1.DNL.SES

A current political issue:

Who will be the next president of the US in 2024?

Goals of the lesson:

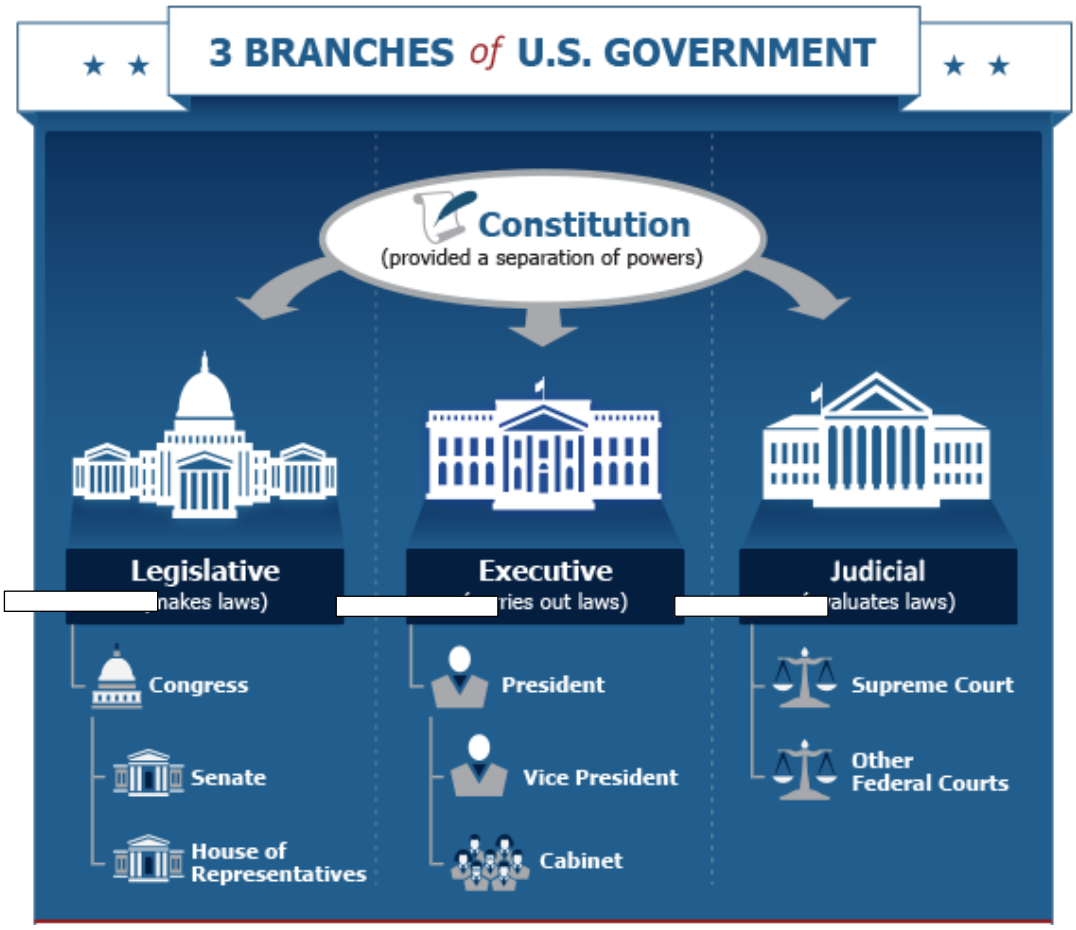
- From the current US presidential election, students will have to know how to become a president in the US.
- Throughout this issue they will discover the two main parties to which each contender belongs.

Materials:

- The lesson is based on different documents: articles, pictures, video …
- A specific question will be addressed by 7 teams. Each team carries out a poster containing all relevant information answering the question. From the production introduced orally by each team, the other students should fill in the documents included in the folder.

