

The United States and The Electoral College

[Abrev. / Capital City / State]

AL - Montgomery, **Alabama**
 AK - Juneau, **Alaska**
 AZ - Phoenix, **Arizona**
 AR - Little Rock, **Arkansas**
 CA - Sacramento, **California**
 CO - Denver, **Colorado**
 CT - Hartford, **Connecticut**
 DE - Dover, **Delaware**
 FL - Tallahassee, **Florida**
 GA - Atlanta, **Georgia**
 HI - Honolulu, **Hawaii**
 ID - Boise, **Idaho**
 IL - Springfield, **Illinois**
 IN - Indianapolis, **Indiana**
 IA - Des Moines, **Iowa**
 KS - Topeka, **Kansas**

KY - Frankfort, **Kentucky**
 LA - Baton Rouge, **Louisiana**
 ME - Augusta, **Maine**
 MD - Annapolis, **Maryland**
 MA - Boston, **Massachusetts**
 MI - Lansing, **Michigan**
 MN - St. Paul, **Minnesota**
 MS - Jackson, **Mississippi**
 MO - Jefferson City, **Missouri**
 MT - Helena, **Montana**
 NE - Lincoln, **Nebraska**
 NV - Carson City, **Nevada**
 NH - Concord, **New Hampshire**
 NJ - Trenton, **New Jersey**
 NM - Santa Fe, **New Mexico**
 NY - Albany, **New York**
 NC - Raleigh, **North Carolina**

ND - Bismarck, **North Dakota**
 OH - Columbus, **Ohio**
 OK - Oklahoma City, **Oklahoma**
 OR - Salem, **Oregon**
 PA - Harrisburg, **Pennsylvania**
 RI - Providence, **Rhode Island**
 SC - Columbia, **South Carolina**
 SD - Pierre, **South Dakota**
 TN - Nashville, **Tennessee**
 TX - Austin, **Texas**
 UT - Salt Lake City, **Utah**
 VT - Montpelier, **Vermont**
 VA - Richmond, **Virginia**
 WA - Olympia, **Washington**
 WV - Charleston, **West Virginia**
 WI - Madison, **Wisconsin**
 WY - Cheyenne, **Wyoming**



Electoral College Map for 2008 (source: BRAINPOP)

In which states can we find the most important number of electors? How come?

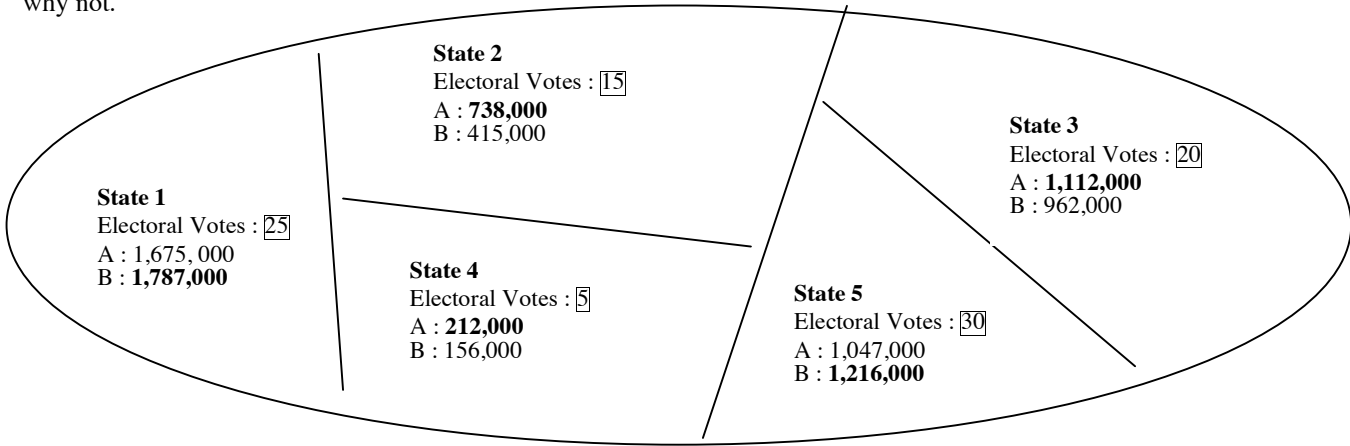
PHONOLOGY : Find the corresponding states, and insist on the stressed syllable (the one after ') as you read:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1) [ˌmæʃə'tʃu:si:ts] | 14) [ə'leɪskə] |
| 2) [ˌɪlɪ'nɔɪ] | 15) [əʊ'hɑɪəʊ] |
| 3) [ˌsəʊθdɔ'kəʊtə] | 16) [hə'waɪɪ] |
| 4) [ˌwestvə'dʒɪnjə] | 17) [kə'netɪkət] |
| 5) [ˌælə'bæmə] | 18) [kən'tɪkɪ] |
| 6) ['ɑ:kənsɔ:] | 19) [lu:ˌi:zɪ'ænə] |
| 7) ['aɪəʊə] | 20) [mɪ'zʊəri] |
| 8) ['aɪdə,həʊ] | 21) [nɔ:θ,kæərə'laɪnə] |
| 9) ['dʒɔ:dʒɪə] | 22) [ɲju:'dʒɜ:zɪ] |
| 10) ['ju:tə] | 23) [ɲju:'hæmpfə] |
| 11) ['rəʊd'aɪlənd] | 24) [və'dʒɪnjə] |
| 12) ['teksəs] | 25) [waɪ'əʊmɪŋ] |
| 13) ['wɒfɪŋtən] | |

