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A Lesson on Election Choices by Marjorie Nichols

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Election
President

Lesson Description: Students will read an informative passage relating to elections and be required to answer questions and write an opinion essay.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1a: Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Election Choices

by

Content: A convention is a very big meeting. Many organizations have conventions. Every four years there is a national election in the United States. The summer before the election, there are two conventions. One convention is for the Democrats. The other is for the Republicans. They choose leaders for the next four years. They hope the people they choose will win the election.

At the 2008 Democratic convention, there was a big change. Never before had the Democrats chosen an African-American as their candidate for President. They did. It was not a surprise, though. Barack Obama had been running for President all year. He had won primaries. A primary is an election in a state. The people of the state vote for the person they want to be President. Then at the convention their representatives vote for that person.

At the convention, there was a problem. Many people had voted in primaries for Hillary Clinton. They wanted her to be the first woman President. It was not because she was a woman that people voted for her. They thought she would do a good job. She was a Senator. She had met many world leaders. She was a leader, herself. More Democrats thought that Barack Obama would be a great President. So they chose him. She was disappointed, but Hillary Clinton helped him. She gave many speeches telling people why they should vote for him. She said, He is the person who can change our country. Yes, we can was their slogan. It meant that people could change what was happening in the United States.

At the Republican convention, they had to make a choice. They chose John McCain. Then they surprised everyone. They chose a woman as Vice President. People wondered if they did this to get more votes. The woman was Sarah Palin. She made many speeches. She got some people to vote for the Republican party. Some people thought she was the opposite of Barack Obama. Some people thought it was a good idea for the Republicans to choose her. Other people thought it wasnt. They said that she would only get votes from one group of people.

Barack Obama won the national election. He got votes from many different groups. More people voted than in the last election. It was important to them. After the election, he met with Hillary Clinton. He asked her to be Secretary of State. That is a very important job. The Secretary of State meets with world leaders. The Secretary of State helps solve problems with other countries.

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: In the passage they talked about conventions. What is a convention?

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Convention **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of "convention".

- A: Building
- B: Big meeting
- C: Interview
- D: Opinion

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "convention" correctly?

- A: At the convention, the citizens will choose their new leader for the next four years.
 - B: The convention was thirty stories high.
 - C: The media conducted many conventions of the candidates.
 - D: The citizens had many conventions about the candidates.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Primary **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of "primary".

- A: Speech
- B: State election
- C: Candidate
- D: Slogan

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "primary" correctly?

- A: The candidate gave a primary at the convention.
 - B: The citizens voted for their favorite primary.
 - C: The candidates primary was
 - D: The Florida Primary was held in November.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Party **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of "party".

- A: Celebration
- B: Prize
- C: Achivement
- D: Group

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses "party" correctly?

- A: The party was so much fun!
 - B: I received a party for my outstanding grades.
 - C: The Democratic Party won the election.
 - D: It was a huge honor to receive a party at my school.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Slogan **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of "slogan".

- A: Phrase
- B: Change
- C: Group
- D: Contest

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses "slogan" correctly?

- A: The candidate's slogan was "We Are The People."
 - B: I overpaid and was waiting to receive my slogan.
 - C: Our school slogan is all girls.
 - D: We want to win the slogan.
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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why do you think..

Why did people think that Hlllary Clinton would make a good president?

2 - Why do you think...

Why do you think Hillary Clinton supported Barack Obama after she lost the primary election?

3 - What happened...

What happened at the Republican Convention that surprised everyone?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: The passage states that more people voted in the 2008 election than in the 2004?election. It says that this election was important to them. In your opinion, why do?you think this election was so important to people and why do you think more?people voted?

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