Introduction

The US president within the constitution



https://www.usa.gov/branches-of-government

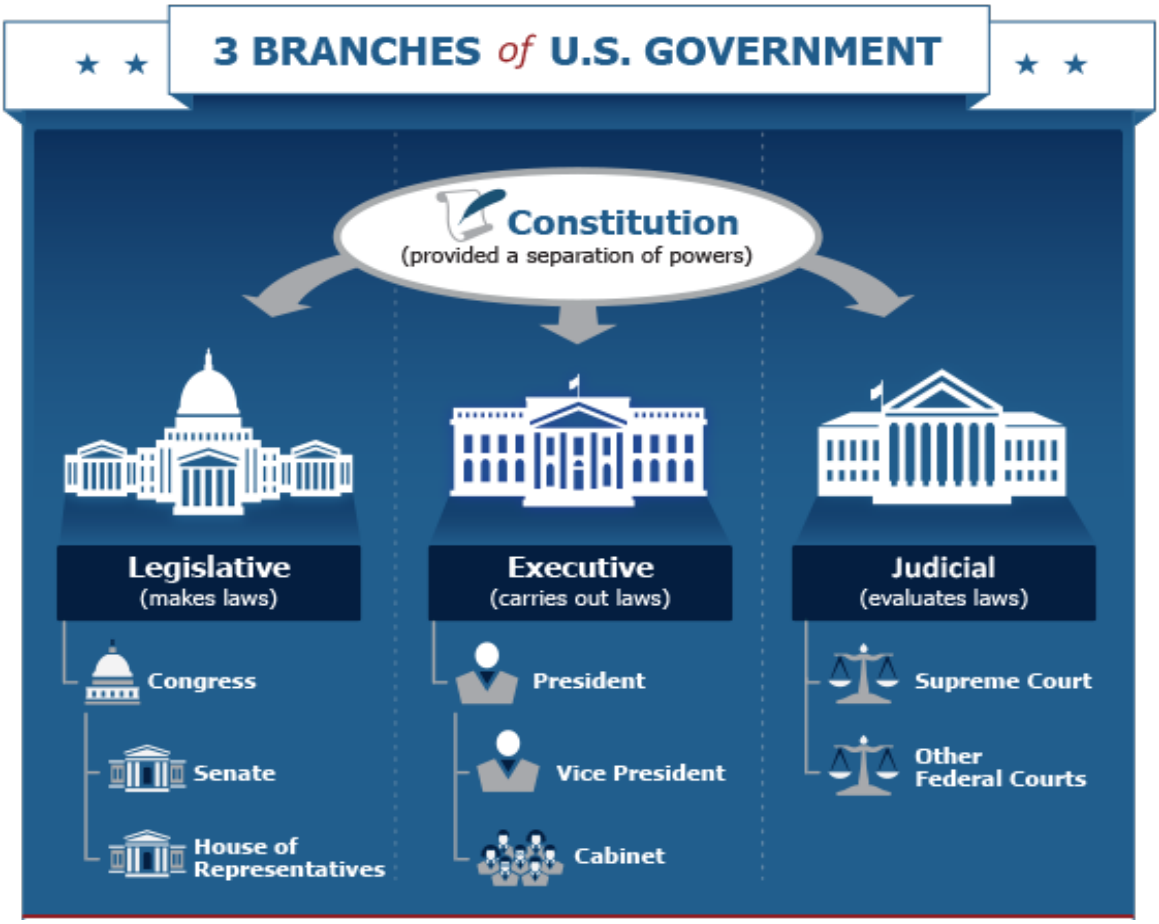
The Constitution of the United States divides the federal government into three branches to ensure a central government in which no individual or group gains too much control.

1. What political system does a separate power come from?

2. Fill in the info graphic with the following:

- Carries out laws
- Makes laws
- Evaluates laws

3. From the presentation **by team 1,** fill in information into appropriate bubbles.



Part 1: Who is running for the US presidential election in 2024?

