



# ELECTORAL COLLEGE ANTICIPATION GUIDE

Read each statement and decide if it is True or False. Complete the left column before the reading by circling the T for True or the F for False. Complete the right column after you finish the reading. Did any of your answers change?

BEFORE READING		STATEMENT	AFTER READING	
T	F	Electoral College happens in the month of November.	T	F
T	F	25 electors make up the Electoral College.	T	F
T	F	The Electoral College meets every 2 years.	T	F
T	F	No presidential candidate must have 270 of the Electoral College votes.	T	F
T	F	There are 100 people in the House of Representatives.	T	F
T	F	Voters cast ballots for their presidential candidate.	T	F
T	F	The Electoral College process protects states' interests.	T	F
T	F	Ohio, Iowa, Nevada and Florida are swing states.	T	F
T	F	Hilary Clinton won the popular vote in 2016.	T	F

**DID YOU KNOW?**

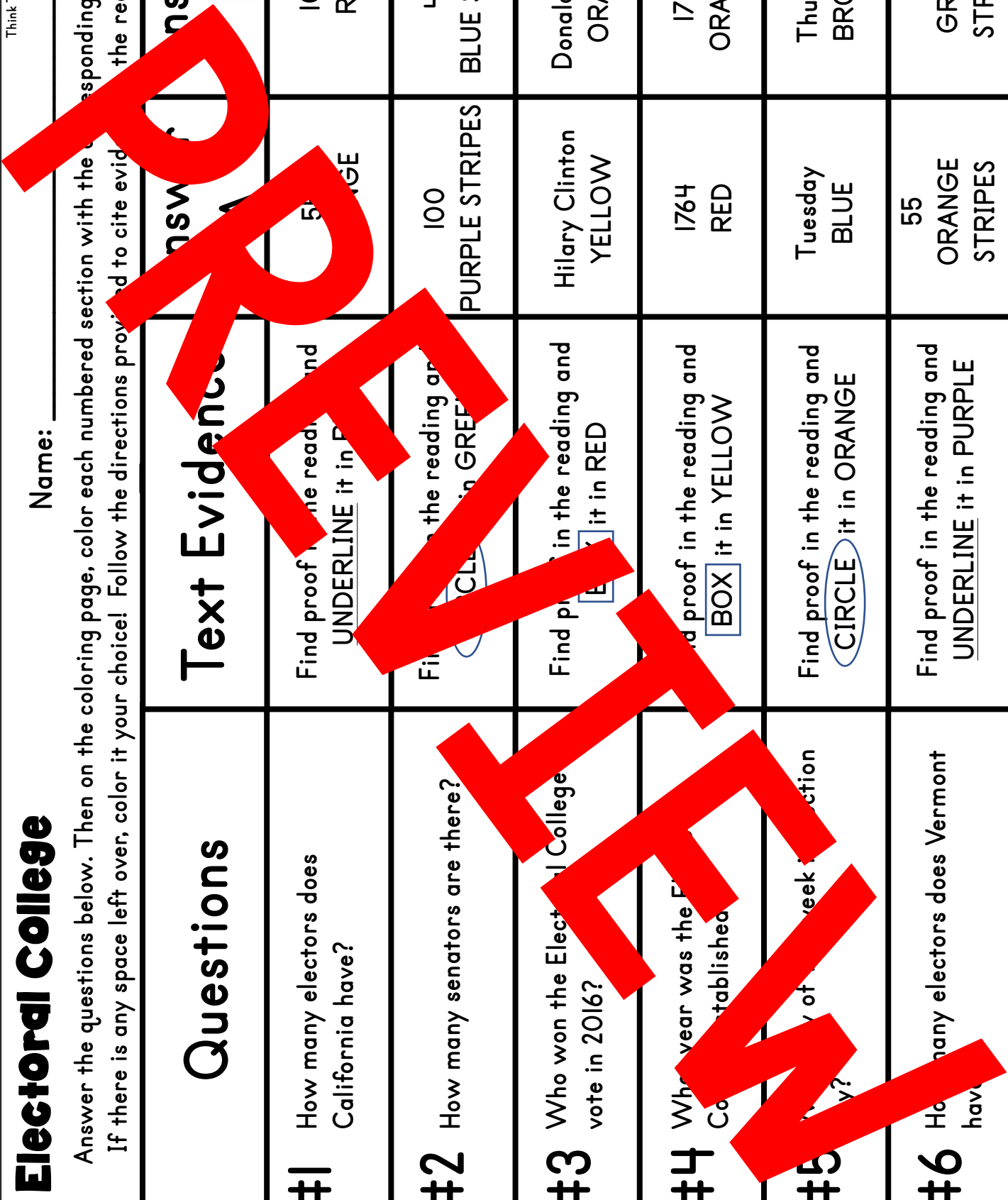
The 12th Amendment was added to allow separate votes for President and Vice President.

