

Kids Voting USA Classroom Activities Overview - Elementary School

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
K-2	Elections and Voting	My Vote Gives Me Power	Students will develop an appreciation for the power and influence of voting.		
		Lesson 1: The Odd Vote	Students learn how to vote and implement the results.	Tally Chart	Students will participate in an interactive lesson and can help create the statements that will be voted on.
		Lesson 2: Voting Chain	Students vote, tally, and implement the vote.	Construction paper; Yes/No sign handout (provided), tape	The vote's results are visible and tangible, making them more meaningful. Students are also more likely to participate.
		Lesson 3: Yes or No Game	Students vote and tally the results.	Yes/ No cards (provided); popsicle sticks	Lesson is interactive and students can help in creating the topics. It can also be used in other subject lessons.
		Lesson 4: Pencil Flags	Students advocate voting.	<i>Pencil Flag Format</i> handout (provided); scissors; tape; glue; old newspapers and magazines are optional	The lesson allows students to be creative and is interactive.
K-2	Elections and Voting	I Register and Vote	Students will understand what is involved in the registration and voting process.		
		Lesson 1: Kids Voting Registration	Students understand the importance of registering to vote.	<i>Voter Registration Cards</i> (provided); <i>Registration Badges</i> (provided); lined paper	This lesson helps students learn responsibility and it is interactive.
		Lesson 2: Voting Simulation	Students vote in a simulated polling place to become familiar with the voting process.	<i>Polling Place Diagram</i> handout (provided); <i>Ballots</i> handout (provided);	This interactive lesson shows students how to vote and teaches them responsibility. Having students decide the issue will increase their anticipation in the Kids Voting election activity.
		Lesson 3: Marking A Ballot	Students study and mark sample ballots.	Sample <i>Kids Voting Ballot</i> (provided by Kids Voting)	Students see how media and other influences can impact their decisions.

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
		Lesson 4: Marking the Winners	Students will monitor the returns to stay politically active.	Kids Voting Ballot (provided by Kids Voting)	The lesson allows students to use media sources to find answers and can be used in other subjects.
K-2	Democracy and the People	What is Democracy?	Students will understand the principles that make a government democratic.		
		Lesson 1: Pinwheels	Students discuss how a democracy is powered by the people that participate in it.	<i>Pinwheels Pattern</i> handout (provided); fasteners; hole punchers; scissors; crayons/markers; straws	This lesson is interactive and allows students to be creative. It can also be used in other subject areas.
		Lesson 2: Who's the Leader?	Students identify leaders that direct or guide us.	None	This interactive lesson allows students to see how others can influence those around them.
K-2	Democracy and the People	Democracy in America	Students will understand how America fits the model of a democracy.		
		Lesson 1: The President's Hats	Students examine the jobs of the president to discuss components of American democracy.	<i>The Hat Patterns</i> handout (provided); <i>The President's Work</i> handout (provided); small boxes	The lesson is interactive and teaches students to work in groups.
		Lesson 2: If I Were...	Students consider the power of American democracy in action, making decisions as an elected leader would. Great for study about different levels of government, historic leaders and issues, and global studies.	<i>If I Were...</i> handout (provided); additional lined paper; scissors; glue	The lesson allows students to creatively display what they have learned. Students could work in groups and the lesson can be used in other subject areas with modification.

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
K-2	Democracy and the People	A Citizen's Rights and Responsibilities	Students will learn the rights and responsibilities of an American citizen.		
		Lesson 1: What's For Kids?	Students investigate the services provided directly to children by their government. Use for study about different levels of government.	Drawing paper; markers or crayons Government websites listed at www.generationnation.org	Students artistically participate in the lesson and learn how goods and services are provided.
		Lesson 2: Car-Car	Students practice being responsible and articulate their responsibility to vote.	None	This lesson is interactive and can be used in character building lessons.
		Lesson 3: "I Can Vote" Song	Students recognize that voting is a right and privilege that makes a difference.	"I Can Vote" Song handout (provided)	This lesson allows students to learn through music and can involve the family.
K-2	Democracy and the People	Democracy in the World	Students learn about democracy in a global context		
		Lesson 1: Friends Afar	The class communicates with students overseas to learn about global democracies	None	This lesson increases writing skills and global awareness.
K-2	Informed Citizen	Gathering and Weighing information	Students will learn how to study the candidates and issues relevant to an election.		

