United States Midterm Elections (November 4, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

ℹ️ **What?** The “midterm” elections, in which Americans voted to choose the people who make the country’s laws in Congress. 🗳️

👤 **Who?** The two major American political parties—the Democrats and the Republicans—as well as President Donald Trump, whose party lost these elections.

🌍 **Where?** Across the United States, where voters selected the 435 members of the House of Representatives and 35 senators. 🗽

🕰️ **When?** Tuesday, November 3, 2026—two years after the presidential election, right in the middle of the president’s term.

❓ **Why is it important?** The Democrats will control both chambers of Congress starting in January 2027, which means the president will have to reach an agreement with his opponents to get laws passed.

🎯 **In this activity, your goal is to learn a bit more about how elections and Congress work in the United States.** 🏛️

OBJECTIVES

- Discover the role of the House of Representatives in the United States Congress
- Compare how House seats were divided before and after the 2026 elections
- Understand how the United States Senate and its elections work
- Locate on a map the states where a Senate seat switched parties
- Discover the origin of the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant
- Match each major American party with its symbol and color

SUBJECTS

- **Social Studies**
  - Democracy and elections
  - Political organization of the United States
  - Map reading
- **Mathematics**
  - Division and the idea of half
  - Subtraction
  - The idea of a majority
- **English**
  - Reading comprehension
  - Finding information
  - Short answers

COMPETENCIES

- Search for and interpret information
- Read and interpret a diagram and a map
- Perform simple calculations using real data
- Compare a situation before and after a change
- Write short, precise answers

DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes

GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students whether they have ever voted for something (a class representative, a field trip, a game)
- Ask them what “having the majority” means
- Locate the United States and its capital, Washington, on a map
- Discuss: why does a country hold elections?

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LEARNING MADE RELEVANT

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — The House of Representatives. Comparison of two half-circle seating charts (before and after the election), followed by short answers and simple calculations.

Q1 — 435 seats.
Q2 — 435 ÷ 2 = 217.5, so 218 seats are needed. (217 is not enough: it is not more than half.)
Q3 — The Republicans.
Q4 — The Democrats.
Q5 — 254 − 214 = 40 seats. (Provisional figure: the count was not finished at the time of publication.)

STEP 2 — The United States Senate. Comparison of two maps and identification of the states where a Senate seat switched parties.

Q6 — Texas.
Q7 — Iowa. (Do not confuse it with Illinois, right next to it.)
Q8 — Ohio.
Q9 — North Carolina. ("North" is required: South Carolina also switched parties.)
Q10 — Maine.

STEP 3 — The Two Major American Political Parties. Reading of a text on the origin of the donkey and the elephant, followed by multiple-choice questions.

Q11 — The donkey.
Q12 — 1828.
Q13 — Thomas Nast.
Q14 — Because he turned an insult into qualities: stubborn, hardworking, determined.
Q15 — Red.

WRAPPING UP

- Review what the students have learned as a group
- Ask: what is the difference between the House of Representatives and the Senate?
- Discuss: why do they think it is important that all citizens can vote?
- Make a connection between math (majority, half) and democratic life

FURTHER EXPLORATION

📖 Zack Bush and Laurie Friedman. *The Little Book of Presidential Elections*. Publishing Power

