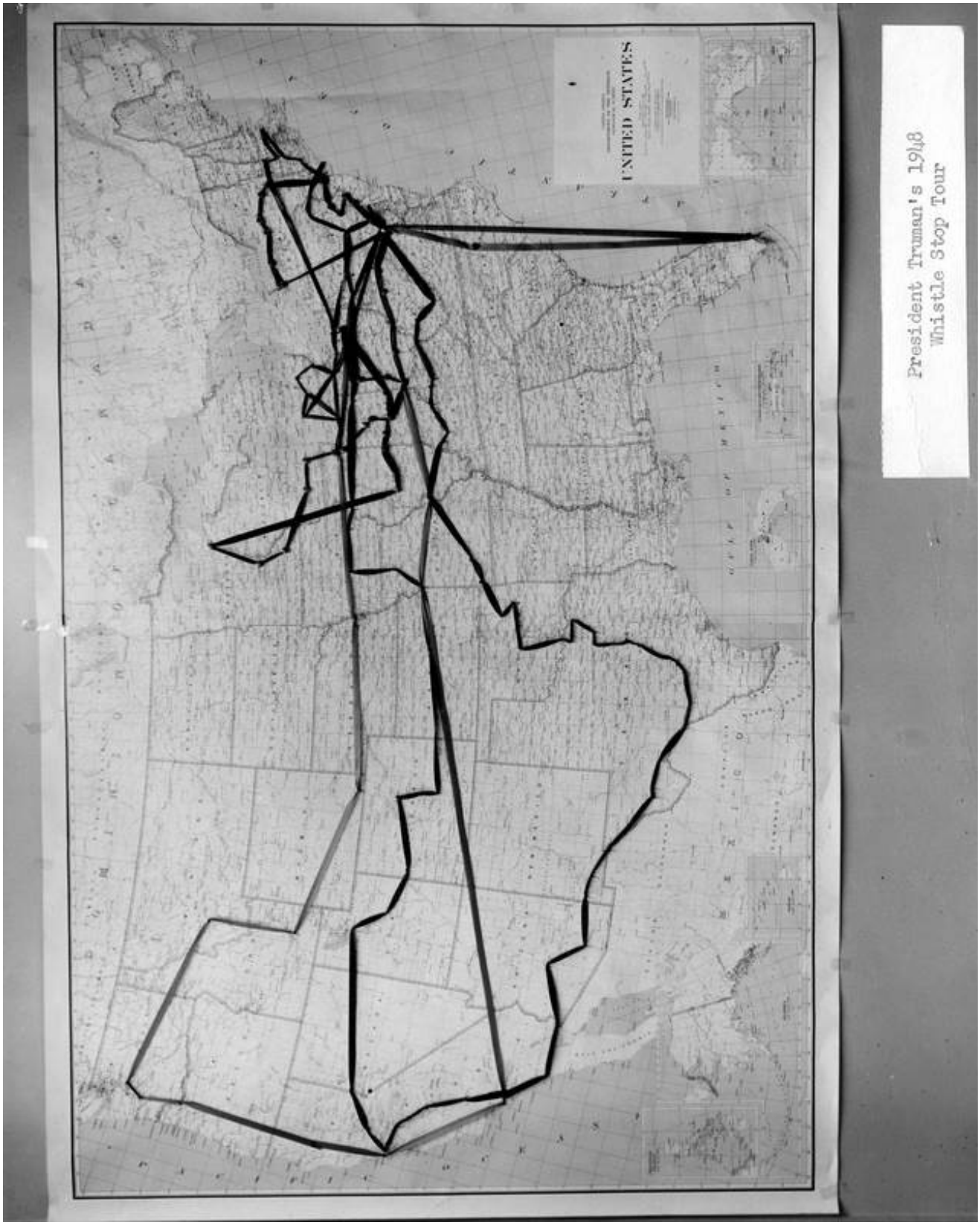
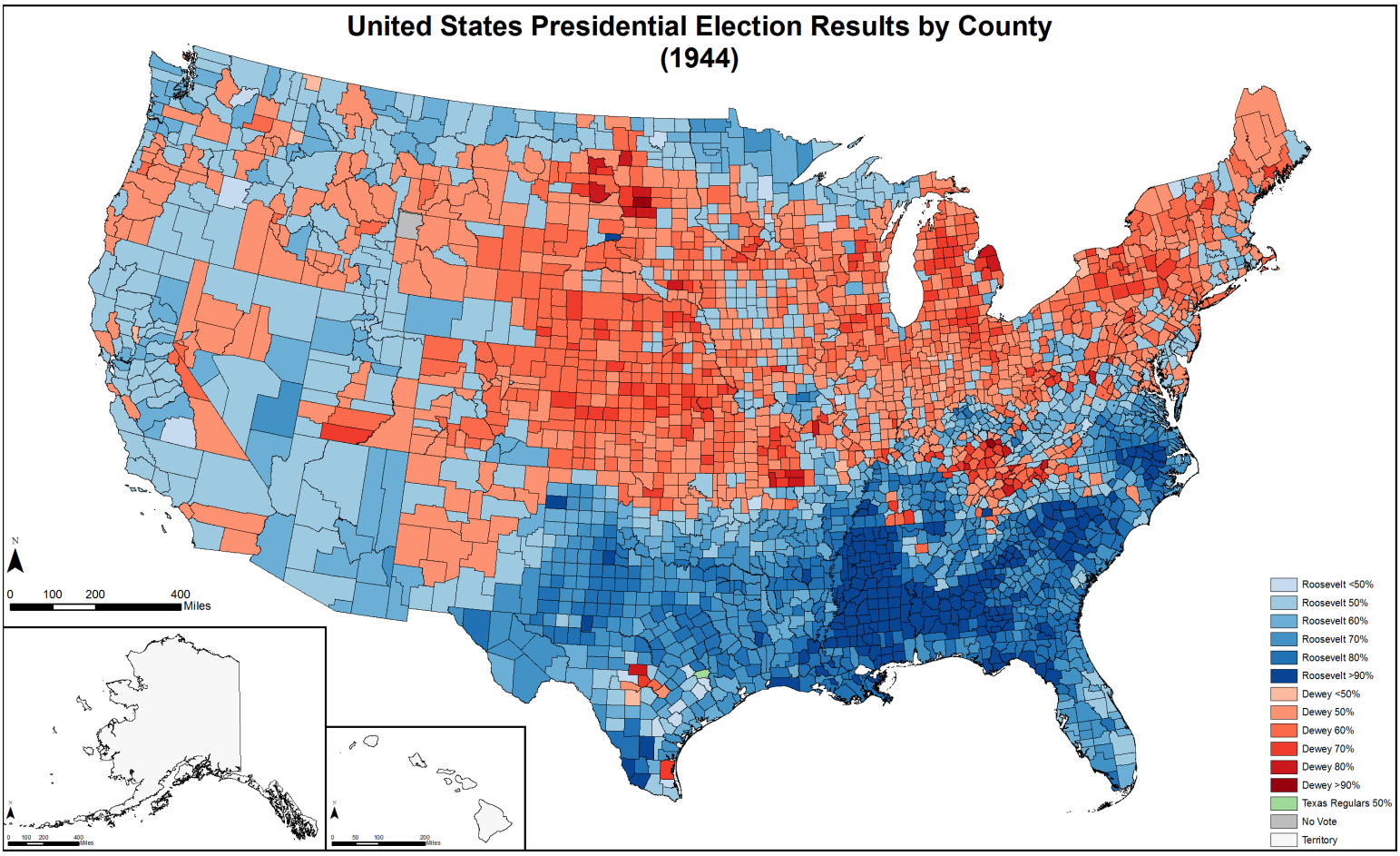
Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

