



**Essential Question**  
How do people make government work?



**Go Digital!**





# Our Voices Count

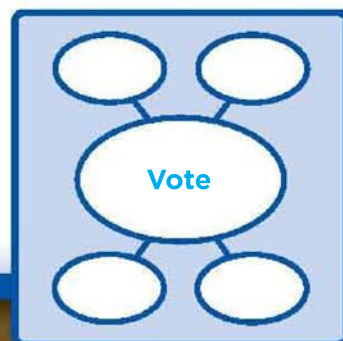
Today we are voting for class president. I will vote for Jan. I think she will do the best job. My vote will count!

- ▶ Voting lets people know what you think.
- ▶ It gives you the power to choose.

## Talk About It



Write words about voting.  
Talk with a partner  
about why voting is so  
important.



# Vocabulary

Use the picture and the sentence to talk with a partner about each word.



**announced**

Ms. Parks **announced** the winner of the contest.

*When has someone announced your name?*



**candidates**

Andrew is one of four **candidates** for class president.

*What are some things candidates do before an election?*



**convince**

Julia's mother tried to **convince** her to play soccer.

*What is something someone tried to convince you to do?*



**decisions**

Nick made two **decisions** about what to eat for breakfast.

*Name two decisions you make every day.*



## elect

The students voted to **elect** a new class president.

What is another word for elect?



## estimate

Sam tried to **estimate**, or guess, the number of coins he had.

What does it mean to estimate something?



## government

Our **government** makes laws.

Think of one law our government has made.



## independent

It's good to be **independent** and do things on your own.

How can you be more independent at home?

## Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Pick three words. Write three questions for your partner to answer.

**Go Digital!** Use the online visual glossary



Every  
**VOTE**  
Counts!



## Essential Question

**How do people make government work?**

Read about one group that teaches kids the power of voting.



Vote  
for the  
Class Pet



Have you ever voted? Maybe you voted to choose a class pet. Maybe your family voted on which movie to see. If you have ever voted, then you know how good it feels. Voting is important. It tells people what you think.

Many years ago, the leaders of our country wanted to know what people thought, too. They wrote a plan for our **government**. It is called the Constitution. It gives men and women in the United States the right to vote.

Each year, people who are eighteen years and older pick new leaders. They also **vote** on new laws. Voting gives Americans the **power** to choose.

## Teaching Kids to Vote

Did you know that only about six out of every ten Americans vote? That's sad. Some people think that voting is too hard. They are unsure where to go to vote. They think it takes too much time. Now, a group called Kids Voting USA is trying to **convince** everyone to vote.

Kids Voting USA teaches kids that voting is important. The group gives teachers lessons to use in their classrooms. First, kids read stories and do fun activities about government. They also learn how to choose and **elect** a good leader.



Election Day is here!



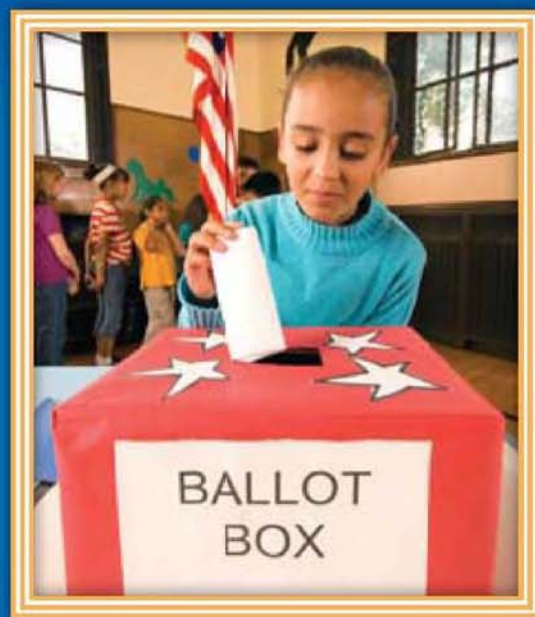
First we sign in.

Next, kids talk with their families. They reread stories about **candidates**. These are the people who want to be chosen as leaders. Families discuss their ideas and make **decisions**. That way, when it's time to vote, kids know who they want to vote for.

On **election** day, kids get to vote just like adults. They use ballots like the ones in real elections. A ballot is a special form with the names of candidates on it. Kids mark their choices on the ballot. Then they put the ballot into a special box. Finally, all the votes are counted and recounted. The winners are **announced**, and everyone knows who won.

