

Thème	American Elections
Definitions and Notions	<p>A bipartisan system : the GOP VS the Democrats. Donald Trump and Mike Pence belong to the Republicans Joe Biden and Kamala Harris represent the Democrats</p> <p>Primaries and National Conventions : During primaries elections, both parties choose presidential and vice-presidential candidates who will stand for the party and run for the presidency. The result of this election is announced during a National Convention in mid-summer.</p> <p>Election Day : In America, Federal Office holders are always elected on Election Day. It happens on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November. This day, each citizen goes to the polling station to vote for the American President. According to the principle of “first-past-the-post”, the party which receives the majority wins, all the electors in the state. These electors will then gather to elect the President.</p> <p><u>*Presidential Elections</u></p> <p>Super Tuesday : To have a bigger impact during Primaries, many states have chosen to conduct their primaries (both those of the GOP and the Democrats) on the same day, usually on Tuesday.</p> <p>The role of the states in elections and their importance : The number of electors appointed by the states is fixed by federal law but is not exactly proportional to the population : each state has a number of electors proportionate to its population plus two electors. These two last electors give the smaller states a more important representation per capita than the bigger ones. Swing states are states that do not fall on a precise political side. They are especially important for candidates as they can make a huge difference in the election.</p> <p>The electoral College : Composed of electors appointed by the states who vote to elect the President “effectively”. There are many laws conditioning the vote of the electors. They vary from state to state but, in general, all electors are bound by law to vote for the presidential ticket of the party that won the majority of the votes in their home states.</p> <p>Redistricting and Gerrymandering : Every 10 years, the boundaries of electoral districts (the district in which you vote for your representative in the House) are redrawn by the party in place. Sometimes, this party uses this advantageous position to redraw the boundaries in its favor, ending in a party winning the majority of representatives from this state while the majority of the population voted for the other party. This happened in North</p>

	<p>Carolina during the 90's and early 2000, until the State Court ruled that the electoral map was illegal and that it had to be redrawn in a way that would match the will of the people.</p>
Examples	<p>The example of Senatorial Elections in Georgia : In most US states, the winning candidate of an election is the one who gets the most votes (meaning a relative majority). But in Georgia, candidates have to reach an absolute majority (meaning 50% or more). If this is not the case, the two candidates with the most votes go to a runoff. In 2020, this runoff election concerned both Georgia's Senate seats. They were won by Democrats, which enables them to win the control of the Senate.</p> <p>Voting by mail because of the Covid crisis : Because of the health situation, people can't go to vote in polling stations as usual. They can use the post service to send their voting ballot. This way of voting has been very criticised because</p> <p>Donald Trump and his partisans refused the result of the election : After the winning of Joe Biden, Donald Trump refused to accept his defeat and accused Joe Biden to have defrauded. He asked to recount the results. This led to massive and violent demonstration pro-Trump against the new president Joe Biden. For example, on Wednesday 6 January, pro-Trump's protestors attacked the Capitol in Washington causing 5 deaths and many injured.</p>
Topics of reflection	<p>Should America get rid of the Electoral College ? How Americans are abused by Gerrymandering ? Should the federal level (the Supreme Court and Congress) decide how Americans have to elect their representatives or should it be a part of states powers ? Is the situation in the US a proof of the weakness of democracy ?</p>
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a ballot</i> : un scrutin • <i>a pool</i> : un sondage • <i>pummelled</i> : être battu • <i>politics</i> : politiques • <i>to be sworn into office</i> : être investi • <i>swing states</i> : les Etats susceptibles de basculer • <i>the Inaugural Address</i> : le discours d'investiture • <i>the incumbent president</i> : le président sortant • <i>a runoff</i> : un second tour • <i>GOP = Republican</i> : Grand Old Party