Step one: **Who are the two nominees for US presidential?**

The ID of each one of the nominees introduced by **teams 2 and 3**

Republicans	**Democrats**
 Donald J. Trump	 Kamala Harris
- DOB: ..... - location: ..... - skills/ degrees: ..... - job: ..... - political involvement: ..... - particular sign: ..... - key points of her election presidential program:	- DOB: ..... - location: ..... - skills/ degrees: ..... - job: ..... - political involvement: ..... - particular sign: ..... - key points of her election presidential program: ....
Plus: Vice presidential nominee:	*Plus:* Vice presidential nominee: .....

Step two: Who are Democrats and Republicans?

Each presidential candidate belongs to one of the two main Parties in the US: Democrat and Republican. We need to introduce the headline for each party in order to understand the election platform from each contender.

→ Introduce the two main parties: **teams 4 and 5**

1. Find out the mascots for each political party. Print them and stick below:

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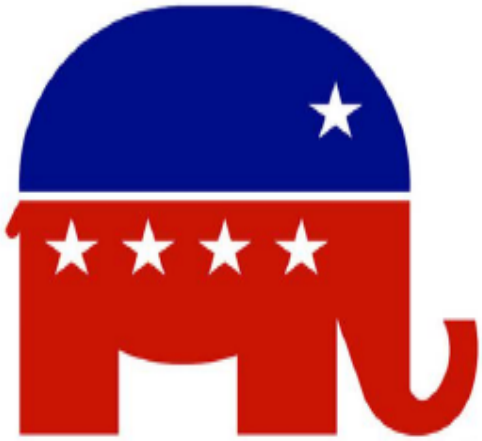

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2. Fill in the table below:

	Democrat	Republican
Philosophy	.....	.....
Traditionally strong in states	....	....
Symbol	.....	.....
Colour	.....	.....
Founded		
Website	www.democrats.org	www.gop.com
Famous Presidents	....	....

3. Broadly speaking the Democrat party refers to the liberal wing while the Republican is labelled as a conservative party. What is meant by “liberal”? by “conservative”?

- **Liberal→ Democrat party**

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- **Conservative → Republican Party.**

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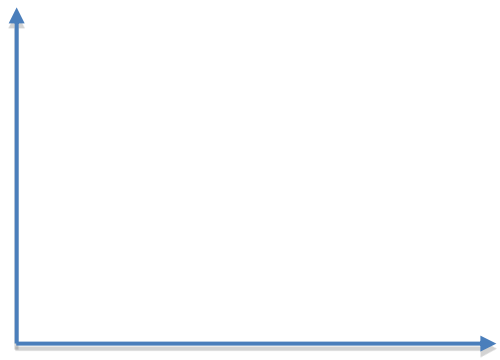
→ The main proposals from each party.
Fill in the blanks. Then, guess whether these proposals belong to the Democrat party or the Republican party. Put the response at the end of each sentence.

We present a list of proposals from each party:

- Minimum wage, which means ……..…….
……..……
- Easing on individual rights and justice, i.e. ……
……..……..……..
- Tend to favour a « flat tax » : …… tax rate regardless of income).

- Progressive taxation i.e. …….. tax rates for …… income brackets.
- Generally opposed to raising taxes.
- Support universal healthcare, generally support ……..……..……
……..……..
- Easing on community and social responsibility, for instance ……
……
- Government regulations are needed to protect consumers.

- Wages should be set by the free market. As any prices wages are set up in a competitive market. Draw how they are set up in this market:



- Generally, not opposed to raising taxes to fund government.

- Government regulations hinder free market capitalism and job growth, for example ……..……

- Private companies (Quote some examples of them in the USA : ……..)
can provide healthcare services more efficiently than government-run programs (for example, ……..)

Step three: Who are the other candidates running for the US Presidential election?

RFK Jr, Jill Stein, Cornell West: Who else is running for president in 2024?
24 August 2024
Bernd Debusmann Jr and Sam Cabral
BBC News, Washington DC

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are the two major party candidates in the 2024 presidential election, but dozens of other people are also running.
None is on a realistic path to the White House, but the most well-known threaten to siphon away support from the Democratic and Republican candidates.
Here are the people with the greatest potential to disrupt the race.

