

Name: _____

WHAT'S A PRIMARY ELECTION?

Directions: Do you know what a primary election is? Do you know why primary elections are held in the United States? Explore the Web site below to learn about U.S. presidential primaries. Then complete the statements below by writing the correct word in each blank space.

Web Resources:

What's a Primary Election?

http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/kids_primaries/nomination/index.asp?article=what



1. The first Tuesday in March is known as _____ because more states hold their primaries on that day than on any other day.
2. In a primary, candidates are _____.
3. In _____ primaries, voters can cast their ballots in any party's primary, no matter what party the voters belong to.
4. Altogether, _____ states hold their primaries on the first and second Tuesdays in March.
5. The more votes a candidate gets in the primaries, the more _____ that candidate will have at the national convention.

Something to Think About: Do you think primaries help voters choose the best president? Why or why not?

Learn More: Study the primary map at

http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/kids_primaries/nomination/index.asp?article=elections_map. Then create a chart showing how many states hold primaries or caucuses each month.