

Name _____ Date _____

Class/Teacher _____

Count the Votes!

In the Electoral College system, each state gets a different number of votes. There are 538 votes in all. A candidate must win at least 270 of them to become President. This chart shows how states are likely to vote on Election Day 2008. Use the chart to answer the questions.

Red States: Almost sure to pick the Republican candidate	Electoral Votes:
Alabama	9
Alaska	3
Arizona	10
Arkansas	6
Georgia	15
Idaho	4
Indiana	11
Kansas	6
Kentucky	8
Louisiana	9
Mississippi	6
Montana	3
Nebraska	5
North Dakota	3
Oklahoma	7
South Carolina	8
South Dakota	3
Tennessee	11
Texas	34
Utah	5
West Virginia	5
Wyoming	3
Total number of expected votes	184

Blue States: Almost sure to pick the Democratic candidate	Electoral Votes:
California	55
Connecticut	7
Delaware	3
Hawaii	4
Illinois	21
Maine	4
Maryland	10
Massachusetts	12
Minnesota	10
New York	31
Oregon	7
Rhode Island	4
Vermont	3
Washington	11
Washington, D.C.*	3
Total number of votes up for grabs	185

Swing States: These states are up for grabs. The vote could go either way!	Electoral Votes:
Colorado	9
Florida	27
Iowa	7
Michigan	17
Missouri	11
Nevada	5
New Hampshire	4
New Jersey	15
New Mexico	5
North Carolina	15
Ohio	20
Pennsylvania	21
Virginia	13
Wisconsin	10
Total number of votes up for grabs	169

*NOTE: Washington D.C. is not a state.

1. If the Democratic candidate wins all of the blue states, how many electoral votes does he or she have? _____ How many more electoral votes does the candidate need to reach 270 votes? _____
2. How could the Democratic candidate win those missing votes? List some swing states that could bring the Democratic candidate to a total of 270 (or more) votes:

3. If the Republican candidate wins all of the red states, how many electoral votes does he or she have? _____ How many more electoral votes does the candidate need to reach 270 votes? _____
4. How many electoral votes does your state have? _____
5. Is your state a red, blue, or swing state? _____
6. Name the top-three swing states and the total number of electoral votes they represent: _____

