

1. Read passage.
2. Annotate with CUR: Circle main idea, Underline details and unknown words, Respond in margin (T2T,T2S,T2W)
3. Answer multiple choice questions.
4. Turn in for quiz grade on Friday.

From Marbles to Machines

by Kerrily Sapet

People have dropped marbles into baskets, drawn X's by names, colored in dots, and pulled levers to elect their leaders during the past 2,000 years. Early voters used simple, inexpensive objects to cast their votes. Ancient Greeks, the first known voters, placed black and white pebbles into pots. Roman soldiers tossed small clay balls into their helmets. Early colonists in the Americas used colored beans and kernels of corn. Today's elections and terms have ancient roots. Voters now often mark ballots, or pieces of paper, to cast their votes. The term comes from the Italian word *ballotta*, meaning "little ball."

Today, people in countries around the world vote in many different ways. Some methods resemble early elections, while others are highly technical. Whether voters use beans or machines, the process is designed to be fair. Each person gets to cast only one vote, which must be accurately counted. Also important is the idea that a person's vote is private.

Ancient Romans sometimes voted out loud, or *viva voce*. In some areas, like Appenzell, Switzerland, people still gather in the town square to voice their votes, as they have done for hundreds of years. But some feel it can be intimidating to state your choices aloud, and therefore the individual may not express his or her true opinion. The idea of voting privately by paper ballot is said to have originated in Australia and is sometimes called kangaroo voting. Most people around the world, though, use secret ballots, marking their choices behind curtains or screens or inside voting booths.

④

Whatever method voters use to make their choices, they want to know that their vote counts and that no one can change it. Many different styles of voting machines have been invented to make counting more accurate. They've featured mechanical levers, switches, buttons, and hole punchers. Today, computers can scan the voter's marks on a ballot and record the vote. Machines are often used because they are faster and more precise than counting votes by hand.

⑤

Mechanical voting machines can cause problems, though. Sometimes voters get confused by the directions. If they fill out the ballot incorrectly or even use a pen instead of a pencil, the machine won't count it. Machines can break down or jam, leaving the

final vote count unknown. People also worry that machines can be tampered with or illegally adjusted to change the results of the election.

Just as voters want to know that their vote counts, they also want to know that everyone has an equal say. Each person gets only one vote. For years, election officials around the world have devised ways to make sure no one votes more than once. In ancient Rome, voters walked one at a time across a narrow bridge. In many countries today, poll workers check off the voter's name before handing out a ballot. Other methods rely on sight and sound. Voters in a recent election in southwestern Africa had their arms painted green after they voted. Iraqis dipped a finger in a jar of purple ink. Gambian voters dropped a clear glass marble into a colored drum. When the marble fell, a bell sounded so officials could hear if a voter dropped in more than one marble. Because the bell sounded like a bicycle bell, they banned bikes near the polls.

Election officials around the world consider the needs of their voters when choosing a voting system. In many areas of the world, people can't read or write, so officials use more traditional methods. In Afghanistan, officials paste stamp-sized pictures next to the names of candidates. Indonesians vote by piercing a picture of the candidate with a nail. In many countries, voters make ink thumbprints or draw the letter X beside a candidate's name. Braille ballots, audio ballots, and ballots printed in different languages also help voters.

Election officials also consider where voters live and how easily they can get to polling places. Many communities around the world provide transportation to the polls. In rural Brazil, instead of taking voters to the polls, officials recently brought the polls to the voters. They canoed voting machines powered by car batteries up the Amazon River to reach voters in remote villages. Today, soldiers and other citizens overseas can vote by sending in special absentee ballots. Some countries are experimenting with voting over the Internet.

Whether a voter drops a marble into a drum or points and clicks on the Internet, voting is an important process all around the world. By giving people the opportunity to vote, countries make sure that their leaders reflect the people's true choice.

- 23 Which quotation summarizes the central idea of this selection?
- A "Early voters used simple, inexpensive objects to cast their votes."
 - B "Many different styles of voting machines have been invented to make counting more accurate."
 - C "Many communities around the world provide transportation to the polls."
 - D "Whether a voter drops a marble into a drum or points and clicks on the Internet, voting is an important process all around the world."
- 24 What is the reason the selection is named "From Marbles to Machines"?
- A to show how voting is done in America
 - B to show how voting has changed over the years
 - C to show how people vote in Australia and Switzerland
 - D to show how many countries remind their citizens to vote
- 25 What is the purpose of the first paragraph?
- A It helps the reader understand the humor in the topic.
 - B It gets the reader's attention by asking thoughtful questions.
 - C It creates a mood of suspense by introducing a conflict.
 - D It provides a brief history of voting practices in different cultures.

- 26 According to the selection, why is voting privately by paper ballot called "kangaroo voting"?
- A It is the type of voting used by children.
 - B It involves putting the vote in a pouch similar to a kangaroo's.
 - C It started in Australia, which is where kangaroos live.
 - D It is the way people voted in ancient Rome.
- 27 In the sentence below from paragraph 4, what does the word *precise* tell the reader?
- "Machines are often used because they are faster and more precise than counting votes by hand."
- A People want the votes counted exactly.
 - B People want the votes counted quickly.
 - C People want the votes counted repeatedly.
 - D People want the votes counted slowly.
- 28 In paragraph 5, what does the phrase "tampered with or illegally adjusted" mean?
- A Some workers might tell others how a person voted.
 - B Some workers might help a person with their voting process.
 - C Some workers might cheat by changing a person's vote.
 - D Some workers might record a person's vote for them on the ballot.

- 29 In the selection, how are green paint, narrow Roman bridges, and purple ink similar?
- A They help voters find polling places.
 - B They make the voting process safer.
 - C They are tools people use to vote.
 - D They ensure elections are fair.
- 30 In the selection, why do ballots in Afghanistan have stamp-sized pictures next to the names of candidates?
- A The voters need to see what the candidates look like.
 - B The voters need to see which candidate is the best looking.
 - C Many voters are unable to read the candidates' names.
 - D Many voters prefer to paint their arms.
- 31 Which sentence summarizes the election officials' solution to the issue of voting rules?
- A Each person votes by voice so the choices are known.
 - B Voters traveling long distances must be provided food and shelter.
 - C Even in distant locations, each person is allowed to vote only once.
 - D Only healthy, educated people are allowed to vote.