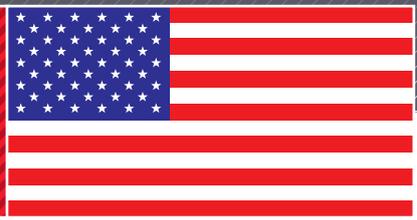


5 things...



...you didn't know about the U.S. elections



Before you read:

The U.S.A. votes every four years.

How often are the elections in your country?

Americans can vote at 18.

At what age can you vote?

“Fired up!” “Ready to go!” “Time for Action” say the T-shirts and bumper stickers*. America goes to the polls* on 4th November to choose the most powerful political leader in the world.



TIME TO GO: George W. Bush, 43rd President of the U.S.A., and Barney leave the White House after eight years.

2 Did you know...

- this is the first time a black person will run for presidency of the U.S.A.?

3 Did you know...

- young voters are very important in this election? Under 29s make up 25% of all voters. The most important issues for young people are the environment (23%) and the war in Iraq (23%), according to one survey¹.

4 Did you know...

- although Republican candidate John McCain's mother is 96, she loves driving fast cars? She recently drove right across America. Police in Arizona caught her speeding at 112 mph (180 kph).

5 Did you know...

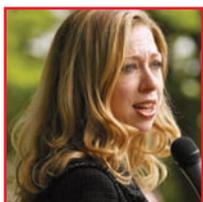
- one of the new President's strangest jobs will be to 'pardon*' a live turkey at The White House? On Thanksgiving Day, that's 27th November, Americans sit down to a roast turkey lunch. This lucky turkey doesn't get eaten, however, it goes to live at Disneyland.



1 Did you know...

- you can only run for President if you can answer “Yes” to these three questions?

Are you at least 35 years old?



(Chelsea Clinton will have to wait until 2016.)

Were you born in the United States?

(Austrian-born Arnold Schwarzenegger can be Governor of California but he can't be President.)

Have you lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years of your life?



HOME SWEET HOME: The new President will live here at The White House.

ON THE ELECTION ROAD: Barack Obama talks to voters in Oregon.



MEET THE CANDIDATES



John McCain, Republican
Born: Panama, 1936
Job: Naval pilot for 22 years
Senator since 1987
Married with 7 children, 4 grandchildren
Lives: Phoenix, Arizona
What do Republicans think?
Find out at: www.gop.org



Barack Obama, Democrat
Born: Honolulu, Hawaii, 1961
Job: Civil rights lawyer
Senator since 2004
Married with 2 daughters
Lives: Chicago, Illinois
What do Democrats think?
Find out at: www.dnc.org

Who will Americans choose on 4th November?

Who would you choose?

REAL INTERVIEW WITH NEW VOTER

“I’m very excited!”

Joanna Fisher is a 20-year-old college student from North Carolina. She will vote for the first time on 4th November.

Q: Is your vote important to you?

A: Yes, I registered* to vote as soon as I was old enough.

Q: Are you interested in the issues of the day?

A: I guess I was raised* in a family where you care about politics.

Q: Are you looking forward to voting?

A: I’m very excited to vote in my first presidential election.

Q: Why is this election important?

A: It’s about our national image.

***WORDWISE** • bumper sticker (noun) – a slogan or message that you fix on your car bumper • to go to the polls (verb phrase) – to vote
 • to pardon (verb) – to decide not to punish someone for a crime • to register (verb) – to put your name on an official list
 • to be raised (U.S. English, verb) – to be brought up