

THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject(s) Area: Physical Education, Social Studies, and Math

Materials Needed: 3 different color jerseys, electoral vote cards

SStandards:

S1.E1.4 Uses various locomotor skills in a variety of small-sided practice tasks, dance and educational gymnastics experiences.

S2.E5.4b Applies simple offensive strategies/tactics in chasing and fleeing activities

S2.E5.4b Applies simple defensive strategies/tactics in chasing and fleeing activities

S4.E4.4 Praises the movement performance of others both more and less skilled (4a) Accepts players of all skill levels into the physical activity (4b)

SS S4.1.4 Interpret current events using print and electronic media

Objectives:

The students will demonstrate offensive strategies in trying to capture the state.

The students will demonstrate defensive strategies in trying to avoid the candidates.

All students will demonstrate math skills and ability to work with others when adding up electoral vote totals.

Learning Activities:

1. Warm up: Have the students jog or briskly walk around the gym for five minutes
2. Have the students come back together and sit in front of you
3. Ask the students what they know about the presidential election
 - a. What is it?
 - b. Who is running?
 - c. How does it work?
4. Ask the students if they know what an electoral vote is and explain.
5. Introduce the game: The Presidential Race
6. Give instructions
 - a. Three students will be the top candidates

- b. The rest of the students will be the states with the votes the candidates need (show vote cards)
 - c. The object of the game is to not let the candidates touch you (the state) if they touch you, they get your vote and you join them and try to help them catch states.
 - d. Once each state has been caught, come together with your team and count your votes. The candidate with the most votes wins.
7. Explain the electoral vote cards to the students.
 8. Give an example of how to play the game
 9. Choose three candidates and hand out the electoral vote cards to the students who are not candidates.
 10. Have the candidates pick a corner to stand in and the states stand in the middle
 11. Tell the students, “When I say ‘Let the Race begin!’ begin.”
 12. Begin game.

Assessment: Students will be assessed on their daily participation in class, their ability to work with others, offensive and defensive strategies, and their knowledge of the presidential election.

Reflection:

I think that this lesson went very well. It went even better than I expected and had a great overall student response. They were so excited when I told them the game! I think that by having the games be super short, it was actually very beneficial because each student got a chance to be a candidate. I also noticed everyone was participating because all they had to do was run, so it was a really easy game to include everyone in. I think the teaching part went very well, the students all seemed to understand and did a good job of answering the questions. Even when I went over the questions again at the end of the game, they still remembered what an electoral vote was. Another thing that went really well, and was unexpected, was when I had teachable moments during each class. I was able to show them that just because the one candidate has more states it doesn't necessarily mean that they'll win because it depends on the number of votes they get. Some things I could work on are being a little bit louder and giving the students time to talk; not talking over them. I think this happened because I was nervous and was on a time limit so I just wanted to get the game explained and go, so I need to work on that. Another thing that I need to work on for this game would be explaining to the students that they only need to touch the state not push or shove because that was a problem at times, especially toward the end of the games. I also need to add a math standard. Overall, this game was super fun to play and had a great student response. At the end, the students were even asking if they could play it again next week.