

# **CELEBRATE**

## **Kids Voting South Dakota**

### **“Red, White, & Blue Week”**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Week in September**

#### **Lesson Ideas for K-5**

- ❖ Dress your school and/or community in Red, White, & Blue
- ❖ Create a "What Democracy Means To Me" poster and/or write an essay on the same topic
- ❖ Research the history of voting in America and write a summary
- ❖ Invite grandparents or citizens from the community into the classroom to speak about the first time they ever voted
- ❖ Choose one of the candidates running for office and read as much as you can about that candidate. Pretend you are a reporter.
- ❖ Prepare questions to ask in a press conference. Role play the press conference in front of the class or school
- ❖ Create an "Election Word" poster. Have students take all the words on his/her poster and make some type of game to challenge other students or parents. (Jeopardy, Word Search, I Want to Be a Millionaire, etc.)
- ❖ Create a campaign "Common Noun/Proper Noun" poster (Common noun = Senator) (Proper noun = Senator Jim Talent)
- ❖ Create an "Election Word" poster. Cut election words out of newspapers and magazines and then put the words alphabetical order.
- ❖ Read about Democracy and have students draw a picture describing the main idea of the story/book
- ❖ Draw a political cartoon about the importance of voting
- ❖ Create a "Why Vote" poster--display in school
- ❖ Have a Democracy Door Decorating
- ❖ Contest. Vote on which room's door best reflects what a democracy is today.
- ❖ Research the U.S. Senatorial candidates running in South Dakota and make a poster showing each candidates stand on the important issues
- ❖ Have students select an issue they want to vote on, such as should students be required to wear school uniforms. Have students research and then debate the issue. Hold a class vote.
- ❖ Have students read the Declaration of Independence and then make replica copies of this document to put in the classroom or throughout the school. Have students create a play explaining what the Declaration meant then and now.
- ❖ Discuss the roles of the three branches of government. Have students create a gigantic three Branches of Government collage for the classroom or school. As articles appear in newspapers and magazines, have students paste these under the correct branch.
- ❖ Hold an Uncle Sam Dress up contest
- ❖ Read the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Constitution and discuss with students. Have students draw a picture of these freedoms.
- ❖ Hold an Assembly and have students sing patriotic songs
- ❖ Make a "Rules and Laws" poster.

## Ideas for Grades 6-12

- ❖ Create an advertising/marketing campaign to encourage adults to vote
- ❖ Make "What Democracy Means To Me" Posters or write an essay on the same topic
- ❖ Research the history of voting in America and create a timeline of voting and political parties.
- ❖ Invite grandparents or citizens from the community into the classroom to speak about the importance of voting
- ❖ Research all of South Dakota's U.S. Senators. Select one and write a report about that person.
- ❖ Conduct a survey and have students predict the outcome of the November U.S. Senate and U.S. Congressional races. Post results in the school newspaper or web page.
- ❖ Research one of the issues on the ballot. Develop an "In Favor" and "Against" chart for that issue
- ❖ Make a "Rules and Laws" poster
- ❖ Create a "Why Vote?" poster--display in school
- ❖ Draw a political cartoon about voting
- ❖ Read a book or article about Elections or Democracy and write a poem about what you've read.
- ❖ Using voting and democracy as a theme work with the band to create a half-time show for one of the fall football games.
- ❖ Clip election-related articles from newspapers. Write essays, oral reports, or create a bulletin board about issues and candidate's position on issues.
- ❖ Research the business of elections, from campaign fundraising to campaign advertising. Prepare a speech and deliver to the entire class.
- ❖ Create a new political party. Include a name and party platform.
- ❖ Research the history of voting booths in America. Work with the Industrial Arts and/or Arts Department and actually create/draw models of all the different types of voting booths that have been used since voting began. Display at school.
- ❖ Work with the League of Women Voters and sponsor an adult voter registration drive at your school and/or community.

