



Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

Teacher Guide



Collecting the Conventions

with curators Larry Bird and Harry Rubenstein

Podcast Link: http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/Collecting_Conventions.mp3

Questions—to help students build questioning skills, have them generate both *basic understanding* and *thought* questions before and after the show. Here are some example questions.

Basic Understanding Questions—questions that have a simple answer

- *What is the Electoral College?*
- *How many people go to National Conventions?*
- *When was the first convention?*

Thought Questions—questions that require research on multiple perspectives and a great deal of thought

- *Why do we hold nominating conventions, when we pick candidates through primary elections?*
- *How have conventions changed over the years?*

Related Resources—for continued instruction or resources for your students' research

National Museum of American History:

- Vote: The Machinery of Democracy
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/vote/intro.html>
- The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/presidency/home.html>

History Explorer:

- Blog Post: Collecting the Presidential Campaigns
<http://www.historyexplorer.si.edu/resource/?key=7179>
- America's Voting Patchwork
<http://www.historyexplorer.si.edu/resource/?key=438>

Thinkfinity:

- The Economics of Voting
<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.php?lid=139&type=educatorAfrica's Struggle with AIDS>
- Youth Vote
<http://216.255.77.73/youth-vote>

National Standards—from the National Center for History in the Schools

- U.S. History—Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968-present)
 - Standard 2: Economic, social and cultural developments in contemporary United States
- World History—Era 9: The 20th Century since 1945: Promises and Paradoxes
 - Standard 3: Major Global Trends since World War II

Have your students email their question, research steps, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



We'll choose exemplars to display on our podcast webpage!
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Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Pre-Listening vocabulary—define these words:

Political Convention:

Ephemeral:

Pre-Listening (leave space after your questions to answer them as you listen):

What basic understanding questions do you have about this topic?

What thought questions do you have about this topic?

Post-Listening:

What new thought questions do you have?

Of all your thought questions, which few are especially important to the topic? Why?

Which is the most important thought question? Why?

What steps would you take to find the answer to the most important thought question?

Give it a try and email your question, research steps, and discoveries to historyteachers@si.edu

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