

Preferential Voting

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

- 1. Explain to another student how preferential voting works.
- 2. Australia is one of the few countries in the world that uses preferential voting. True or false?
- 3. For a political candidate to win their seat in an election they need to...
 - a. Win half the votes
 - b. Win half the votes plus one
 - c. Win all of the votes
- 4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of preferential voting?
- 5. What questions do you have about the preferential voting story?

EPISODE 12

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KEY LEARNING

Students will find out more about the preferential voting system and learn how to run their own election at school.

CURRICULUM

Civics and Citizenship – Year 5The key features of the electoral process in Australia.

Civics and Citizenship – Year 6 The responsibilities of electors and representatives in Australia's democracy.

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Preferential Voting story as a class. Use the following questions to guide discussion: Ask students to record what they know about preferential voting. What questions do they have? In small groups, ask students to brainstorm responses to the following questions:

- Have you ever had to vote for someone or something? What was the process?
- How are student representatives elected in your school?
- Who can vote in Australia?
- What is the preferential voting system?
- What are the advantages of preferential voting? Are there any disadvantages?



Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Preferential Voting story. Here are some words to get them started.

ELECTION	PREFERENTIAL VOTING	VOTE
CANDIDATE	ELECTORATE	FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

Activity: Voting Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Preferential Voting story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I learnt?	How will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- Compare the first-past-the-post voting system and preferential voting.
- Why does Australia use the preferential voting system?
- Why do minor parties like the preferential voting system?
- What does absolute majority mean?
- Do you think compulsory voting and the secret ballot are important to the voting system? Give reasons for your answer.

Activity: Run your own election

Running an election for your class provides the opportunity for students to participate in the democratic process of choosing representatives for a range of purposes. Students will run their own election and investigate how the preferential voting system works.

Begin by watching the <u>Making your vote count</u> animation for an explanation of the different voting systems used to elect representatives. Watch <u>this animation</u> to learn about the difference between first-past-the post and preferential voting system. Students can test their knowledge in the <u>Voting Challenge Quiz</u>.

Visit the Australian Electoral Commission's <u>Get Voting website</u>. Get voting is everything you need to run a free and fair election for your class.











Activity: BTN Election Stories

Check out these BTN Election stories to understand more about voting and the federal election.



BTN Election Lingo - Electorates



BTN Voting Age



BTN Election Lingo - Parties



BTN - History of Voting

Check out BTN's Ask a Reporter about voting in Australia



Useful Websites

- Voting Age BTN
- History of Voting BTN
- Preferential Voting BTN
- <u>Preferential Voting</u> AEC