Jill Stein
The activist and doctor ran as the Green Party's candidate in 2012 and 2016.
Now back at 74 years old, she recently told BBC Americast that "Americans are not voting for a candidate they like... They're generally voting against the candidate they hate the most.
"And that's no way for a democracy to function."
Ms Stein calls for an "economic bill of rights" that would include universal access to healthcare and a right to employment. She also vows to fight climate change, defend abortion access and transgender rights, and was recently arrested at a student protest on behalf of Gaza.
She is unlikely to get more than 2% of the vote - but that could still play spoiler to Ms Harris. Hillary Clinton supporters partly blame her for the Democrat's narrow defeat in 2016. In three critical states, Mrs Clinton lost to Mr Trump by fewer votes than Ms Stein received.
According to the party's website, Ms Stein will be on the ballot in at least four states,
though her campaign is working to be added to more states. Butch Ware, a professor at
the University of California Santa Barbara, is her running-mate.

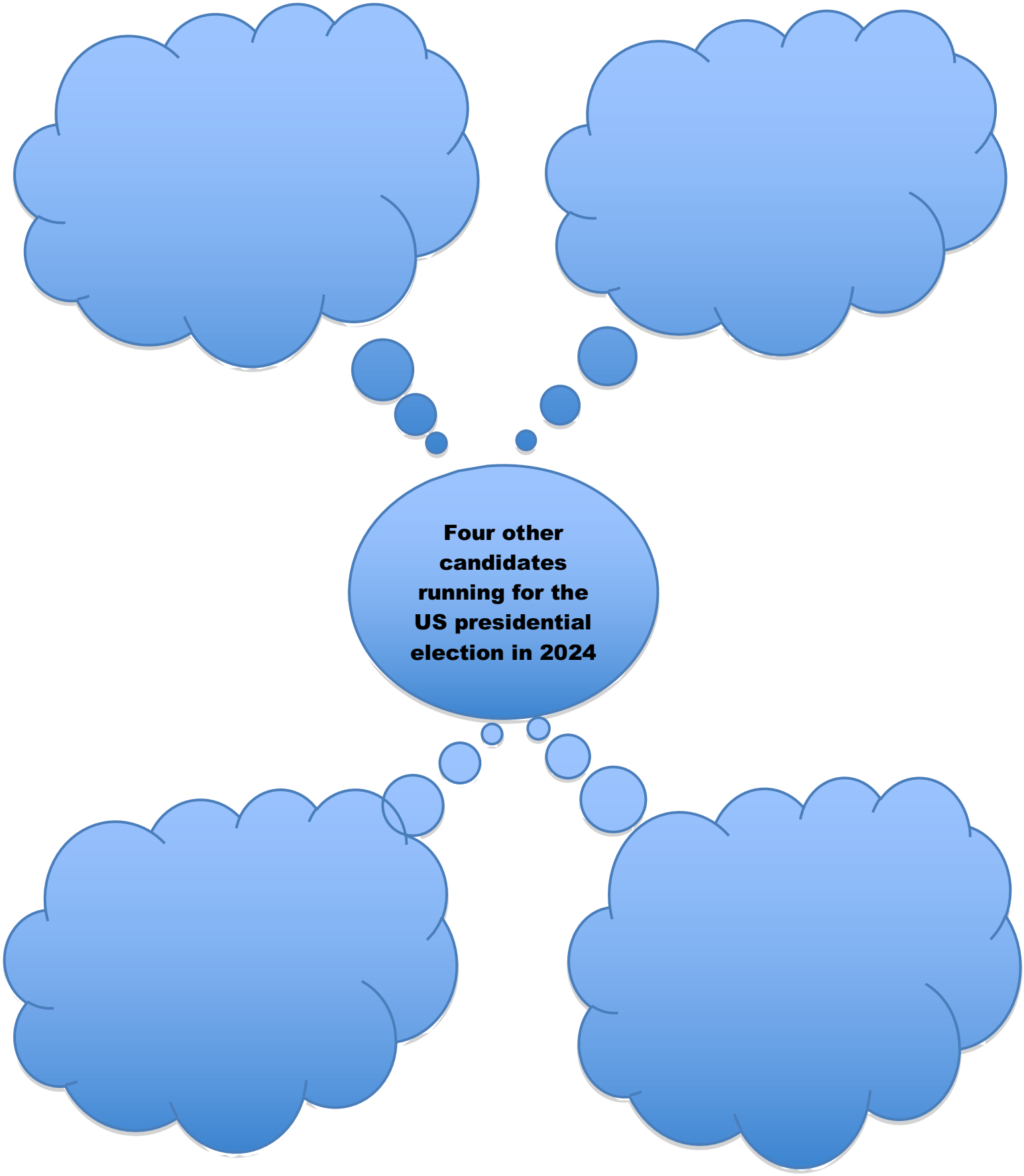
Cornel West
The 70-year-old activist and well-known academic has a complicated presidential bid.
He launched it in June with the People's Party. After falling out with the group, Mr West said he would seek the Green Party's nomination, but then changed course to run as an independent.
His socialist platform includes funding public healthcare and slashing the US defence budget. Melina Abdullah, a member of the board of directors of the Black Lives Matter Grassroots organisation, is his running mate.
He has attacked Mr Biden as a "war criminal" and Mr Trump as a "fascist pied piper".
His candidacy could have been a threat to Ms Harris in crucial swing states like Michigan, though his request to appear on the ballot there was recently denied. He is currently on the ballot in nine states and has struggled to raise money.

