Lesson Five: The Electoral College

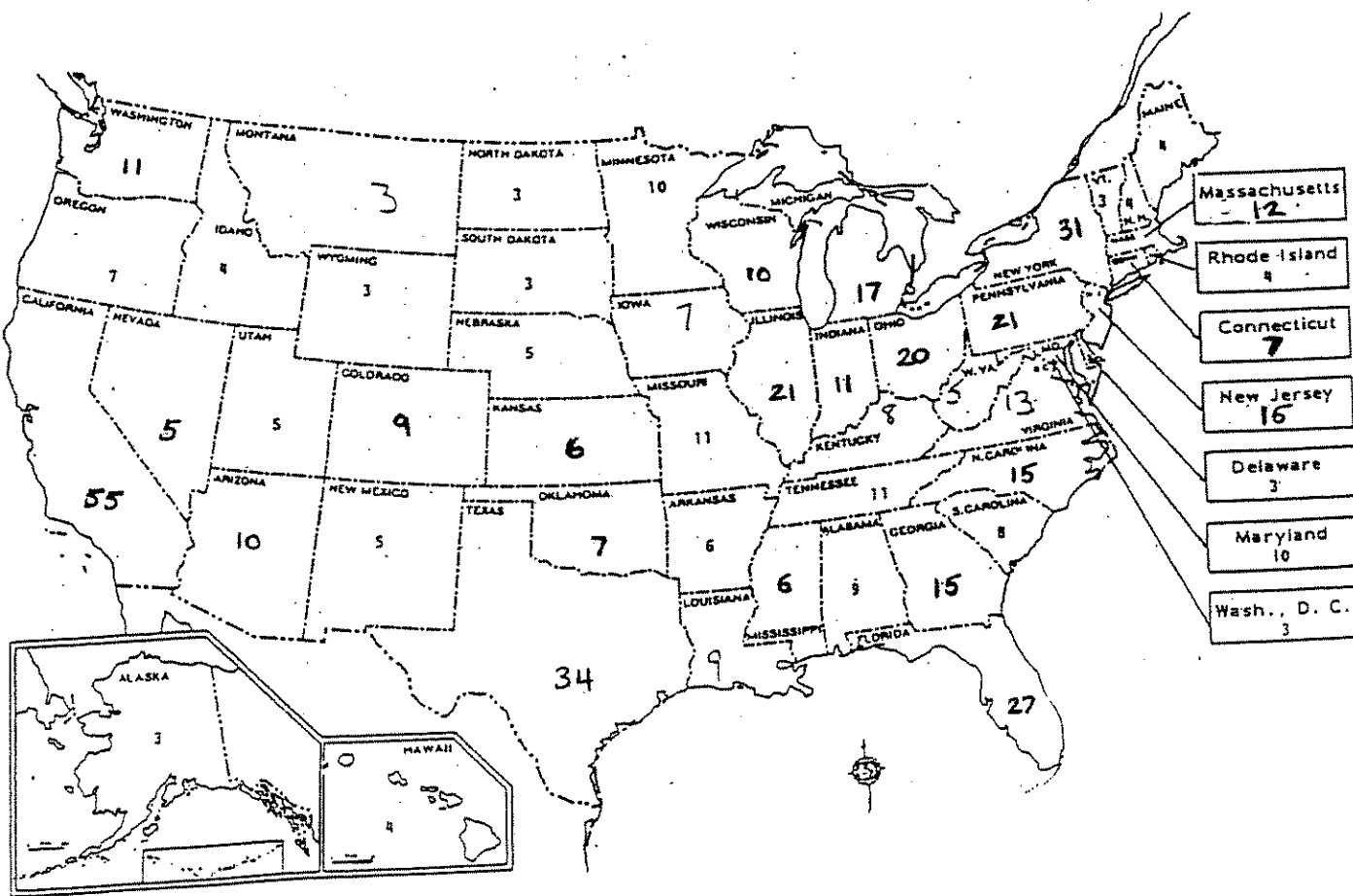DIRECTIONS: Is it possible for a presidential candidate to win the presidency by carrying only the 11 largest states?
(Note: largest in this case means the greatest number of electoral votes.)

    A. Using the map below, select and shade in these 11 largest states.

    B. Answer the *following* questions on the lines provided.

        1. How many electoral votes must a candidate have to win? _____

        2. How many votes will a candidate have if he carries the 11 states you have shaded? _____ Can
           he win? _____

        3. Which state has the largest number of electoral votes? _____

        4. What is the smallest number of electoral votes a state can have? _____

Distribution of Presidential Electoral Votes by State— 2004

Total: 538

Lesson Six: Flaws in the System?

DIRECTIONS: Twice in our history, a President has been elected whose electors did not receive the maj⌐ the popular vote. Numerous presidential elections have been much closer in the popular vote than in the ac⌐ electoral votes. Below is an imaginary country with five imaginary states and a chart depicting the outcome ⌐ presidential election using our existing Electoral College. We are using this imaginary situation because an accurate situation would have extremely large and numerous numbers with which to deal. The purpose of this chart is to illustrate one major defect in our Electoral College system; the fact that it is possible for one candidate's electors to receive the most popular votes yet that candidate lose in the Electoral College.

— You will note that the last two columns of the chart are incomplete. Using information given in the chart, *calculate the figures for the last two columns* including the totals.

— Once you have completed this, again using the chart, *answer* the questions below on the lines provided.

Imaginary States	Electoral Votes	Total Votes Cast For Electors	Candidate X Popular Votes	Candidate Z Popular Votes	Candidate X Electoral Votes	Candidate Z Electoral Votes
A	6	600	200	400		
B	12	1200	200	1000		
C	4	400	100	300		
D	8	800	500	300		
E	16	1600	900	700		
TOTALS	46	4600	1900	2700		

1. How many states did Candidate X carry? _____

2. How many states did Candidate Z carry? _____

3. How many popular votes did Candidate X receive? _____

4. How many popular votes did Candidate Z receive? _____

5. As we know, it takes a simple majority of the electoral votes to win the Presidency; therefore, how many electoral votes will it take to win in the above imaginary situation? _____

6. How many electoral votes did Candidate X receive? _____

7. How many electoral votes did Candidate Z receive? _____

8. Which candidate won according to the Electoral College? _____