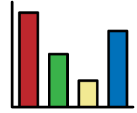
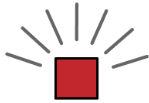




## GRAPHING VOTING RESULTS



### Introduction



Election Day in the U.S. is November 3, 2020. U.S. voters will choose government leaders this day, including the U.S. president. Two candidates for president are Donald Trump and Joe Biden. In this experiment, your students can vote to find the favorite candidate in your class by observing which one most of the students vote for.

You should start this experiment by talking about the idea of a secret ballot. You can explain to your students that when adults vote for candidates, each voter can vote only one time and it is a secret vote. You can tell your students they should vote for the candidate they think is best, and they do not have to tell anyone which candidate they vote for. Encourage your students not to ask each other who they voted for. Before the experiment starts, you should cut apart the Voting Ballot pages so each student has one ballot. You may also want to make sure each student uses the same kind of writing utensil to vote, such as a pencil or a black pen, so others cannot discern who wrote out a particular ballot. If you want to take it a step further, you can set up voting stations for your students with partitions so they can feel like they are in a polling place. You should put a basket in a common space in the room all your students can access.

Your students can start by making hypotheses, or guesses, about which candidate they think most of their classmates will choose as their favorite. You may want this to be done in secret as well, so they are not influenced by other students. Then they can each vote for their favorite candidate on their ballots. They should fold their ballots in half and put their ballots into the basket. Once all the ballots are in the basket, you can read each ballot aloud and keep a tally on a smart board or white board, how many votes each candidate receives. Students can organize and analyze this data to see whether their guess is correct.

Scientists do this all the time. They start with hypotheses too. Then they do experiments they think may tell them whether their hypotheses are correct. Scientists gather information, or data, then they organize the data in a way that helps them understand and use it. They may make graphs to organize the data. Students can do the same thing. They can take the data the class collected with the ballots and put the data onto graphs. The graphs will help students see and compare how many votes each candidate received, and which candidate is the favorite.



## What We Know:

- Election Day in the U.S. is November 3.
- Voters will choose the U.S. president.
- Candidates for president include Donald Trump and Joe Biden.



## Step 1: Ask a Question

- Which candidate for president is the favorite of students in your classroom?



## Step 2: Make a Guess / Hypothesis

I think...



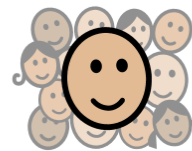
Donald Trump



Joe Biden



someone else



**Need:**

**Voting Ballots Page,  
cut apart (page 60)**



**pencil**



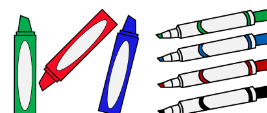
**basket**



**Favorite Candidate Graph  
(page 61)**



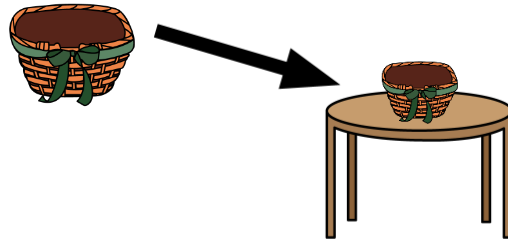
**crayons or markers**








## Step 3: Do an Experiment

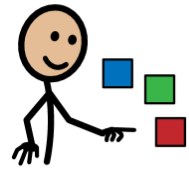
1. Teacher puts basket onto table in middle of room.



2. Read names on Voting Ballot. Decide which candidate you like best.






Voting Ballot	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donald Trump 
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Biden 
<input type="checkbox"/>	someone else 

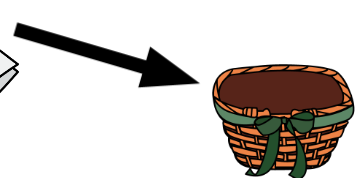
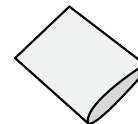


3. Write checkmark into box next to that candidate's name.

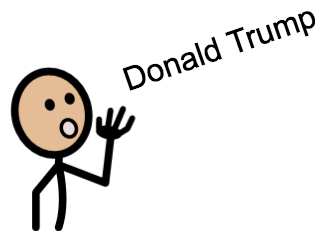





Voting Ballot	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donald Trump 
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Biden 
<input type="checkbox"/>	someone else 

4. Fold Voting Ballot in half.  
Put Voting Ballot into basket.



5. After all Voting Ballots are turned in, teacher reads aloud which candidate is chosen on each Voting Ballot.

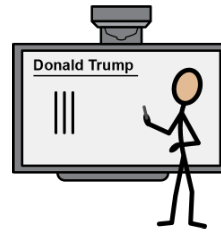


Voting Ballot	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donald Trump 
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Biden 
<input type="checkbox"/>	someone else 

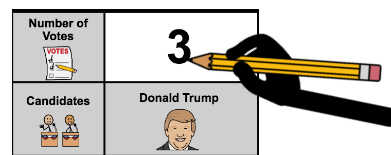


## Step 3: Do an Experiment

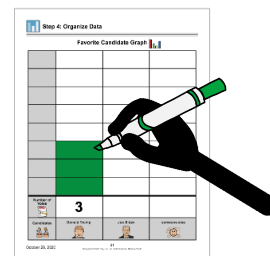
6. Teacher writes tallies of the votes each candidate gets onto board.