Chase Oliver
The Libertarian Party - the third biggest political party in the country - has nominated Chase Oliver as their presidential candidate, with Mike ter Maat as his running mate.
In doing so, they spurned Mr Trump and Mr Kennedy, both of whom spoke at the party's convention this month in a bid for its support.
Mr Trump received a notably unfriendly reception and lashed out at the audience during his speech.
Mr Oliver, an openly gay sales executive who previously ran on the Libertarian ticket for US congressional races in Georgia, says voters are done with picking from "the lesser of two evils".
"I'm just about to be the age of 40. I'm living the life of a normal American," he recently told BBC Americast.
"I understand what it's like to go to the grocery store with the same amount of money but seeing less and less filling up the cart. Those are things that Donald Trump and Joe Biden are so far-removed from that they just can't communicate those values anymore."
His campaign advocates for balancing the budget, ending military support to Israel and Ukraine, closing all overseas US military bases and abolishing the death penalty.
Libertarians support small government and individual freedoms, typically pulling 1-3% of the vote from Republicans.
The party's nominee in 2020 received more votes than Mr Trump's margin of defeat in three battleground states.

Robert F Kennedy Jr
A former environmental lawyer known for his anti-vaccine activism, the nephew of former President John Kennedy initially sought - and failed - to run as a Democrat.
The 70-year-old then mounted an independent challenge to what he called the "two- headed monster" of American politics. Nicole Shanahan, a California lawyer and philanthropist, is his running-mate.
His populist economic message and criticism of the two major parties initially gave him a boost in the polls, on the back of the many disaffected voters unhappy with the choice of Biden or Trump. He narrowly missed qualifying for the first presidential debate in late June.
In August, he suspended his independent run for presidency and said the principles that led him to leave the Democratic party had now compelled him "to throw my support to President Trump".

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-67383271

Fill in the bubbles from the oral presentation, team 6:



Part 2: How does the presidential election process work?

Video: 'U.S. presidential election easily explained' (explainity® explainer video), **team 7**

Step one: From primaries and caucuses to National conventions

Difference between a primary and a caucus
The difference between a primary and a caucus is that the state itself conducts a primary, while the state party runs a caucus. A primary takes the form of a traditional election, with a broad group of voters casting secret ballots at polling stations that are open all day. This also means primaries are government- funded, making them the preferred choice for many states.
But caucuses — typically held in churches, school gymnasiums, libraries, community centres and, increasingly rare, at people's homes — meet to openly discuss the candidates before voting.
Caucuses also use the meetings to conduct other party business, such as selecting delegates.
U.S. election 2016: 6 things to know about the presidential primaries,
By Mark Gollom, CBC News Posted: Jan 29, 2016, http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/u-s-primaries-caucus-iowa-r.

