

Name: _____

Block: _____

Date: _____

1824 ELECTION PACKET

First read the Electoral College Background on this page before completing this packet.

The Electoral College Background

The Framers were wary of giving the people the power to directly elect the President – some felt the citizenry too beholden to local interests, too easily duped by promises or shenanigans, or simply because a national election, in the time of oil lamps and quill pens, was just impractical. Some proposals gave the power to Congress, but this did not sit well with those who wanted to see the true separation of the branches of the new government. Still, others felt the state legislatures should decide, but this was thought to make the President too beholden to state interests. The Electoral College, proposed by James Wilson, was the compromise that the Constitutional Convention reached.

Though the term is never used in the Constitution itself, the electors that choose the President at each election are traditionally called a College. In the context of the Constitution, the meaning of college is not that of a school, but of a group of people organized toward a common goal.

The Electoral College insulates the election of the President from the people by having the people elect not the person of the President, but the person of an Elector who is pledged to vote for a specific person for President. Though the ballot may read "John McCain" or "Barack Obama," you're really voting for "John Smith" who is a McCain supporter or "Jack Jones" who is an Obama supporter.

The function and details of how the Electoral College meets and how they vote was changed in the 12th Amendment. First, a discussion of the original plan, outlined in Article 2, Section 1, Clauses 2 and 3, then what is different today:

Each state chose a number of electors equal to the number of congress people that state had. Each state, then, got at least three electors (two Senators and at least one Representative). Electors may not be an employee or elected representative of the Federal Government. Each state was allowed to otherwise choose whomever they wish to be the Electors for that state.

Regardless of the method used to choose Electors, they all met, in their states, on one day set by law. Each voted for two people, at least one of whom was not a citizen of their state. Those votes were then counted, and a list of each name and the number of votes was signed and certified and sent to the President of the Senate. Then, in front of a joint session of Congress, the President of the Senate opened the vote counts from each state. These were totaled, and the President was the person with 51% majority.. If there was a tie, or no one received a 51% majority then the members of the House of Representatives immediately took a vote and that winner was the President.

If there was no tie, and no majority, then the top three vote-getters were voted on by the House as above. When the vote devolved to the House, two-thirds of all states must have had at least one Representative present for the vote to proceed. The Representatives present from each state voted as a single state. The winner had to win by a majority of the states

1. Get to know the candidates!

DIRECTIONS: Please Read the Section Favorite Sons on pg. 287 and respond to the following questions.

1. Which candidate do you think is best for the job? Be sure to explain your answer 5 sentences minimum.

2. Looking at the chart below, who had the most Popular and Electoral votes? How much of each?

Candidate	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote
John Quincy Adams Secretary of State	84	115,696 (30.9%)
Henry Clay Speaker of the House of Rep.	37	47,136 (13%)
Andrew Jackson US Senator from TN	99	152,933 (41.3%)
William Crawford Secretary of Treasury	41	46,979 (11.2%)

2. House breaks the tie!

DIRECTIONS: Please read the section the Corrupt Bargain Charge on pg. 288.

1. Why did Henry Clay support John Quincy Adams rather than Andrew Jackson? (Write 5 sentences minimum and use a quote from the text to support your answer.)

2. Do you think there was a “Corrupt Bargain”? Be sure to justify your answer with evidence from the text. (Write 3 sentence minimum.)

3. Do you think the House breaking the tie is an example of People’s Law or Oppression? Please share with People’s Law Principle or Oppression Principle you think would apply. (Write 4 sentences minimum.)
