Lesson/Activity Title:

PEBBLEGO KIDS PICK LESSON PLAN

Time: Approximately 15-25 minutes for the focus and introduction; approximately 15-20 minutes for the modeling and guided practice; approximately 45-60 minutes for the independent practice; and approximately 25-35 minutes for the closure.

Instructional Goals:

- The students will use the **PebbleGo** Social Studies online database and the "Voting" article to research what voting is and its process.
- The students will complete a research handout about voting.
- The students will create a campaign poster to persuade others to vote for their favorite topic.
- The students will vote on their favorite **PebbleGo** article to be released in January 2023 and submit their results to Capstone.

Integrated Content Standards

- NCTE/IRA Standards for English Language Arts (www.ncte.org/standards/ncte-ira)
- National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) (https://www.socialstudies.org/standards)
- Common Core English Language Arts/Literacy Standards (www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/)
- AASL Standards Framework for Learners (https://standards.aasl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/180828-aasl-standards-crosswalk-iste.pdf)
- NCTE/IRA Standards for English Language Arts National Educational Technology Standards for Students (https://www.iste.org/standards/iste-standards-for-students)

Materials/Resources:

- **PebbleGo** Social Studies online database
- **Kids Pick Voting** handout
- **Kids Pick Campaign** handout
- Pencil
- Art supplies such as markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- Blank paper
- Ballot Box or envelope

Procedures/Lesson Activities:
Focus

1. Bring the class together and write the word "voting" on a white board.

2. Ask the students if they know what the word "voting" means. If students struggle to give their own accurate definition of the word, tell them that voting is about making a choice. Voting gives people a voice to show what they want.

3. Ask the class to brainstorm examples of when people might vote. Try to prompt students to think beyond political elections, though it's important to include that in the list as well. Prompt students to think about a time your class or the school held a vote for teacher of the year or what new piece of playground equipment to add to the school.

4. Tell students that voting allows them to express to others what they prefer. Remind students that it's important to think through your personal reasons behind what they are voting for. That could include their experiences, points of view, beliefs, etc.

5. Ask students if they have heard of the word "campaign" and write it on a white board. If students are not able to give an accurate definition, you can say that a campaign is how someone tries to convince you to vote in the same way they do. People may do this through speeches or posters. Remind students that campaigns are a great way to convince people to vote your way. However, it's also okay to have a different opinion than someone and that should be respected too.

Teach/Model

6. Explain to students that they will use the **PebbleGo** online database to research and take notes on what voting is and its process.

7. Demonstrate how to navigate the **PebbleGo** online database and click on the search bar at the stop of the screen. Type in "Voting" and select the "Voting" article from the drop-down menu.

8. Click on one or two of the tabs such as "Voting History" or "How We Vote" to demonstrate how to navigate through the article.

Guided Practice

9. Pass out the **Kids Pick Voting Research** handout and read the instructions together with your class. Demonstrate how to navigate the **PebbleGo** "Voting" article and fill out a portion of the handout. Continue this until the students understand the process.

10. Tell students that it's important to give credit to your original source during the research process. Click the "Cite" button at the bottom of the page and model copying the information in the bibliography section of the handout.

11. Tell students that they have an exciting opportunity to choose the next **PebbleGo** article to be released in January 2023! Students around the world will vote, just like them. All the votes will be counted, and the topic that has the most votes will be the winner!

12. Distribute the **Kids Pick Campaign** handout. Review the directions with students. Demonstrate circling one of the five **PebbleGo** articles and model writing a sentence about why you chose that topic. For example, if you circle Black Holes, you might write "I love outer space!" or "I don't know what a black hole is and I want to learn about them!"

13. Refer students to the campaign poster section of the handout. Remind them that as they create their own poster, they should use at least one of their brainstormed ideas to visually convince people to vote for their favorite article. For example, if you wrote "I love outer space!" you might include a drawing of the solar system or a spaceship leaving Earth's atmosphere. Encourage them to write an engaging sentence such as, "Let's blast off into space and learn about black holes!"

Independent Practice

14. Allow students ample time to access the **PebbleGo** "Voting" article and complete the **Kids Pick Voting Research** handout.

15. Have students complete the **Kids Pick Campaign** handout and create a campaign poster to convince their classmates to vote for the same topic. Encourage students to be creative!

Closure

16. Ask students to present their campaign posters to the class and explain why they feel others should vote for their topic.

17. Hold the **PebbleGo** Kids Pick vote. Give each student a blank piece of paper and ask them to write the topic they would most like to see for a future **PebbleGo** article. Remind them to think about the campaign posters and presentations from their fellow classmates and if any swayed them to change their vote. Have students place their final vote in a ballot box or ballot envelope. Tally up the votes and announce the winner for your classroom.

Extend/Enrich

Have students create a bar graph showing the voting results. If other classrooms participated, compare results with them. Discuss if students think that their winner will be the same across different classrooms, within your school, and at other schools. Ask questions such as, "Why do you think kids in other parts of the world might be more interested in one topic over another?" or "Why do you think your class voted the way it did?"

Voting Research Handout

Use the **PebbleGo** "Voting" article to help you complete the handout below as you learn about the voting process.

Write your own definition of voting.

_____

_____

_____

Why is it important to vote?

_____

_____

_____

How and where do citizens vote?

_____

_____

_____

How is a winner decided?

_____

_____

_____

Bibliography:

_____

Name: _____

Kids Pick Voting Handout

Choose your favorite topic for the next **PebbleGo** article by circling it below.

Blobfish   Hiccups   Black Holes

Amazon River   Minerals and Gems

List three reasons why you chose this topic.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What are you most excited to learn about from the new **PebbleGo** article?

_____

_____

_____

Why might someone else pick another topic?

_____

_____

_____

How could you convince someone to vote for the same topic you did?

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Use the space below to create a campaign poster for the next **PebbleGo** article you want to see released. A campaign poster should tell people why a voter should agree with you. Include drawings or phrases that help convince your classmates to vote for the same article you do. Remember to use some of your ideas above to inspire your poster.