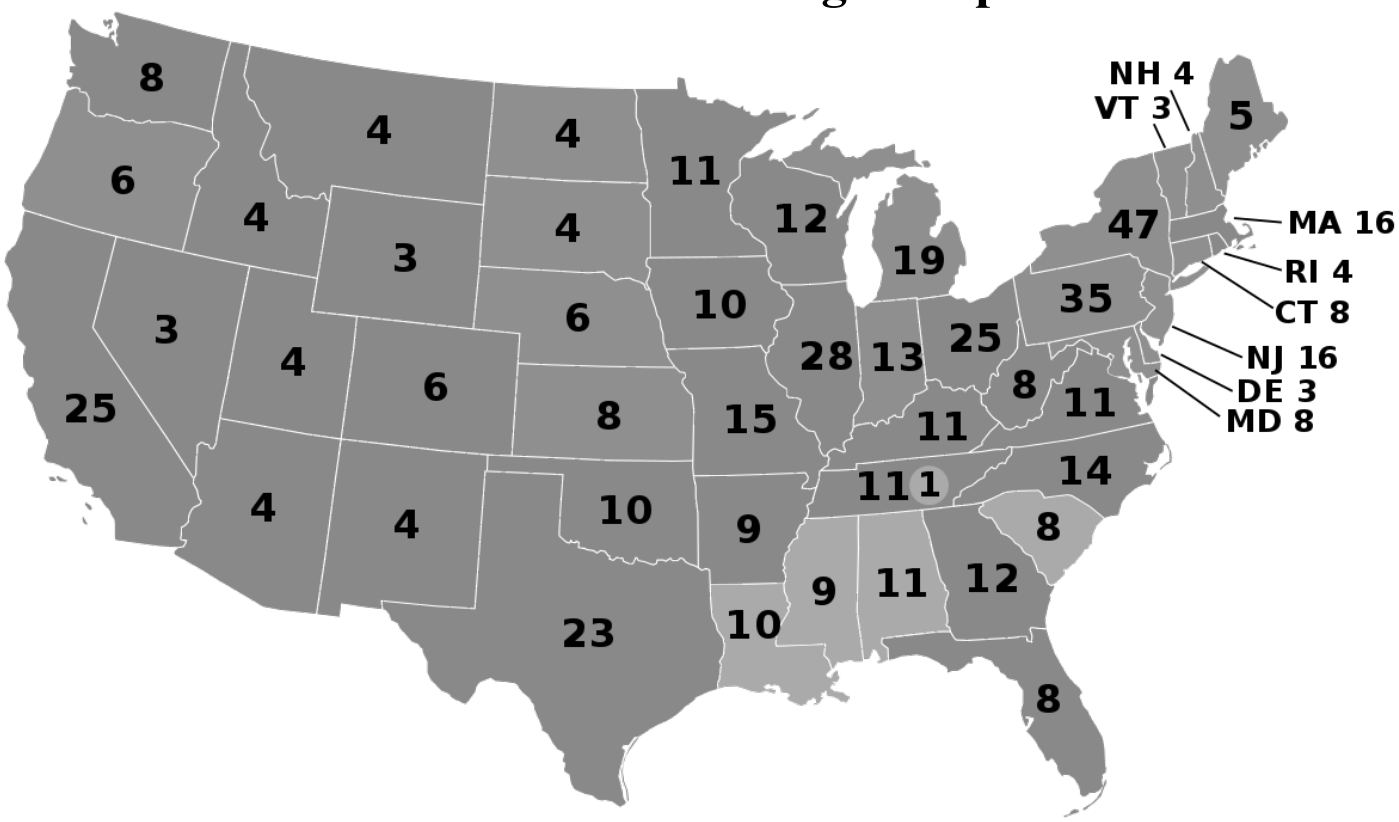
The Whistle Stop Tour, The Electoral College, and Demographics



