



C-SPAN's 2012 Electoral College Map Activity Questions

Use the map to answer the following questions. When necessary, use outside resources to give complete answers.

1. What is the minimum number of states that a candidate needs to win in order to win the election? What are those states?
2. Given recent years' results and current voting trends; create a scenario in which the Electoral College vote results in a tie. How would the U.S. select a president in this scenario?
3. What states gained electoral votes since the last election? What states lost electoral votes since the last election? What geographic trends do you notice from the states that gained/lost votes? What are possible reasons for these results?
4. Using the result maps since 1992, which states have voted both Democratic and Republican in separate elections? What can be concluded about these states and their role in the election compared to other states that have voted for only one party over these elections?
5. Which two states use the district method? How does this differ from the winner-take-all method? What are the pros and cons to this method?
6. In which election did a candidate win the popular vote, yet lost the Electoral College vote and therefore the election? How is this possible?
7. Since 1900, how many Republicans have been elected president? How many Democratic candidates have been elected president? Were there any trends or "streaks" for one party? What reasons might explain these trends?
8. What is the location for the Democratic National Convention? Republican National Convention? Why did each party select these locations for their conventions?