1. When does the US election take place?
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2. At the beginning of an election year **primaries** take place in this election. What is a primary? Hence, explain the two ways in which the primaries are run by state.
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3. What does **Super Tuesday** refer to?
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4. How do contenders win primaries? and where do they win officially?
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5. What does a 'ticket' mean in the US presidential election?
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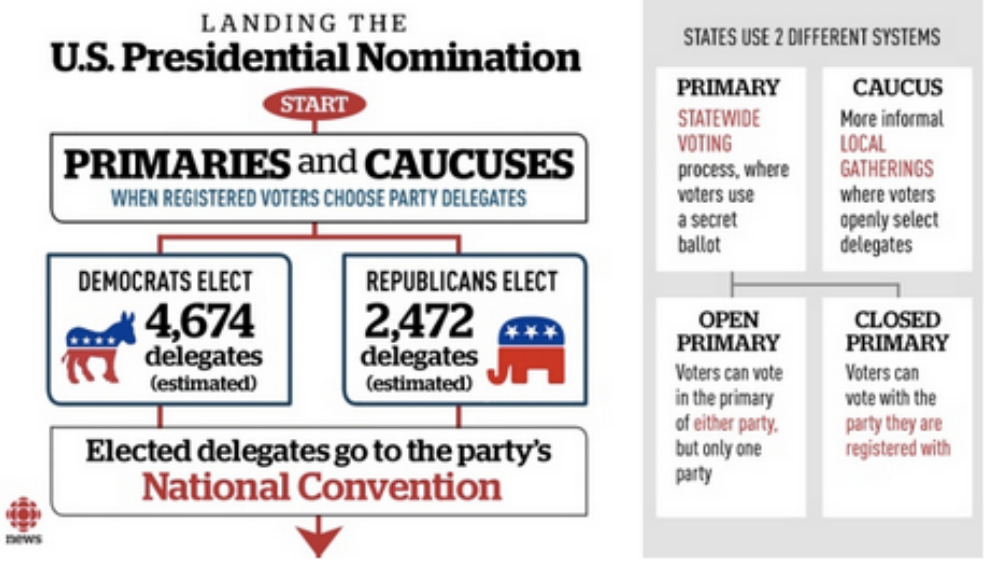

U.S. primaries and caucuses, which vary from state to state, begin the official process for choosing each party's candidate for president. (Kevin Kirk/CBC)

http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/u-s-primaries-caucus-iowa

Step two: From the Election Day to the inauguration day.

The US presidential election is actually 51 separate contests. The candidate with the most votes in each state becomes the candidate which that state supports for president.

1. The ballot takes place during the **Election Day** or the **General election** in November. How does the vote work? What is meant by 'the winner takes all'?

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2. Quote two moments when Americans do not vote directly.

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3. Find out the US presidential map pointing to the number of electors by state. Print the map and stick it below.

Each state has certain number of these "electors" based on their population in the most recent census (it so happens that it's the same number of districts in a state, plus two senators).

4. What is meant by "**swing states**"? Find out a map showing the swing states in the US. Print the map and stick it below.

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5. Is the president officially elected by the Electoral college in December 2024?

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Describe the election presidential process applied for the one in 2024, step by step, in an attractive production of your choice, e.g. candidates climbing on a ladder, or something else relevant …

Sum up:

1. Keywords.

Fill in definitions of the following:
- **Primary** (US Politics**):** is a state-level election where party members vote to choose a …….. affiliated with their political party.

- **Caucus**: is a system of …… gatherings where voters decide which candidate to support and select delegates for nominating conventions.

- **Delegates**: are individuals chosen to ……..…. their states at their party conventions prior to a presidential election. At both conventions, delegates must cast their …….. in favor of one candidate.

