

Answer Key

Unit 5—The Electors Shall Meet: Electing the President

CONSTITUTIONAL CONNECTION: ELECTING THE PRESIDENT

1. They are selected in whatever manner a state's legislature directs. Today, all states choose electors by popular vote, though the people vote for electors who are pledged to vote for a certain candidate.
2. They meet in their respective states.
3. Having the people vote for certain electors who they believe are particularly wise or informed will ensure that good candidates are chosen; Having electors meet in their own states will cut down on controversies; candidates will have to appeal to electors across the entire country, not just a single (and perhaps populous) state, in order to be elected President of the United States.
4. Accept reasoned answers.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS HANDOUT A: JOHN QUINCY ADAMS AND THE ELECTION OF 1824

1. John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, William Crawford, and Andrew Jackson
2. No candidate had a majority of electoral votes.
3. The House of Representatives decides the election with each state having one vote. The House of Representatives was considered the branch of the national government that was closest to the people. Representatives were elected directly by the people and their terms were only two years long.
4. He used his influence as Speaker of the House to win votes for Adams. He was charged with striking a "corrupt bargain" in return for a post as Secretary of State.
5. Accept reasoned answers.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES HANDOUT A: RUTHERFORD B. HAYES AND THE DISPUTED ELECTION OF 1876

1. "The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and the House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;..."
2. Two conflicting sets of electoral votes were submitted by each of four states.
3. The two men essentially agreed on the need for civil service reform, more responsible economic policies, and, as Hayes put it, "an intelligent and honest administration of government, which will protect all classes of citizens" in the South.
4. Northerners, concerned about economic depression and the corruption in their own state governments, were not as concerned about the civil rights of Southern blacks. Southerners were tired of federal interference in their politics.
5. Throughout the South, Democrats used violence and intimidation to prevent blacks' voting. Republicans used similar tactics to ensure that blacks voted Republican, and both sides bought votes.

HANDOUT C: WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

1. Students may suggest returning the votes to the states and having them sort out the controversy themselves; having the President appoint a special commission; counting the set of votes that was opened first; asking the Supreme Court to investigate the allegations of fraud; or other ideas.
2. Students may suggest that Congress had no