# Electoral College

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the questions below. Then on the coloring page, color each numbered section with the corresponding color. If there is any space left over, color it your choice! Follow the directions provided to cite evidence from the reading.

Questions	Text Evidence	Answer	Answer
#1 How many electors does California have?	Find proof in the reading and <u>UNDERLINE</u> it in <b>PURPLE</b>	55	100 RED
#2 How many senators are there?	Find proof in the reading and <u>CIRCLE</u> it in <b>GREEN</b>	100	435 BLUE STRIPES
#3 Who won the Electoral College vote in 2016?	Find proof in the reading and <u>BOX</u> it in <b>RED</b>	Hilary Clinton	Donald Trump ORANGE
#4 What year was the Electoral College established?	Find proof in the reading and <u>BOX</u> it in <b>YELLOW</b>	1789	1789 ORANGE
#5 How many electors does California have?	Find proof in the reading and <u>CIRCLE</u> it in <b>ORANGE</b>	Tuesday BLUE	Thursday BROWN
#6 How many electors does Vermont have?	Find proof in the reading and <u>UNDERLINE</u> it in <b>PURPLE</b>	55 ORANGE STRIPES	3 GREEN STRIPES



# ELECTORAL COLLEGE

The Electoral College is not an actual college, but a process where 538 electors choose the President and Vice President of the United States. The Electoral College meets every 4 years a few weeks after the presidential election as described in Article II of the Constitution. Established by the Founding Fathers of the United States in 1789, the Electoral College casts votes for presidential candidates based on the voters' wishes. To win the election, the presidential candidate must have 270 of the Electoral College votes, just over half of the possible votes. The President isn't chosen only based on citizens and the popular vote.

Article II and the Electoral College Article II of the Constitution was a way for the Founding Fathers to establish "checks and balances" within the government. First, Article II allowed states with smaller populations to have equal influence in the election. Second, men (women couldn't vote back then) may not have had adequate information on the best candidate for president. At the time, many were unfamiliar with government, politics, and elections because they were farmers or lived in rural areas. Additionally, some couldn't read or write.

Rather than the popular vote determining election results, the electors from each state determine the president. The Founding Fathers chose this method so that presidents were not always chosen from the largest states in the union. For instance, California has 55 electors, whereas Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming only have 3 electors each.

Citizens Vote for President: Voting is easy. First, one must register to vote. Next, you research and learn about the candidates, their platforms, and ideals. Finally, you vote on election day which, since 1967, has been the Tuesday after the first Monday in November every 4 years.

On election day, citizens vote for their preferred presidential candidate in the national election. In reality, voters are really voting for the electors of the Electoral College who will cast the final votes representing that state.

Electors Vote for President: Each state has a group of electors equal to the number of that state's representatives in Congress. The electors are chosen as a slate. If your state has 2 Senators and 8 members of the House of Representatives, there would be 10 electors for that state. There are 100 senators and 435 representatives plus 3 D.C. electors totaling 538 in the