

Online Learning Activity

State Voting Patterns: Using History to Predict the Future

State Voting Patterns: Using History to Predict the Future is a learning activity developed by Amy Cyr, a 7th-grade social studies teacher in the Hampshire Regional School District in Westhampton, Massachusetts. It is designed for in-person, virtual, or hybrid learning settings. This learning activity addresses the following standards:

- Massachusetts Grade 8: Topic 3/Standard 4
 - Explain the process of elections in the legislative and executive branches and the process of nomination/confirmation of individuals in the judicial and executive branches.
- Advanced Placement (AP) United States Government and Politics
 - Unit 5.8 - Electing a President

Introduction to the Learning Activity

Please go to [PBS Election Central](#) to research the presidential election history of your assigned state(s). Teachers can assign one or two states or students can choose their own states in a lottery.

Be ready to share the information that you learned. Based on your research, what is your informed guess about how your assigned state(s) will vote in the 2020 election? Be ready to discuss and shade on an Electoral Map of the United States of America.

Year	Candidates (list below and circle the winner)	In this election _____ voted....	In this election _____ voted....
1976	Democrat: Jimmy Carter Republican: Gerald Ford		

1980			
1984			
1988			
1992			
1996			
2000			
2004			
2008			
2012			
2016			

How do you believe your state(s) will vote in 2020:

State

Red (Republican) or Blue (Democrat)

Please explain why you made the predictions that you did.

Are either of your states a [swing state](#)? A swing state is one that is closely contested between the two major parties.

- ☐ Yes _____
- ☐ No _____

What questions do you have? _____

Note: Teachers can ask students to fill in the blank map as they think critically about potential election results

Extensions: Add a digital design component

- Maybe have the entire class create a digital electoral map with their predicted outcomes and take a screenshot?
- Or create infographics based on google search trends for voting from each state?



ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP