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
		Lesson 1: Which Hand?	Students gather information before making a decision.	Small prizes (i.e. stickers, candy)	This lesson will show students the value of research and it's interactive.
		Lesson 2: Three Changes	Students study each other carefully to improve information-gathering skills.	None	The lesson is interactive and shows the students the importance of observation and can be used as an icebreaker activity.
		Lesson 3: I Heard, I Think, I Know	Students learn how to form opinions and make good decisions Interdisciplinary	Magazines; books; newspapers; and/or access	This lesson will allow students to familiarize themselves with media sources and learn about differing opinions.
		Lesson 4: Making Inferences	Students learn to make inferences from the information they are presented with. Interdisciplinary	None	This lesson is interactive and can be used in other subject matters.
K-2	Informed Citizen	Technology/Media Literacy	Students will learn to use technology and media for information		
		Lesson 1: Election Bulletin Board	Students share election-oriented information they gather from the media by constructing a bulletin board of articles and pictures.	Colored pencils/crayons; Election Bulletin Board handout (provided) Use technology and use web	The lesson introduces students to the media as a means of obtaining information and it involves the family.

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
		Lesson 2: Democracy in the Print	Students explore aspects of another democracy	News media (print or web)	The lesson familiarizes students with media sources while exploring another culture.
		Lesson 3: It's News To Me	Students learn how to distinguish the different parts of a newspaper.	Two copies of a local or national newspaper Can print or use online version	This lesson allows students to familiarize themselves with newspapers.
K-2	Active Citizenship	Communicating Your Position/With Others	Students will learn how to clearly and effectively communicate their position with others.		
		Lesson 1: Robots	Students learn to communicate effectively with another person.	None	This interactive activity allows students to learn good teamwork skills.
		Lesson 2: Spokespeople for Kids Voting	Students advocate voting throughout their school and community. Use for non-voting topics too	Materials vary depending on how students advocate voting. Use for non-voting topics too	This lesson allows students to demonstrate what they have learned through Kids Voting lessons. It also students to interact with other students.
		Lesson 3: If Elected...	Students write a suggestion for their community on a "campaign button" which also acts as a reminder for parents and guardians to vote.	<i>If Elected...</i> handout (provided); tape; markers; colored pencils, crayons, etc.	This lesson allows students to express how they would better their community.

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
K-2	Civic Engagement Service-Learning	Working Together	Students learn the importance of teamwork and service		
		Lesson 1: Zoo Animal Cages	Students learn to cooperate while creating edible zoo animal cages.	1 half of a graham cracker per child; 1 container (more depending on class size) of white frosting; 1 animal cracker per child; 3 licorice/Twizzler pieces per child plastic knives for spreading frosting	The lesson allows students to build teamwork skills.
		Lesson 2: Two On A Crayon	Students learn to cooperate and work together.	Construction paper; drawing materials; a music playing device	This lesson helps students learn cooperation and teamwork skills.
		Lesson 3: Match Community Helpers	Students work together to match community helpers (policemen, bus driver, etc.) to the tools they use to do their jobs (police badge, school bus, etc.)	<i>Match Community Helpers</i> handout (contains Helpers and Tools cards; provided)	This lesson familiarizes students with people in the community. It also allows students to work on communication and cooperation.
K-2	Civic Engagement/Service-Learning	I Make a Difference	Students will learn how to stay involved with civic affairs after an election.		
		Lesson 1: The Wish Tree	Students make wishes for their country regarding changes they would like to see. Use for study about community, state or global issues too.	<i>Star Cards</i> handout (provided); art supplies (crayons, markers, etc.); yarn; a hole puncher; scissors	This interactive lesson allows students the opportunity to do volunteer work and shows them how they affect the world around them.

