Name _____ Date _____

The Electoral College: How It Works

Directions: For each question, apply the rules that the U.S. Constitution and its amendments set for electing a president. Invented states stand in for real ones, so no answer depends on a particular state's current numbers.

1. Match each description to the Electoral College term it fits.
Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ More than half of all the electoral votes
2. _____ A person a state picks to cast one of its votes for president and vice president
3. _____ The total of the ballots that citizens cast for each candidate
4. _____ An invented state gives every one of its electors to the candidate who carried the state

A. Contingent election
B. Majority
C. Winner-take-all
D. Elector
E. Plurality
F. Popular vote

2. An invented state has 7 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. How many electors does it have?

_____ electors

3. Washington, D.C. has no senators and no voting member in the House. How many electors does it have in a presidential election?

A. Three, under the Twelfth Amendment
B. Three, under the Twenty-third Amendment
C. None, because only states have electors
D. One, matching its one nonvoting delegate in the House

4. With 538 electors in all, what is the smallest number of electoral votes that makes a majority?

_____ electoral votes

5. Lawmakers in an invented state want to change how the state awards its electors. Under the Constitution, who decides how a state's electors are chosen?

A. The Supreme Court, through a ruling for each state
B. The candidates, by agreement before each election
C. The state, through its own laws
D. Congress, through one national law for every state

6. In an invented election, no candidate wins a majority of the electoral votes. Under the Twelfth Amendment, how does the House of Representatives choose the president?

A. From all the candidates, with each representative casting one vote

B. From the two candidates with the most popular votes, with each state's House delegation casting one vote

C. From the three candidates with the most electoral votes, with each state's House delegation casting one vote

D. From the three candidates with the most electoral votes, with each representative casting one vote

7. Supporters of a candidate in an invented state want to name one of the state's U.S. representatives as an elector. What does the Constitution say about this?

A. A member of Congress may serve if the governor approves.

B. Only members of Congress may serve as electors.

C. Any adult may serve, including members of Congress.

D. Members of Congress cannot serve as electors.

8. After a presidential election, an invented state's electors get ready to cast their votes. Where do they meet to vote?

A. At the Supreme Court building

B. All together in Washington, D.C.

C. In their own state

D. In the House chamber of the Capitol