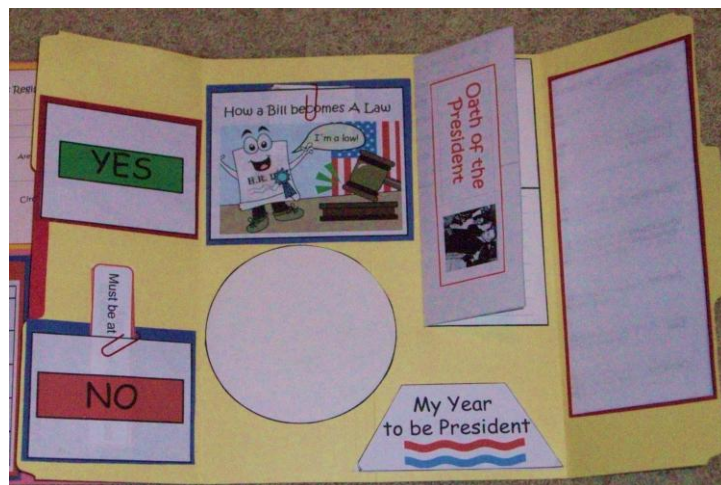
# Entire lapbook



1<sup>st</sup> folder



2<sup>nd</sup> folder



3<sup>rd</sup> folder



Constitution  
Political Parties  
Legislative Branch  
Executive Branch  
Judicial Branch  
Rights of Citizens  
Our Nation  
Job Description of the President  
How to Cast a Vote  
Registering to Vote  
Election Day  
Electoral College  
How to Elect a President  
Requirements to be President  
How Laws are Passed  
Campaign Buttons  
Oaths of Office



## Political Parties

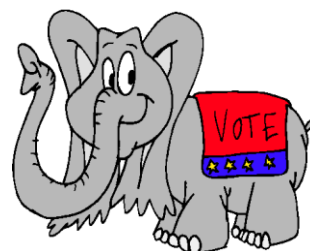
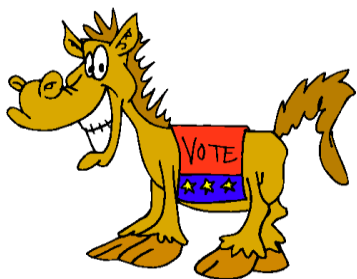
When you sign up to register to vote, there is a question on your form "What party do you want to belong to?" There are several different parties in the United States-The Democratic Party, the Republican Party, or Independent, meaning that you do not wish to join any party, but rather you will vote for whom ever you think will do the best job. Other political parties are the Constitution Party, the Libertarian Party, and the Federalist Party.

The reason so many different parties exist is that people think in different ways. The great thing about America is the freedom to choose. In choosing your party, you side with the person who has the same values, interests, and dreams for America that you have.

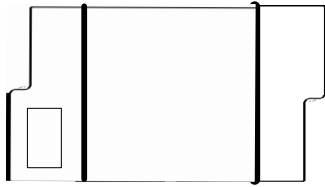
The Democratic and Republican Parties are both major political parties and are both well organized. They are funded by private citizens who believe in their individual causes. Each party is out to win, and they seek support in both the private and political worlds.

To run for either major party, you first have to be nominated. A person can be nominated several ways. A Caucus is a meeting where residents of the same party get together to nominate a candidate. The Direct Primary is a system where the people vote directly to nominate a candidate. The most common way of nominating a candidate is the Nominating Convention. Both major parties use this method.

The Nominating Convention is a large meeting of delegates who represent their chosen party and officially name a nominee. Political parties work hard to get their ideas spread across the country. Once they are elected, they spend many hours and lots of money traveling across the country campaigning. Nominees set up campaign offices in cities across America and volunteers like you and your family can go and help in the cause.



# Folder 1





## Read **Political Parties.**

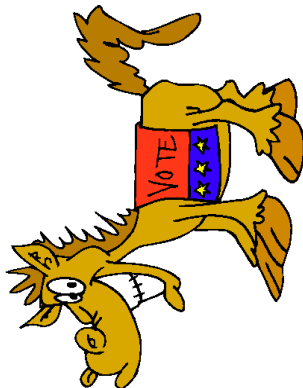
Cut out and glue into lapbook.

**Directions:** Write the names of the elected officials on the line. Then check whether they are Republican or Democrat.

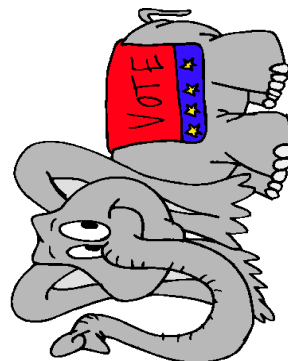
Hotdog fold

		 Republican	 Democrat
President:	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President:	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator: (choose one)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative: (choose one)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor:	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lt. Governor:	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cover label



Political  
Parties



# Requirements to be President

The president has two roles. One role is Chief Executive of the Federal Government. The other role is Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. These roles are assigned to the president by the Constitution of the United States. So, what is the president's job as Commander in Chief? First, the president can make the decision when our soldiers will go to war. The other is regarding the use of nuclear weapons. In addition, what is the president's job as Chief Executive? Well, lots of things! The president makes sure that treaties with other countries are followed properly. The president also makes sure that our country's laws are followed. In addition, the president also deals with our national budget and can let people out of prison. Finally, the president works alongside Congress, meets with heads of foreign nations, has parties and dinners at the White House with foreign guests and develops agreements with other countries.

