

HANDS-ON JUSTICE PROJECT: Grades K–2

The *Hands-On Justice Project* engages K–2 students in learning experiences that connect social studies concepts to real-world action. Each project combines inquiry, creative making, and analysis of Library of Congress primary sources to help young learners explore what justice looks like in their world.



Developed at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the series draws on teacher–researcher partnerships to design developmentally appropriate approaches to justice-oriented social studies inquiry.

VOTING BOOTHS: Making Fair Choices

GET STARTED

In this project, K–2 students explored why voting is important and how people make fair choices together. Students investigated the driving question: ***Why is voting important?***

After analyzing [Library of Congress resources](#) of voting in the past and present, students discussed how voting helps people share ideas and make community decisions. They noticed who was included in voting and how voting practices have changed. Students then built voting booths with foam boards and simple LED circuits, created their own questions, and tallied class results to see how every vote matters.

READY, SET, SUPPLIES!

To make a voting booth, you'll need:

- [Circuitry Template](#)
- Two 12" x 6" foam boards (for side panels)
- One 12" x 12" foam board (for the back panel)
- 12mm copper tape
- Two 10mm LEDs
- Hot glue and tape
- Decorations (e.g., voting stickers, paint, markers, construction paper, glitter)
- [Tallying Election Results Handout](#)

TRY IT OUT IN YOUR CLASSROOM

- Analyze Voting: Explore Library of Congress resources and discuss who can vote and why voting matters.



- **Brainstorm Questions:** As a class, identify topics or issues that feel important to your classroom community.
- **Create Ballots:** Have students write a clear question with two choices for classmates to vote on.
- **Hold a Class Election:** Students vote using their handmade booths, tally results, and reflect on how voting helps people make fair choices together.

STEPS FOR MAKING THE VOTING BOOTHS

1. Assemble three foam boards to form a three-sided booth.
2. Attach panels using hot glue or tape.
3. Build two simple LED circuits following the template.
4. Add a voting question and decorations inside the booth.

STANDARDS SPOTLIGHT

This project supports the **Civics and Government** strand across the K–2 grade band, such as:

- **Kindergarten:** Use a procedure for how people can effectively work together to improve classrooms and communities.
- **Grade 2:** Explain how various Indigenous, religious, gender, and racial groups advocate for freedom and equality.

RESOURCES & LINKS

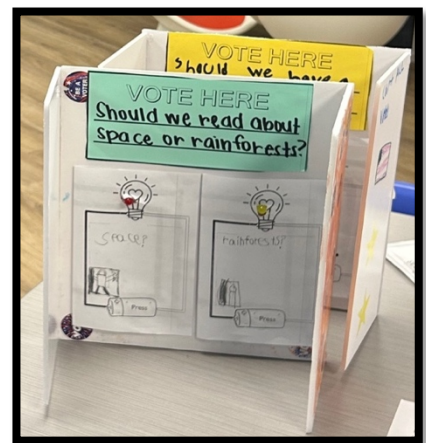
Teachers can explore all project materials and related resources:

- [Voting Booth Classroom Resources](#)
- [Library of Congress – Voters and Voting Rights](#)
- [Children Discovering Justice Curriculum](#)

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A student voting booth displays the question “Should we read about space or rainforests?” showing how students learned that voting helps everyone share their voice on issues that impact them.