- **National Party Conventions**: they are the culmination of the …… election process. At the national party conventions, the …….. from the states cast votes for the person who will represent the political party in the November general election.

- **Ticket:** in the U.S., the candidates for President and Vice President (or running mate) run on the same "ticket", because they are elected …… on a single ballot question rather than separately.

- **Electoral college**: a body of ……. chosen by the voters in each state to elect the ……. and …… of the U.S.

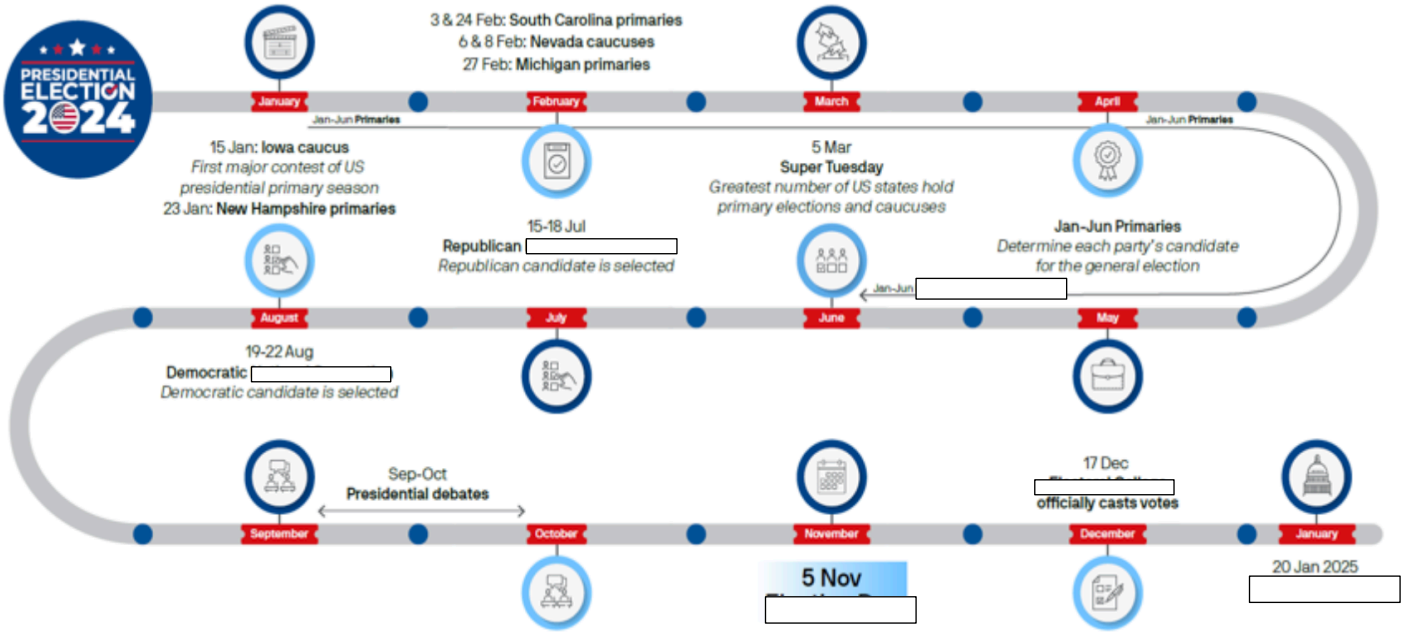
- **Election Day or General election**: in the United States is the day set by law for the general elections of public officials. It occurs on the …… immediately after the first Monday in November.

- **Swing state**: also, battleground state or purple state (in reference to red state and blue state) is a state in which no single candidate or party has overwhelming …….. in securing that state's electoral college votes.

- **Inauguration day**: the day on which the president of the United States is inaugurated or ……., being January …….. of every year following a year whose number is divisible by four.

2. The poster explaining the process of the presidential US election.

Fill in the poster using the appropriate keyword:



Source: 270towin, National Conference of State Legislatures, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Data are as of July 22, 2024.