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
		Lesson 2: Postcards	Students prepare postcards to send to their parents or guardians.	Sheets of cardstock; crayons or markers; paper cutter; scissors	This lesson allows students to artistically display what they have learned and to pass that knowledge on to others.
		Lesson 3: Targeting Problems In My Community	Students learn about different problems in the local community, choose one, and brainstorm ways they can make a difference.	None	This lesson allows students to get more involved in the community and involves their families.

Activity	Objective	Description
Overarching Questions	Students review lessons learned in Kids Voting activities.	Students are able to discuss orally or through writing what they have learned.
<u>Literature Connection</u> Elections and Voting – Duck for President Democracy – D is for Democracy: A Citizen’s Alphabet Informed Citizen – Duck for President Civic Engagement – Miss Rumphius	Students read to further their understanding and application of themes and concepts.	Students are able to learn about government and democracy through reading and games.
Culminating Activity Elections and Voting – I Go to the Polls Democracy – Democracy and Me Informed Citizen – Voting Graphs Civic Engagement – What’s the Problem?	Students experience and explore elections, voting, democracy, civic engagement and more. Activities, such as the Kids Voting mock vote, are coordinated by Kids Voting. In Charlotte region, contact www.generationnation.org for more information.	Activities help students to boost comprehension and interest.

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
3-5	Elections and Voting	My Vote Gives Me Power	Students will develop an appreciation for the power and influence of voting.		
		Lesson 1: Voter Apathy Experience	Students experience the effects of apathy.	<i>Ballots</i> handout (provided); <i>Please Vote Today</i> handout (provided); material to construct a ballot box	This interactive lesson allows students to learn responsibility and students will be excited to make classroom decisions.
		Lesson 2: Voting Graphs	Students appreciate the impact of their vote.	Construction paper; scissors; whiteboard or chalkboard	This lesson is interactive and creates a visual and tangible product for students. It can be used in other subject matters.
3-5	Elections and Voting	I Register and Vote	Students will understand what is involved in the registration and voting process.		
		Lesson 1: The Name Game	Students discover the importance of voter registration.	<i>Kids Voting Registration Cards</i> handout (provided); slips of paper; a paper bag or equivalent	This lesson shows students the importance of being responsible and with some modification can be used as an ice breaker game.
		Lesson 2: Polling Place Mural	Students choose appropriate sites for polling places.	<i>Mural Symbols</i> handout (provided); glue; scissors; markers or crayons; several sheets of butcher paper or newsprint	This lesson allows students to artistically display their knowledge about the uses of community sites.

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
		Lesson 3: Voting Simulation	Students vote in a simulated polling place to become familiar with the voting process. Use Kids Voting election	<i>Polling Place Diagram</i> handout (provided); paper for ballots. Use Kids Voting election.	This lesson is interactive and students assume leadership roles. It helps students prepare for the Kids Voting election.
		Lesson 4: Watching The Returns	Students monitor the election returns.	<i>U.S. Map</i> handout (provided)	This lesson allows students to practice attaining information from media sources.
3-5	Democracy and the People	What is Democracy?	Students will understand the principles that make a government democratic.		
		Lesson 1: Democracy: What Is It And What Does It Have To Do With Me?	Students learn the characteristics of a democratic society and how they can improve where they live. Great to use for local, state or federal government, global studies, role-play, compare and contrast historic to present times, etc.	<i>Ways I Can Participate in Our Democracy</i> handout (provided)	This lesson allows students to learn about ways in which they can make their community better.
		Lesson 2: Our Homes, Our Town, Our Country	Students construct a concept map of households and discuss the ways that democracy impacts their lives. Great to use for local, state or federal government, global	Multicolored markers; <i>Our Homes, Our Town, Our Country</i> handout (provided); butcher paper; government agencies information	This lesson allows students to practice using concept maps. They also become familiar with the services offered to the community.

