

Count a Preferential Election

Years 5–6 | Ages 8–13 with support | 40 minutes

20 FICTIONAL BALLOTS · Cut out or track each ballot by its ID.

A Petting Zoo · B Giant Slide · C Games Arcade · D Science Show

BALLOT 1 1 → A 2 → B 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 2 1 → A 2 → B 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 3 1 → A 2 → B 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 4 1 → A 2 → B 3 → C 4 → D
BALLOT 5 1 → A 2 → B 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 6 1 → A 2 → B 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 7 1 → A 2 → B 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 8 1 → B 2 → A 3 → C 4 → D
BALLOT 9 1 → B 2 → A 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 10 1 → B 2 → A 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 11 1 → B 2 → A 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 12 1 → B 2 → A 3 → C 4 → D
BALLOT 13 1 → B 2 → A 3 → C 4 → D	BALLOT 14 1 → C 2 → A 3 → B 4 → D	BALLOT 15 1 → C 2 → A 3 → B 4 → D	BALLOT 16 1 → C 2 → A 3 → B 4 → D
BALLOT 17 1 → C 2 → B 3 → A 4 → D	BALLOT 18 1 → D 2 → C 3 → A 4 → B	BALLOT 19 1 → D 2 → C 3 → B 4 → A	BALLOT 20 1 → D 2 → B 3 → C 4 → A

Each ballot ranks every option once. Keep the paper together as it moves between piles.

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Count sheet: keep all 20 ballots accounted for in every round.

A = Petting Zoo B = Giant Slide C = Games Arcade D = Science Show

1. Winning target: more than half of 20 = at least ____ votes.

2. Record how many ballots each option holds.

ROUND	A	B	C	D	TOTAL
First preferences					
After excluding ____					
After excluding ____					

Write a dash for an excluded option. The TOTAL must stay 20.

3. Which ballot IDs move after the first exclusion? Where do they go?

4. Who wins? How many votes do they hold in the final round?

5. Why is a first-preference lead not always enough to win?

Simplified House-style count. This fixed set has no tied lowest option. It is not a Senate count.