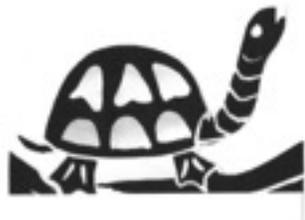


Study Guide

THE BIG ELECTION

Who will win the big election for Leader of the Beasts? Will it be Benny P. (for Progress) Beaver or Terry E. (for Environment) Turtle? Listen to their stump speeches and decide who YOU want to vote for! But how about that colony of ants? There are a zillion of them; they could change the outcome! And Worm: will her vote count for anything? And will Duck help Beaver's campaign? Madame Owl will keep you informed with her reports from the top of a tree!



Although this is an original story, it is grounded in folklore from many traditions, especially indigenous tales, about how animals chose their leaders.



The show includes a mock election with paper ballots that will be collected during the show and counted by "The Bunny Board of Elections." The candidates and issues are clearly defined and the news media are represented by

Madame Owl's Reports. Kids get a paper ballot, an "I voted" sticker, a puppet to cut out and assemble, and information about voting. They learn a catchy song about voting.

Before The Show:

Learn about the history of voting in the United States with this timeline (*teachers: use as much of this as is applicable to the age of your students. Most important points for younger children in red*)

- 1776-1870: only white men who own property may vote
- 1788: The Electoral College is established. Men vote for "electors" who then vote for president.
- 1861-1865: The Civil War
- 1866: The 14th Amendment gives all white male residents over 21 the right to vote.
- 1869: The 15th Amendment gives men of color, including the formerly enslaved, the right to vote. The Wyoming Territory becomes the first to give women the vote.
- 1877: the first presidential election in which the winner of the popular vote, Samuel Tilden, loses to the Electoral College winner, Rutherford B. Hayes.
- 1890: States begin using secret ballots to prevent bullying of voters
- 1920: The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote.
- 1965: The Voting Rights Act removes obstacles preventing poor and minorities from voting.
- 1971: The 26th Amendment lowers the voting age from 21 to 18
- 1975: The Voting Rights Act is expanded to protect non-English speakers.
- 2000: Close election is decided by the Supreme Court
- 2008: First African-American president is elected.

After The Show:

The Big Election traces a campaign between Benny P. Beaver and Terry E. Turtle. Just as in our elections, there is a rally, a debate, different issues, and passionate supporters on both sides. Here are some questions for your students to reflect on and answer:

1. What did Benny P. Beaver promise to do? Do you think he could make it happen? Do you think it would be a good idea?

2. What did Terry E. Turtle promise to do? Do you think he could make it happen? Do you think it would be a good idea?
3. Did the ants support Beaver or Turtle? Why? Why did they change sides?
4. Why did Duck support Beaver?
5. Why (and for whom) did Worm decide to vote?
6. Why couldn't Madame Owl choose sides?
7. How did you decide who to vote for?
8. How did you feel about voting? Was it a difficult decision? Could you understand why someone else would vote differently?



About the Puppets and Music:

Kinds of puppets used:

1. Tabletop rod puppets (*Beaver walks on the table and is controlled by a rod out of the back of his head; Worm inches along with two rods out of his back*)
2. Rod Marionettes (*Turtle and walking Duck have rods coming out of their backs and strings to head or wings; ants have rods out of their backs*)
3. Overhead rod puppets (*Madame Owl and flying duck have rods from head through body and rods on their wings*)
4. Notice the small version of Beaver and Ants at the end of the show. This was done to make it seem to be at a distance.
5. What was the instrument Stephanie used to play the tune? (*clarinet*) What do you think this added to the show?
6. Why do you think the puppeteers wore blue shirts? (*to match the stage and fade into the background*)

Can you still sing the song?
Here are the words:

*Everyone gets a vote
Everyone gets a choice
However big or small you are
You've got an equal voice.*



*Whether you're rich or poor
Everyone has a say
We decide our destiny together
On election day!*



EULENSPIEGEL PUPPET THEATRE

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Suggested Reading List

Books For Younger Readers and Listeners

Max for President, by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Voting With a Porpoise, by Russell Glass and Sean Callahan

What Can a Citizen Do? by Dave Eggers

Her Right Foot, by Dave Eggers

Duck for President, by Harcourt School Publishers

One Vote, Two Votes, I Vote, You Vote (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library), by Bonnie Worth

The House That George Built, by Suzanne Slade

Start Now!: You Can Make a Difference, by Chelsea Clinton

Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President, by Ann Malaspina

Vote!, by Eileen Christelow

Grace for President

by Kelly DiPucchio, LeUyen Pham (illustrator)

Duck for President, (Farmer Brown's Barnyard Tales), by Doreen Cronin, Betsy Lewin (Illustrator)

Amelia Bedelia's First Vote, by Herman Parish, Lynne Avril (Illustrator)

Madam President, by Lane Smith

Bad Kitty for President, by Nick Bruel

Grades 3-5:

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote, by Tanya Lee Stone
Rebecca Gibbon (Illustrations)

Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, by Jonah Winter

Bold & Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote, by Kirsten Gillibrand

Where Do Presidents Come From?: And Other Presidential Stuff of Super Great Importance,
by Michael Townsend

First Mothers, by Beverly Gherman

Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box, by Michael S. Bandy, Eric Stein,
James E. Ransome (Illustrator)



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