7. Write number of votes Donald Trump got into box on Favorite Candidate Graph.



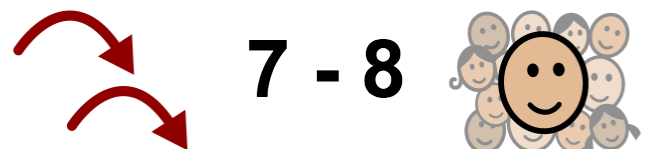
8. Color that number of boxes in Donald Trump column, starting at bottom.



9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 for Joe Biden.



10. Repeat steps 7 and 8 for "someone else."



# Voting Ballots Page

**Voting Ballot**

**Donald Trump**



**Joe Biden**



**someone else**



**Voting Ballot**

**Donald Trump**



**Joe Biden**



**someone else**



**Voting Ballot**

**Donald Trump**



**Joe Biden**



**someone else**



**Voting Ballot**

**Donald Trump**

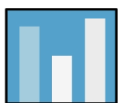


**Joe Biden**



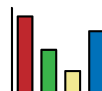
**someone else**










## Step 4: Organize Data

### Favorite Candidate Graph

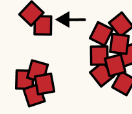


<b>Number of Votes</b> 			
<b>Candidates</b> 	<b>Donald Trump</b> 	<b>Joe Biden</b> 	<b>someone else</b> 



## Step 5: Find the Conclusion

1. Which candidate received the fewest votes?



Donald Trump



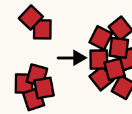
Joe Biden



someone else



2. Which candidate received the most votes?



Donald Trump



Joe Biden



someone else



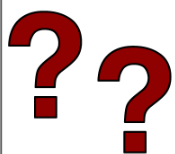
3. Was your guess correct?



yes



no

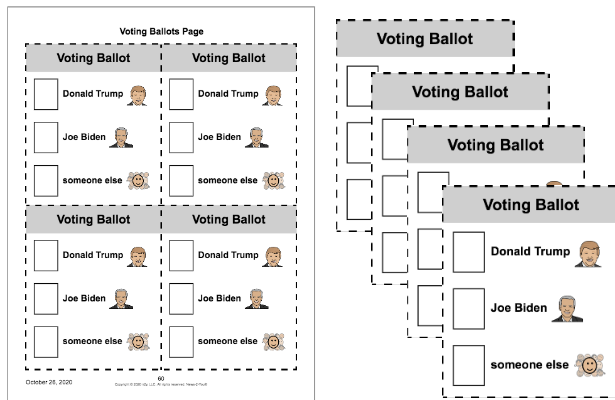


### Questions for Class Discussion

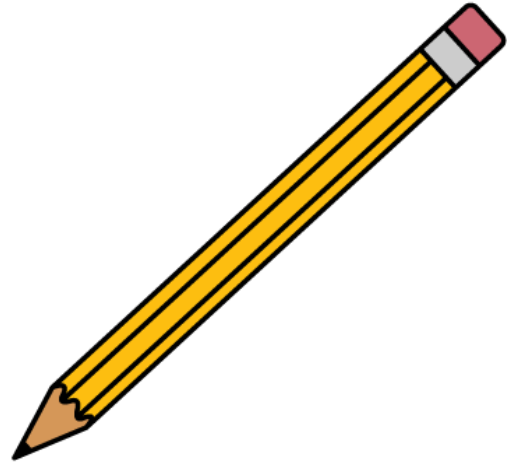
- Make a list of words that would describe a good president.
- Why do you think scientists use graphs to look at data?
- What else could your class have a vote about?

Read, practice and post these words on classroom or craft area word walls.

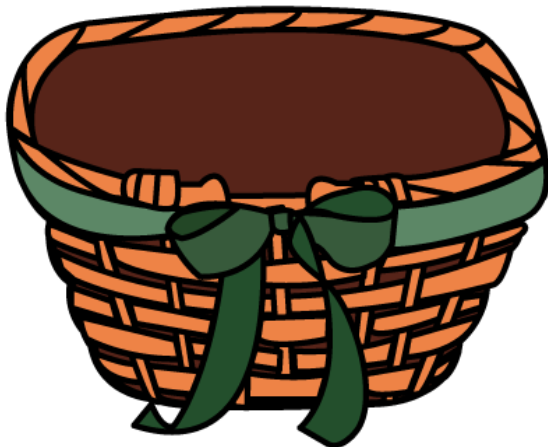
# Voting Ballots Page, cut apart



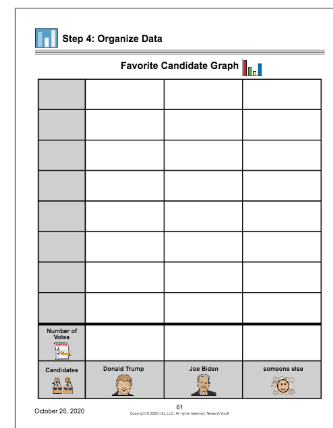
pencil



# basket



# Favorite Candidate Graph





Read, practice and post these words on classroom or craft area word walls.

