On Election Day we don’t actually vote for the candidates, even though their names appear on the ballot. Technically, the President isn’t elected directly by the voters, but by the Electoral College. It is a group of 538 people (known as electors) representing all 50 states and Washington, D.C. When Americans vote for President, they’re actually voting for electors from their state who have pledged to support a particular party’s candidate. Think of the election as 50 mini presidential elections. Whoever wins enough of them to earn a majority of electoral votes wins the Presidency. Most states have a winner take all rule. This means that the candidate who gets the most votes from people in a state wins ALL of that state’s electoral votes.

1. Why didn’t the Founders want to elect the President directly?
   a. Feared that the states would control the Executive branch
   b. Didn’t consider the people educated enough to select the best President
   c. Didn’t want Congress to control the President
   d. Thought it would lead to a weak executive branch

2. Which answer best describes how the Electoral College system works?
   a. Organization of elected officials that cast their vote for President
   b. All Americans get one vote for President and whoever wins – they win the election
   c. There are 10 electors for each state and they vote for President
   d. Process where the popular vote in each state determines how the electors vote

3. How many electoral votes does a candidate need to win the Presidency?
   a. 270 (majority of 538)

4. Can you win the Electoral College without winning the popular vote?
   a. YES – happened recently in 2016 and in 2000

5. How is the number of electors in each state determined?
   a. Electors = number of representatives plus number of Senators