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			studies, role-play, compare and contrast historic to present times, etc.		
		Lesson 3: My Life	Students keep journals of their daily activities to understand how government impacts them every day. Great to use for local, state or federal government, global studies, role-play, compare and contrast historic to present times, etc.	<i>My Life</i> handouts (provided); chart paper (optional)	This lesson allows students to see how influential government is through writing.
3-5	Democracy and the People	Democracy in America	Students will understand how America fits the model of a democracy.		
		Lesson 1: The President's Hats	Students examine the jobs of the president to discuss facets of American democracy	<i>The Hat Patterns</i> handout (provided); <i>The President's Work</i> handout (provided); boxes	The lesson is interactive and teaches students the jobs of the president. It also involves graphs and group work.
		Lesson 2: In Their Words	Students interview adults to directly learn about American democracy.	None	This lesson allows students to learn interviewing skills.

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
		Lesson 3: Our Town: A Role Play	Students play the parts of city officials, members of boards and commissions, and ordinary citizens. In their roles, they examine both	<i>The Roles and Scenarios</i> handout (provided); <i>Role Biography</i> handout (provided);	This lesson is interactive and allows students to practice communicating through writing, collaborating and learning about civic life.
		Lesson 4: Things To Do on My First Day in Office	Students think up ways to improve their communities as if they were mayor and then envision their own role in making things better. Great to use for local, state or federal government, global studies, role-play, compare and contrast historic to present times, etc.	<i>Things To Do On My First Day In Office</i>	In this lesson students learn about leadership and government while building communication skills and a vision for their communities.
		Lesson 5: Dollars And Sense	Students allocate their “dollars” toward the improvement of the community priorities they deem most important. Great to use for local, state or federal government, global studies, role-play, compare and contrast historic to present times, etc.	<i>Kids Voting Dollars</i> handout (provided) Find info about governments and budgets at www.generationnation.org	This lesson allows students to use graphs and teaches them about government services and prioritization process.

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3-5	Democracy and the People	A Citizen's Rights and Responsibilities	Students will learn the rights and responsibilities of an American citizen.		
		Lesson 1: Freedom Connection	Students gain an understanding of the Bill of Rights and the major freedoms it guarantees.	Index cards (10 per student); a hole punch; yarn or string	This lesson allows students to learn about their rights and practice writing skills.
		Lesson 2: Pledge Anew	Students evaluate the responsibility they commit to each morning when pledging allegiance to their country.	<i>Pledge Anew</i> handout (provided); lined paper; pens/pencils	This lesson builds reading skills by having students rewrite a document and interpret it through drawing.
3-5	Democracy and the People	Democracy in the World	Students will learn the context of American democracy within the world.		
		Lesson 1: Democracy: Who? What? Where?	Students investigate questions about their government and other governments around the world.	<i>Democracy: Who? What? Where?</i> handout (provided)	This lesson allows students to develop research skills.
		Lesson 2: Pen Pals	Students contact other students around the globe to learn about different democracies.	Appropriate letter writing materials: paper, pens/pencils, envelopes, etc. Contact information provided	This lesson allows students to learn about a specific culture different than their own through writing skills.
3-5	The Right to Vote	Suffrage Then and Now	Students will understand what suffrage is within the context of American history, and in the present time.		

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		Lesson 1: Nonvoter Simulation	Students understand the concept of suffrage- the right to vote.	None	This lesson helps students build character and is interactive.
		Lesson 2: Suffrage Timeline	Students learn that the population with voting rights has drastically changed over the years.	<i>U.S. Suffrage Timeline</i> handout (provided); <i>Suffrage Timeline Questions</i> handout (provided)	This lesson has students practice using a chart to obtain information and teaches American history.
		Lesson 3: Vote Quotes	Students study famous quotes to learn significance of the right to vote.	<i>Vote Quotes</i> handout (provided)	This lesson has students practice analytical skills and interpretation of a text.
		Lesson 4: Know the Vote	Students experience voter apathy and ignorance.	Materials for signs; clipboard; lined paper; <i>Ballots</i> handout (provided); materials for a ballot box	This interactive lesson teaches students the importance of responsibility.
		Lesson 5: Around The World	Students discover the role that suffrage plays in different forms of government.	Slips of paper	This lesson allows students to learn about different cultures and it is interactive.
3-5	Informed Citizen	Gathering And Weighing Information	Students will learn how to gather and weigh information and form an opinion.		
		Lesson 1: Two Ballots	Students experience voting with and without adequate information.	<i>Two Ballots</i> handout (provided)	This lesson helps reinforce the message of reliable information.
		Lesson 2: Judging Propaganda	Students learn to identify various forms of propaganda.	<i>Judging Propaganda</i> handout (provided); writing and drawing materials	In this lesson students learn about persuasive and advertising techniques and display their knowledge verbally and pictorially.

