

Voting facts: True or False Debate

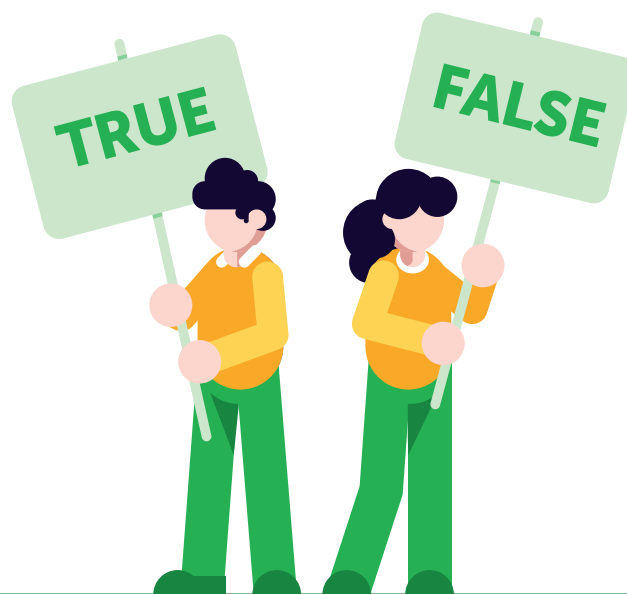
Outline

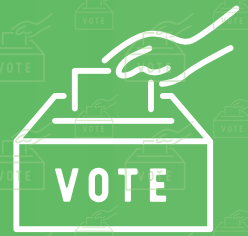
Pupils will have completed the presentation lesson and the Vote or No Vote? activity. They will know who can and can't vote and what is needed to register to vote. The following activity will provide a wider context and is intended to help your pupils think more broadly about:

- The evolution of voting rights throughout the twentieth century;
- The rules around voting;
- What you can and can't do at the polling station;
- Proxy voting;
- How elections work in other countries; and
- Getting involved in politics more generally.

You can use this activity in one of the following ways:

1. A line debate
Designate one end of the classroom as TRUE and the other as FALSE (See **Resource 2: True or False cards**). Read out the ten statements in **Resource 1: Voting Facts**. Ask your pupils to decide if the statements are true or false. Ask them to explain why they stood at the true or false end. Did anyone stay in the middle? Read out the answers from the answer sheet provided.
2. A seated debate
Your pupils may remain seated and either stand or remain seated or hold up the true or false cards from **Resource 2**. Read out the ten statements from **Resource 1: Voting Facts** and ask your pupils to decide if the statements are true or false. Ask why? Read out the answers from the answer sheet provided.
3. Ask your pupils to form pairs to discuss and fill in **Resource 3: Voting Facts Worksheet** before a whole class discussion **Resource 1: Voting Facts – Answer Sheet**.

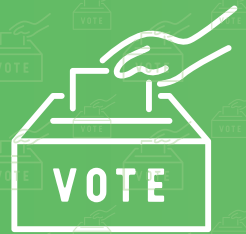




Resource 1: Voting facts answers

	Question	True or False
1	Before 1918, you were not allowed to vote unless you owned land.	True A law was passed called the Representation of the People Act 1918. This allowed all men to vote and some women over 30 who owned land. All women over 21 got the vote in 1928.
2	The voting age has always been 18 years' old.	False In 1928, it was decided that all 21-year-olds could vote. In 1969, the voting age was lowered to 18.
3	You can only vote if you are in full-time employment.	False Everyone has the right to vote no matter if they are in full-time education, employed or unemployed.
4	Someone else can vote for you.	True It's called proxy voting. You must apply in advance to do this if, for example, you will be away on holiday or are not able to vote in person due to illness.
5	It is compulsory to vote.	False In some countries such as Belgium, Brazil and Australia you can be fined or lose your vote in future elections if you don't vote.
6	You can take your pet to a polling station.	True If the voting officials and the building allow dogs, then its fine. Otherwise, the dog must remain outside.
7	UK astronauts can vote in a general election while they are in space.	True They can arrange for a proxy vote or postal vote before they take off!
8	In Gambia, citizens vote by dropping marbles into a bin.	True In Gambia, citizens vote for their president by rolling a marble into one of three drums representing the candidates. The marble hits a bell so officials can tell if anyone votes more than once. It was introduced in 1965 because so few citizens could read or write.
9	You can take a selfie of yourself voting.	False It is an offence to take or post a photograph of your completed ballot paper from a polling station. The ballot is secret to prevent voters being intimidated or blackmailed or being paid to vote a certain way.
10	You must be 18 to join a political party .	False All major political parties have a youth wing that you can join before you turn 18. The exact age varies but you can easily find this out through the party websites.

Voting facts: True or False Debate



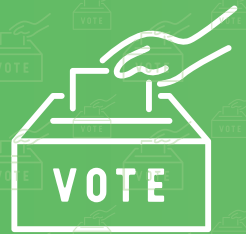
Resource 2: True or false cards

YES



TRUE

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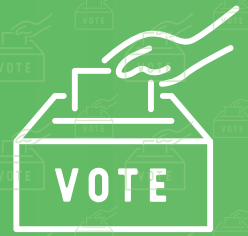


Resource 2: True or false cards

NO



FALSE



Voting facts: True or False Debate

Resource 3: Voting facts worksheets

Decide if the following statements are true or false.

	Question	True or False
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4	Someone else can vote for you.	
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