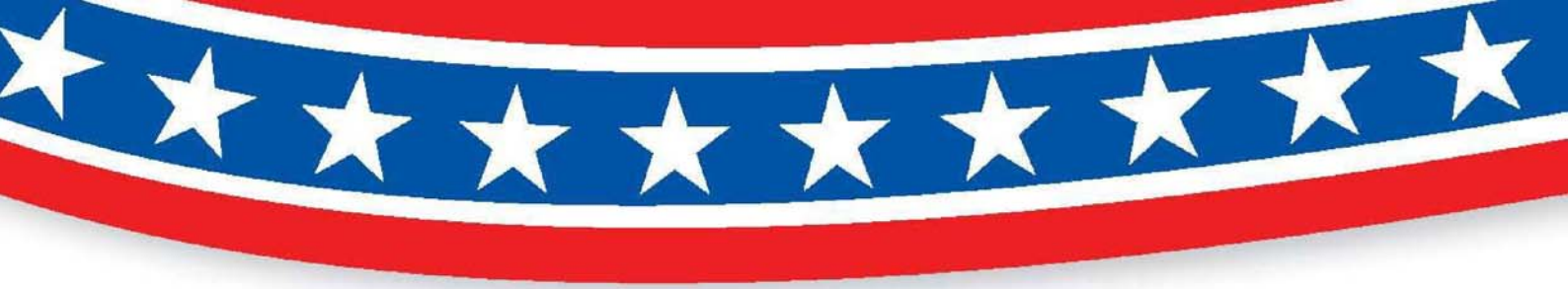


**Then we mark a ballot.**



**Finally we vote!**



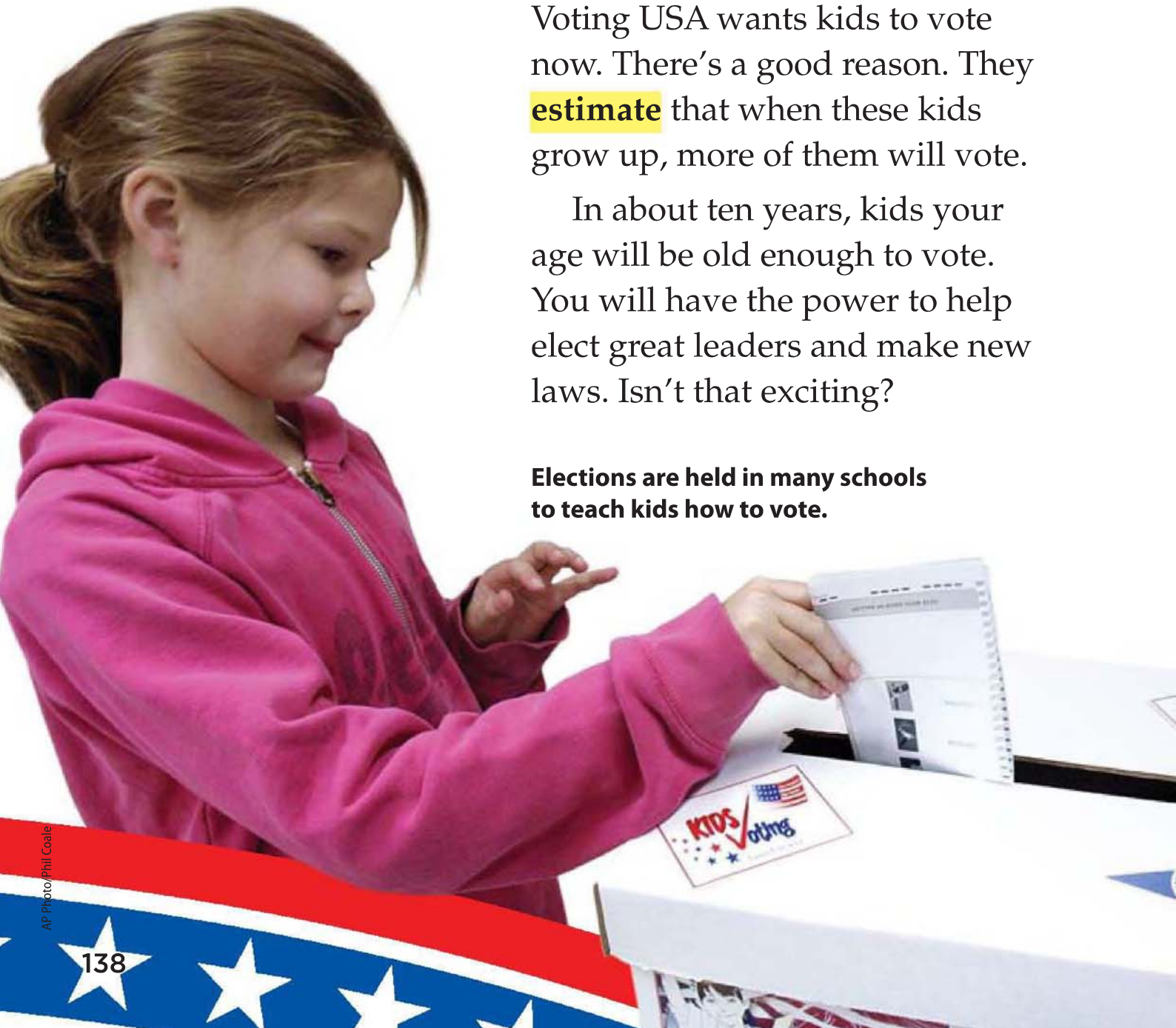


## Vote Now

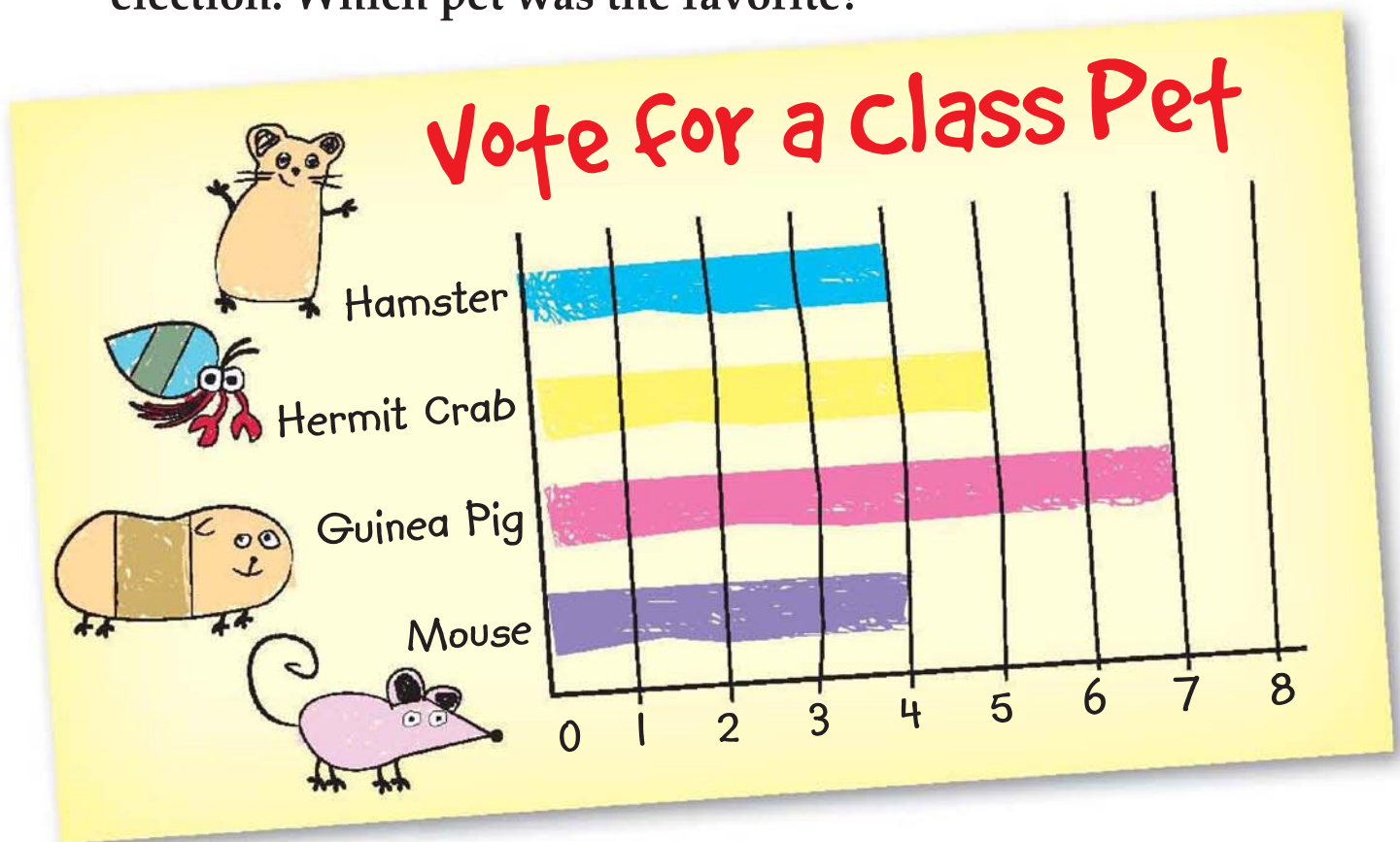
Voting helps kids learn how to be **independent** and think for themselves. It also gives them the power to share how they feel. Kids Voting USA wants kids to vote now. There's a good reason. They **estimate** that when these kids grow up, more of them will vote.

In about ten years, kids your age will be old enough to vote. You will have the power to help elect great leaders and make new laws. Isn't that exciting?

**Elections are held in many schools to teach kids how to vote.**



This bar graph shows the results of a class election. Which pet was the favorite?



## Make Connections



Talk about voting. How does voting give people the power to choose?

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Tell about a time when you voted.

How did it make you feel? **TEXT TO SELF**