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3-5	Informed Citizen	Technology/Media Literacy	Students will consider how technology and media are used for information		
		Lesson 1: Promises To Keep	Students track the candidates' promises to involve themselves in the ongoing political process.	<i>Promises To Keep</i> handout (provided)	This lesson gives students the chance to utilize the media and to see whether elected leaders fulfill their promises.
		Lesson 2: Using The World Wide Web	Students learn how to navigate the World Wide Web and locate the Web sites of interest.	Access to the Internet	This lesson allows students to become familiar with researching on the Internet.
		Lesson 3: Student Reporters	Students identify the parts of a newspaper article and write their own articles. Great to use for local, state or federal government, global studies, role-play, compare and contrast historic to present times, etc.	A local or national newspaper (if possible get copies for your entire class) Use online versions	This lesson allows students to learn about newsprint materials and practice writing about specific events.
		Lesson 4: E-mail, Snail Mail	Students send letters, postcards, and/or e-mails to an elected official.	Paper or cardstock; writing implements: pens, pencils Find government officials' contact information at www.generationnation.org	In this lesson students are able to perfect communications skills and communicate with community leaders.
3-5	Informed Citizen	I Study the Candidates and Issues	Students will learn how to study the candidates and issues relevant to an election.		

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GRADE	THEME	CONCEPT/ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
		Lesson 1: Meet The Candidates	Students put together a page consisting of pictures and promises made by the candidates running for office.	<i>Meet the Candidates</i> handout (provided); scissors; glue Find information online and through www.generationnation.org	This lesson has students utilize the media and introduces students to community leaders.
		Lesson 2: Where Did You Hear That?	Students gather information about candidates and issues for analysis.	<i>Where Did You Hear That?</i> handout (provided)	In this lesson students will learn how to analyze and identify reliable media sources.
3-5	Civic Engagement/Service-Learning	Communicating with others	Students will learn how to clearly and effectively communicate their position with others.		
		Lesson 1: Bumper Stickers	Students advocate for a cause or issue through the creation of bumper stickers	<i>Bumper Stickers</i> handout (provided);	In this lesson students learn about another way to influence people's opinions and are able to use art to convey their message.
		Lesson 2: Spokespeople For Kids Voting USA	Students advocate voting throughout their school and community. Can use for non-voting too	Materials vary depending on what the students do to advocate voting.	This lesson allows students to promote voting through a variety of ways and show what they have learned through Kids Voting.
		Lesson 3: Debates For Classroom Decisions	Students debate with each other over issues relevant to the classroom.	Anything that could aid in holding a classroom debate (mock podiums, etc.)	In this lesson students can practice presentation skills and using evidence to back up their beliefs.
3-5	Civic Engagement/Service-Learning	Working Together	Students learn how to work together effectively.		

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		Lesson 1: Ice Cream In A Bag	Students work together to decide on an ice cream flavor and to create ice cream.	Measuring cups; measuring spoons; milk; vanilla; sugar; rock salt; ice; one or more 1-gallon Ziploc freezer bags; one or more 1-pint Ziploc freezer bags; eating utensils; bowls/cups; any ingredients needed to create the desired ice cream flavor	This lesson allows students to build cooperation skills and uses graphs. It is interactive and will have a high participation rate.
		Lesson 2: Building A Story	Students work collaboratively to write well-developed stories.	Lined paper; writing utensils	This lesson requires students to use and practice their writing skills in a group.
		Lesson 3: Eleusis	Students work together to create and decode patterns.	Packs of cards (one pack of cards for each group of four students)	This lesson has students use critical thinking and deduction skills to solve a problem while working in a group.
3-5	Civic Engagement/Service-Learning	I make a difference	Students learn how their actions can make an impact		
		Lesson 2: The Wish Tree	Students make wishes for their country that express changes they want to see. Great to use for local, state or federal government, global studies, role-play, compare and contrast historic to present times, etc.	<i>Star Cards</i> handout (provided); art supplies (crayons, markers, etc.); yarn; hole puncher; scissors	This interactive lesson allows students the opportunity to learn about actions they can take to better their community.

