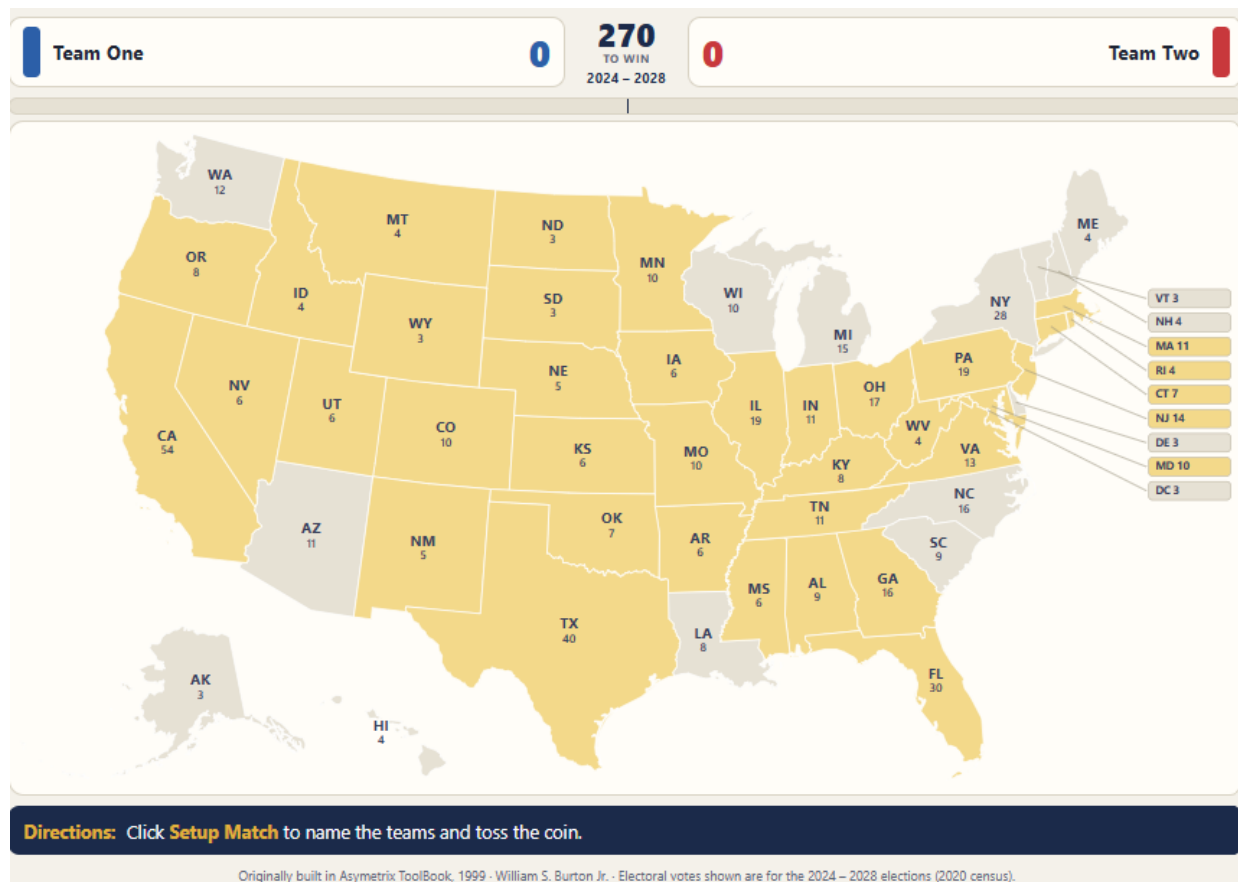


Electoral Vote

Teacher Guide · A two-team Electoral College review game · Free at duelinghistory.com



What it is

Two teams race across a map of the United States. Click a state, answer its question, and that state's electoral votes go on your team's board. **The first team to 270 electoral votes wins the presidency.** Every state and the District of Columbia has its own question, so the map holds 51 questions in all.

Originally built in Asymetrix ToolBook in 1999, now rebuilt to run in any web browser. No download, no plug-in, no student accounts.