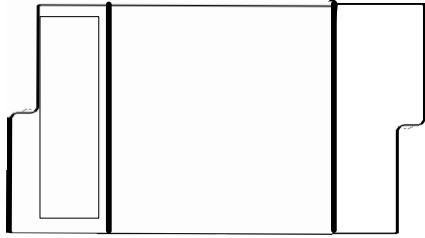
When someone first becomes president, he gives a speech to let everyone know the condition of the nation. This is called The State of the Union Address. Next time there is a presidential election, watch the State of the Union Address to hear the president's opinion of how good or bad our country is doing, and what he is planning to do for the next year. Don't want to wait that long? Well, the president gives this speech once a year around the beginning of the new year when Congress meets. So catch it then!

The job of the president is a very big job. Not just anyone can become president. There are a few requirements that have to be met before you can even think about running for president.

They are:

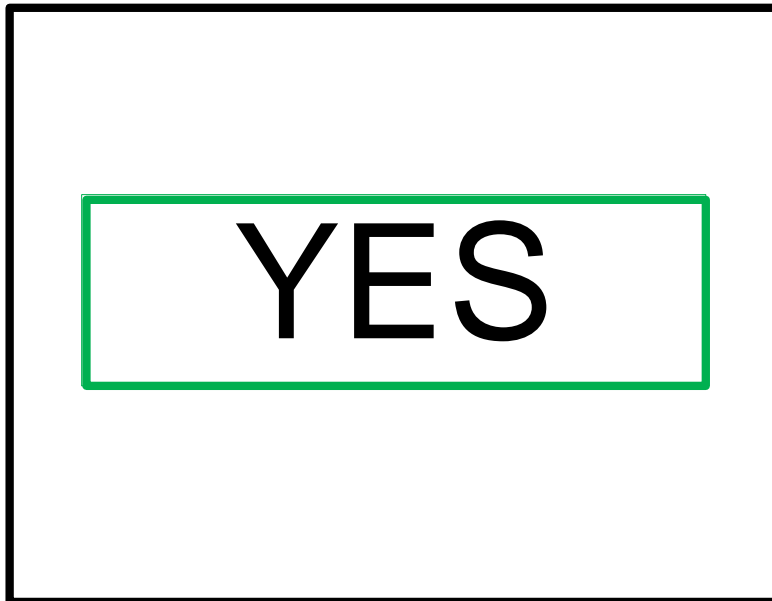
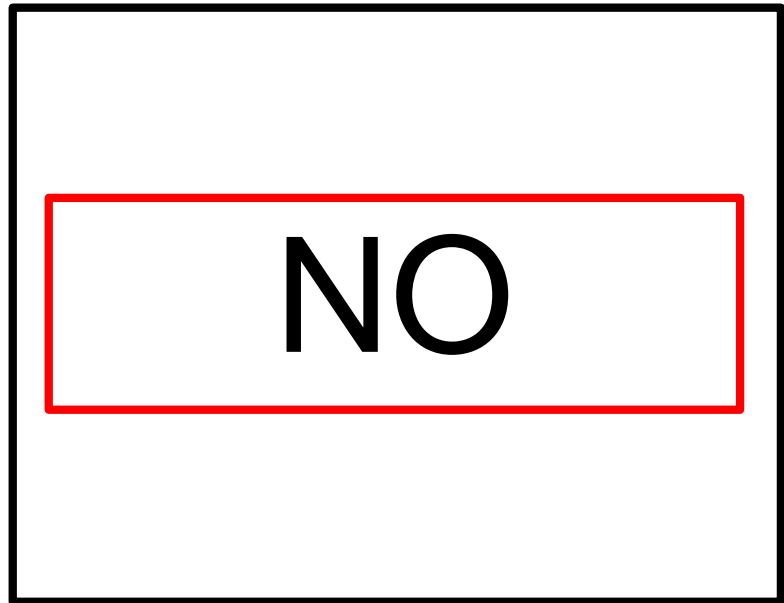
- \*must be at least 35 years old
- \*must be a natural born U.S. citizen
- \*must have lived in the U.S. for 14 years
- \*a president can only serve 2 terms in office

### Folder 3



Read **Requirements To Be President**. Cut out each square. Apply glue along the sides and bottom only so that the top is left open forming a pocket. Glue into lapbook. Cut out the slips on the next page.

**Directions:** If it is a requirement to be President, put the slip in the YES pocket. If not, put it in the NO pocket.



Must be at least 35 years old

Must be married

Must be a natural  
born U.S. citizen

Must never have been to  
another country

Must be a man

Must have served in the  
Armed Forces.

Must not have children

Must have lived in the U.S. at  
least 14 years