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Extending Kids Voting Lessons

Activity	Objective	Description
Overarching Questions	Students review lessons learned in Kids Voting activities.	Students are able to discuss orally or through writing what they have learned.
Literature Connection: Elections – The Day GoGo Went to Vote Democracy – Ideas of Modern World: Democracy Citizen – Making your Voice Heard Civic Engagement – Kid’s Guide to Social Action	Students read to further understand concepts.	Students explore concepts through fiction, non-fiction and information.
Culminating Activity: Elections – I Go to the Polls Democracy – Go ask City Hall Citizen – Voting Graphs Civic Engagement - Learn And Serve	Through learning opportunities, students experience concepts including voting, civics in action and service-learning. In Charlotte, activities are provided by GenerationNation/Kids Voting www.generationnation.org	Students explore, build knowledge and skills, and engage through experiential learning.



Using the Kids Voting USA Curriculum

To access free online lessons about elections and voting, democracy, media literacy, citizenship, civic engagement and more, take the following steps:

1. Go to www.kidsvotingusa.org/curriculum
2. A **login page** will open.

New users

- Click on the “**register**” link
- Enter, and re-enter, **your email address**
- Fill in your **first name** and **last name**
- For affiliate name, write “**Kids Voting Charlotte**”
- Fill in your **school name** and **city**
- Choose your **state** from the drop-down box
- Create, and re-enter, a **password**
- Fill in the “captcha” **code**
- Click “**register**”

Within a period of time, you will receive an email from Kids Voting USA a confirmation and other login information

Returning users

- Login using your email and password

3. After you log in, an **introductory curriculum page** will open. At the bottom of the page, select the appropriate links for

K-2 activities

3-5 activities

6-8 activities

9-12 activities

4. Using the curriculum

The **Kids Voting USA curriculum** is designed to be **flexible and easy to incorporate** into existing lesson plans. Within each age grouping, activities are divided into 4 major themes. From the curriculum page, click on the appropriate theme to access the individual activities.

Elections and Voting

The intent of this theme is to educate students about elections, from gaining an appreciation of the power of voting including what suffrage is and why it is an important concept today to understanding the registration process and participating in an election. The theme's activities fall under three concepts: My Vote Gives Me Power; I Register and Vote; and Suffrage Then and Now. *Note: lessons in other themes tie in to elections and voting*

Democracy and the People

The intent of this theme is to provide an understanding of and a context for American democracy and citizenship, from the rights and responsibilities of students in their local, state and national communities to the world beyond. The theme's activities fall under four concepts: What is Democracy; Democracy in America; A Citizen's Rights and Responsibilities; and Democracy in the World.

Informed Citizen

The intent of this theme is for students to learn how to evaluate information, intelligently form decisions and communicate your positions to others. The theme's activities fall under three concepts: I Study the Candidates and Issues; Gathering and Weighing Information; and Technology/Media Literacy.

Civic Engagement/Service Learning

The intent of this theme is for students to practice the skills of democratic living as they learn important civic lessons in the classroom and participate in activities in their communities. The theme's activities fall under three concepts: Working Together; I Make A Difference; and Communicating with Others.

5. For your convenience, a PDF file of each activity is available for printing

6. **ESL resources** are also available on the website

7. Curriculum is **aligned to national, state and district standards and goals**. Alignment guides for the Common Core, North Carolina Essential Standards for Social Studies and other correlations are being developed in mid-2012. This content will be posted at www.generationnation.org and shared with teacher contacts. Contact info@kidsvoting.org for information.