

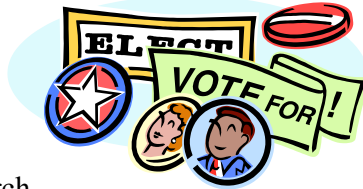
# Computer Capers

October 2008

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## Evolution of the Elections

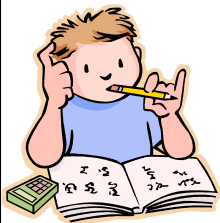
As we gear up for the November presidential election it might be interesting to do a little research to find out: how the first American political parties began; how were early presidential elections conducted; and how past election processes compare to today's?...same or different? Use a drawing program to compile your information as you gather it by creating a Venn diagram for each point of research: one for "Political Parties: Then and Now" as well as one for "Presidential Elections: Then and Now." Remember to put the ways that they are the same in the overlapping middle area and their unique qualities in the non-overlapping spaces. Use good online search strategies as well as a trip to a local library to collect your information. For great primary sources for this project, call older relatives to get their perspectives on how things have changed in the time that they have been voting members of society. Based upon what you learn while conducting your research, do you think we have "gained" or "lost" when it comes to election evolution? Why?



*Indiana Social Studies Standard 5.1.16 Explain the development of the first American political parties and describe early presidential elections.*

## Assignment Assessment

Calculate the percentage increase or decrease of homework assignments you are given each week. Begin by measuring and recording two sets of data based on your nightly homework for two weeks. First, weigh and record (in pounds) your backpack each day. Also, keep track and record the amount of time it takes you to complete your homework (in minutes) each day. Using a spreadsheet to aid in this endeavor, enter your data and use formulas to calculate the percentage your homework has increased or decreased daily (based on the night before) for both weight and time. Can you figure the percentage increase/decrease based on the week prior (compare Monday to Monday, etc.)? See if you can find a total for each week, both weight and time, and compare. Finally, take a look at your percentages. Do you notice any trends? Did the physical weight of the homework have anything to do with the amount of time that it took to complete it? Is there a certain day of the week that had the highest increase?...decrease? Which week showed the least changes for homework on a day-to-day basis?



*Indiana Mathematics Standard 7.2.2 Calculate the percentage increase and decrease of a quantity.*

## Trick or Treat Attributes

We see all kinds of people dressed up in all different ways at the end of each October! Have fun practicing your recognition of these different external features by keeping track of them in a table that you create on your computer. Use a spreadsheet to set up a simple table. In column A, row 1, type the heading "Costume." Now, across that row, add "Size," "Shape," "Hair Color," "Skin Color," and "Eye Color." Format the cells beneath each header (Rows 2-6) to create a surrounding border. Increase the height and width of columns and rows so that your printed form will provide space to write your observations.



Costume	Size	Shape	Hair Color	Skin Color	Eye Color

Finally, print your blank form so that it is ready to use. At a costume event, take a few minutes to pick five different costumes to record and observe their external features. Did you see a lot of differences?...similarities? How did your costume compare to others? Can you explain why you think "difference" in external features is a good thing?

*Indiana Science Standard 2.4.6 Observe and describe the different external features of people, such as their size, shape, and color of hair, skin, and eyes.*