

RUN A MINI PREFERENTIAL ELECTION

Name: _____ Date: _____

WHICH AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL SHOULD BE OUR CLASS MASCOT?

Years 5–6 · Use the twenty fictional ballots on page 2. Count one vote per ballot in each round.



Koala



Wombat



Platypus



Kangaroo

How to count

1. Sort each ballot by its number 1 choice.
2. Record all first-preference totals.
3. A winner needs more than half of 20 votes: **11 or more**.
4. If no one has 11, exclude the animal with the fewest votes.
5. Move only that animal's ballots to their next available preferences. Skip excluded animals.
6. Record new totals. Repeat until an animal has 11 or more.

Keep each ballot ID visible. The designed results have no tie for the lowest total at an exclusion.

Before you start

Why can't we simply choose the animal with the most number 1 votes?

Fictional classroom activity using a simplified House-style preferential count. It is not a Senate count. For a real election, follow current AEC instructions.

MINI ELECTION — 20 BALLOTS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Fictional votes · Cut on dotted lines or use ballot IDs to track votes without cutting. Numbers show each voter's preferences.

Ballot 1 3 Koala 2 Wombat 1 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 2 3 Koala 1 Wombat 2 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 3 2 Koala 3 Wombat 4 Platypus 1 Kangaroo	Ballot 4 3 Koala 1 Wombat 2 Platypus 4 Kangaroo
Ballot 5 1 Koala 2 Wombat 3 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 6 1 Koala 2 Wombat 3 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 7 3 Koala 2 Wombat 1 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 8 3 Koala 1 Wombat 2 Platypus 4 Kangaroo
Ballot 9 4 Koala 2 Wombat 3 Platypus 1 Kangaroo	Ballot 10 1 Koala 2 Wombat 3 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 11 3 Koala 1 Wombat 2 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 12 4 Koala 2 Wombat 3 Platypus 1 Kangaroo
Ballot 13 3 Koala 1 Wombat 2 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 14 3 Koala 1 Wombat 2 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 15 3 Koala 2 Wombat 1 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 16 1 Koala 2 Wombat 3 Platypus 4 Kangaroo
Ballot 17 1 Koala 2 Wombat 3 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 18 1 Koala 2 Wombat 3 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 19 3 Koala 2 Wombat 1 Platypus 4 Kangaroo	Ballot 20 1 Koala 2 Wombat 3 Platypus 4 Kangaroo

MINI ELECTION — COUNTING SHEET

Name: _____ Date: _____

Start with the number 1 votes. Keep the total at 20 in every round.

Animal	First preferences	Transfer round 1 (+/-)	New total	Transfer round 2 (+/-)	Final count
Koala					
Wombat					
Platypus					
Kangaroo					
Total		0		0	

Excluded first: _____ Excluded next: _____

Winner: _____

Check your count

Ballot IDs transferred in round 1:

Ballot IDs transferred in round 2:

How many votes made an absolute majority? _____

Explain why the winning animal won.