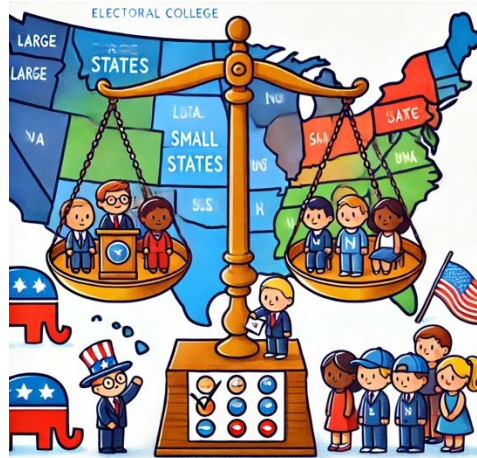


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Electoral Puzzle

When the Founding Fathers were creating the United States, they had to make many important decisions. One of the biggest questions was how to choose the country's leader, the president. They wanted a system that was fair, balanced, and would protect the country from problems in the future. This is how they came up with the Electoral College—a special way to elect the president.

The Founding Fathers had several concerns. First, they worried that giving all the power to the people could be risky. At that time, there were no televisions, radios, or the internet. Most people didn't know much about candidates running for president, especially those in faraway states. The Founding Fathers feared that people might vote based on limited information or just pick someone from their own state instead of choosing the best leader for the whole country.

Another concern was giving too much power to Congress. Some leaders thought that lawmakers in Congress should choose the president. However, others argued that this could lead to unfair decisions, where powerful politicians controlled everything. The Founding Fathers wanted a system that would allow the people to have a say but still include a layer of protection.

The third big worry was balancing power between large and small states. Bigger states had more people, so they would have more votes if the election was based only on population. Smaller states were afraid that they would never have a real voice in choosing the president. The Electoral College gave each state a number of votes based on both its population and its representation in Congress, making sure smaller states still had a role in the election.

With all these concerns in mind, the Founding Fathers designed the Electoral College. Instead of a direct vote, each state has electors who cast votes based on the results of the state's popular vote. This system was meant to be a compromise—a mix of democracy and a safeguard to make sure the country had strong, wise leadership.

Even today, people debate whether the Electoral College is the best system, but it remains an important part of how America chooses its leaders. Understanding the reasons behind it helps us see how history still affects the way our country works today.