

## WHO CAN VOTE?

### OBJECTIVE

Students understand the concept of suffrage – the right to vote.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ★ Ask for 4 students to volunteer. They will form a committee. Assign them to:
  - Choose 3 issues to vote on over the next 3 days that will directly affect the class.
  - Choose unfair criteria to determine the right to vote on each of the issues such as people with birthdays from March to June, or only girls. Have different criteria for each of the three days. (On the last day of voting you may want the voter criteria to be “people who haven’t voted, so that everyone gets a chance to vote.
  - Prepare a ballot box and ballots.
  - Oversee the ballot box. Get ready to turn away students who do not have the right to vote.
- ★ The committee will announce the voting issue each day. Display the ballot issue – but NOT the voting criteria.
- ★ Invite the class to vote one at a time by writing “Yes” or “No” on a ballot and placing it in the box.
- ★ Instruct the members of the committee to quietly turn away those who do not meet the voting criteria.
- ★ Announce the outcome and implement it. Repeat the process for the next two days.
- ★ Inform the class that there will be a meeting held at the end of the week for complaints and discussion.
- ★ Hold a class meeting to discuss the feelings of the class.

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CLASS MEETING

- ★ Did the students with the right to vote have more power than those without?
- ★ When you did not get to vote, how did it feel to be powerless?
- ★ Do you think the process of granting the right to vote (suffrage) has always been fair? Why?
- ★ Do you have a say in the decisions our government makes? If yes, how?
- ★ Does everyone use their voting rights and responsibilities privilege? Why or why not?
- ★ How did U.S. citizens achieve suffrage? Name other places where citizens have voting rights.

### MORE RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

Help your students to learn about government, find and analyze information, understand how informed, active citizens participate in democracy through elections and more. Find curriculum alignment guides, candidate and debate information, video, text, images, and more activities plus information about the student vote at [www.GenerationNation.org/learn](http://www.GenerationNation.org/learn)