Date: ca. 1948
Credit: Harris & Ewing, Washington, D.C.
Harry S. Truman Library & Museum.

The Whistle Stop Tour, The Electoral College, and Demographics





Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

The Whistle Stop Tour, The Electoral College, and Demographics
(20 points)

Analyze the primary source map of Truman's White Stop campaign train tour in 1948 as well as the 1948 Electoral College map. Based on your observations, answer the following questions:
Analyze Truman's Whistle Stop Tour route and why he visited the places that he did- what votes and places and demographics were attainable/not attainable for him to win?

1) What large region of the country did Truman very clearly avoid on his 1948 campaign? What would prompt Truman to do this?

2) Why would Truman avoid the states like Montana, the Dakotas, New Mexico, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont? List two reasons.

3) What region did Truman seem to visit the most? Why would that be?

4) Why do some states seem to vote differently in the 1940s than today?

5) Which states would be most valuable for Truman to target and why?

6) In a close election, like in 1948, what would be a concern with the electoral college? List 2 out of 3 possible flaws.

7) Pick one state that has changed voting allegiance from 1948 to today and explain why

8) Pick one state that has become more important since 1948 for elections and explain why.

9) Why do Alaska and Hawaii not have any electoral votes in the 1940s?

10) Why does the American Southwest have more votes today?

11) Based on history, what demographic groups are most critical for Truman to win?