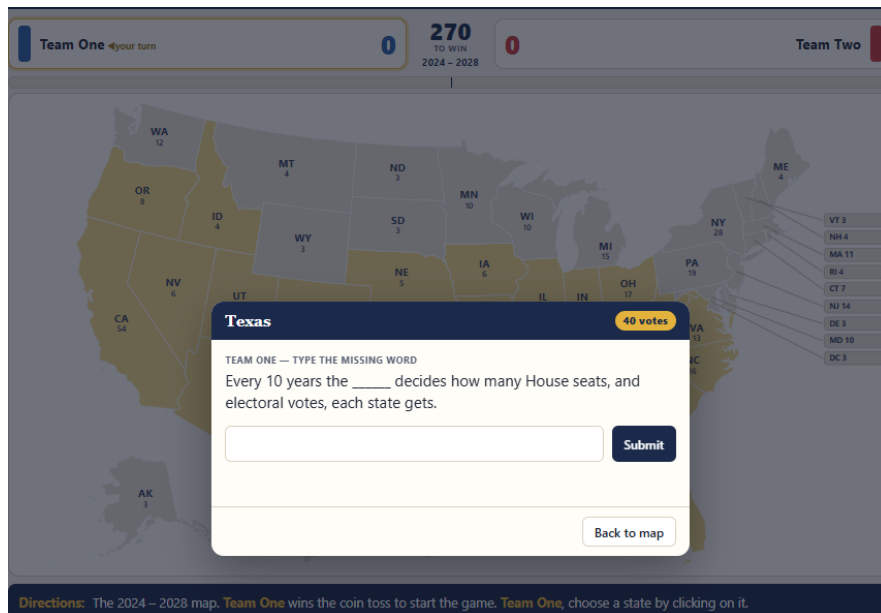
Where to play

duelinghistory.com/games/ElectionGameUSA/

Works best on a projector or interactive whiteboard with the whole class split into two teams. It also works on a single computer for small groups.

Running a match

1. Click **Setup Match**. Type the two team names (and, if you like, a candidate name for each team).
2. Choose the **election years**. The electoral votes on the map change to match that census (see the table on the next page).
3. Click **Toss the coin & start**. The coin toss decides which team picks the first state. Starting a match clears the map.
4. The team in control clicks a state. Hover over any state first to see its capital and hear a click.
5. Answer the question. Some are multiple choice (click the answer); others are fill in the blank (type the answer and press Submit).



A fill-in-the-blank question for Texas, worth 40 electoral votes on the 2024–2028 map.

The rules

- **Right answer:** the team wins that state's electoral votes, and the state turns that team's color. Under the 1999 rule, a correct answer **keeps control of the board**, so the same team picks again.
- **Wrong answer:** the team loses control, and the other team picks next. The missed state stays open, so either team can try it again later.
- **First to 270 wins.** The game announces "We have a new President!"
- **No majority?** If the states run out and no one reaches 270, or the teams tie 269 to 269, the game explains that under the 12th Amendment the House of Representatives chooses the President, one vote per state delegation. That is a lesson in itself.

Strategy talk: Do you go after California and Texas early, or pick off the small states? Ask students which approach a real campaign would take, and why the small states still matter.

The map moves with the census

Seats in the House, and therefore electoral votes, are reassigned after every census. Pick an era in Setup Match and the whole map changes. A few states show the shift clearly:

Election years	Census	California	Texas	Florida	New York	Georgia
1964 – 1968	1960	40	25	14	43	12
1972 – 1980	1970	45	26	17	41	12
1984 – 1988	1980	47	29	21	36	12
1992 – 2000	1990	54	32	25	33	13
2004 – 2008	2000	55	34	27	31	15
2012 – 2020	2010	55	38	29	29	16
2024 – 2028	2020	54	40	30	28	16

Try this: play one match on the 1964 map and the next on the 2024 map. Ask students which team had the easier road and what the census tells them about where Americans moved.

Teacher Setup: write your own questions

Every question can be changed to fit your unit, whether that is the Constitution, the three branches, elections, or this week's vocabulary.

1. Open the setup screen with the **Teacher Setup** button, with **Ctrl + Shift + click** on the game title (or on a state to jump straight to its question), or with **Ctrl + Shift + E**.
2. Enter the password. The starting password is **civics**. Change it under **Game options** before students see the game.
3. Pick a state from the list. Edit the capital (shown on mouseover), the question type, the question, and the answer.
4. For fill-in-the-blank answers, accept more than one spelling by separating them with a bar: census | the census. Capitals and extra spaces don't matter.
5. Click **Try it** to preview the question, then **Save this state**. **Restore original question** puts back the built-in one.

Teacher Setup — Questions

original set

State questions

Game options

Save / share

Alabama	9
Alaska	3
Arizona	11
Arkansas	6
California	54
Colorado	10
Connecticut	7
Delaware	3
District of Columbia	3
Florida	30
Georgia	16
Hawaii	4
Idaho	4
Illinois	19
Indiana	11
Iowa	6
Kansas	6
Kentucky	8
Louisiana	8
Maine	4

Capital (shown on mouseover)

Austin

Electoral votes by election years

40 (2024 – 2028 — change in Setup Match)

Question type

Fill in the blank (type the answer)

Question

Every 10 years the ____ decides how many House seats, and electoral votes, each state gets.

Correct answer

census|the census

Accept more than one spelling by separating them with a bar: 26th | 26 | twenty-sixth. Capitals and extra spaces don't matter.

Save this state

Try it

Restore original question

Done

The Teacher Setup screen, State questions tab.

Game options

- **Keep control on a correct answer** (the 1999 rule). Turn it off and the teams simply alternate every question.
- **Show the correct answer after a miss.** When this is on, the missed state closes to both teams.
- **Play a tick sound on mouseover.**
- **Change the teacher password.**

Saving and sharing a question set

Your changes are saved in that browser automatically. To move a question set to another computer, or to share it with the teacher down the hall, open **Save / share** and click **Download question set (.json)**. On the other computer, use **Load a question set.... Restore every original question** resets all 51.

Note: because the set lives in the browser, a different computer or a cleared browser starts with the original questions. Keep the downloaded file as your backup.