POPULAR vs ELECTORAL VOTES

1. The winner-take-all system

The actual number of votes for presidential candidates on Election Day is called the popular vote. However, as we saw in the 2000 presidential election, the candidate with the most popular votes doesn't necessarily win the election. The following activity explains why not.



Ex. 1 - The diagram shows five imaginary states and the number of electoral votes they have. Also shown are the popular votes in each state for Candidate A and B. Use the information to answer the questions below. You might need a calculator!

- How many popular votes in all did Candidate A get? _____
- How many popular votes in all did Candidate B get? _____

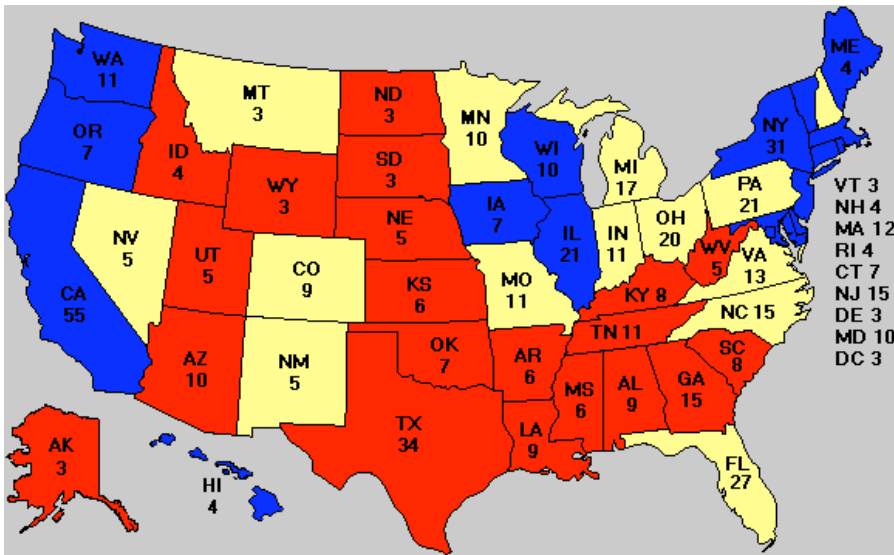
All of a state's electoral vote are given to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in that state. This is called the "winner-take-all" system (the winner takes it all). So:

- Which states did Candidate A win? _____
- How many electoral votes did that give candidate A? _____
- Which states did Candidate B win? _____
- How many electoral votes did that give candidate B? _____

Conclusion: _____

2. Swing states vs safe states

A "swing state" is a state in which no candidate has overwhelming support, meaning that any of the major candidates have a reasonable chance of winning the state's electoral college votes. Such states are targets of both major political parties in presidential elections, since winning these states is the best opportunity for a party to gain electoral votes. Non-swing states are sometimes called "safe states", because one candidate has strong enough support that they can safely assume they will win the state's votes.



States in white are considered swing states in the 2008 presidential election.

Ex. 2: Find the equivalent in the text:

- Cible
- Soutien
- Assez bon(ne)/ grand(e)
- Occasion
- Ecrasant
- Plus important(s)
- Etant donné que

Ex 3 - Pronunciation practice: Give the full names of the main "swing states" on this map.