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Newspaper Narratives

Democrat vs. Republican  
Where do you stand ?



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Students will view online newspapers to learn about elections and political campaigns. They will follow the permalinks embedded on each slide, as well as use the "elections" worksheet among others.

Discover the numerous links embedded within this power point, you may select a few slides to use or have students view just the slide show

How to view the articles:

- 1. students use the slides\_with\_notes power point
- 2. from the slide, click on the picture or buttons
- 3. then click on the zoom link, located on the right side of the page
- 4. locate and read the article (*download to read*)

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What is a political party?

A **political party** is a group of citizens who agree on a major issue, they work to create public policy to make changes to support their point of views

Parties choose or **nominate**, people they want to elect for public office. These **candidates** campaign to get elected.

Vocabulary

- General Election
- Party Platform
- Secret Ballot
- Incumbent
- Republican
- Democrat
- Coalition
- Third Party
- Conservative
- Liberal
- Primary Election
- Electoral College
- Popular Vote

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### The Two-party System

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The United States has a **two-party system**. The **Republicans** in 1860 emerged as a major party with the election of Abraham Lincoln



The **Democratic Party** formed under Andrew Jackson in 1828 [★ click on star to learn more](#)

Any American citizen may join a political party, but most members are 18 years or older

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### Political Parties in the U.S.

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**Hamilton vs. Jefferson**

Disagreement over major issues on the Constitution and government led to the emergence of political parties [★ click on star to learn about him](#)



[★ click on star to learn about his life](#)

**Jefferson's** group took the name of **democratic-republicans** and wanted the states to hold greater power, they feared a powerful central government.

**Hamilton's** followers called themselves **federalists** they supported the Constitution and advocated for a strong national government with a powerful **chief executive**.

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### The Two Parties Emerge

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**Jacksonian Democracy Reigns**

In 1828, the farmers and small business owners who made up Jefferson's party, calling themselves the **Democratic Party**, nominated **Andrew Jackson**. He stood for the common citizen, but looked out for southern and western interests.

Those who did not support Jackson formed their own party called **Whigs**, after a Scottish political leader.

Their real name was the **National Republican Party**.

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### The Two Major Parties

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For two decades the Whigs and Democrats made up the two **key parties**

In 1854 Whigs, former Free Soil Party members, and ex-Democrats formed the **Republican** Party to oppose the spread of slavery in US territories.

The **Whigs** faded from American politics leaving the **Democrats** and **Republicans** in a two-party system that has dominated American politics ever since.

Use the “elections” worksheet!



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### Third Parties

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A “**third party**” is a party other than the two major parties.

These smaller groups challenge the major parties, and can change the outcome of an election

None have ever gained control of the **White House** as the odds are against them. Sometimes, a third party will win seats in Congress or gain office in lower levels of government.

Their most important role is to **influence policy** on one or more



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### The Odds Are Against Them

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The **Socialist** and **Communist** Parties want to **nationalize** major industries. The **Green** Party calls for companies to respect the environment.

Third-party candidates must get voter signatures to show the be placed on the ballot for national office

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At the turn of the Century


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In the late 1800s, the People's Party, or **"Populists"** became popular.

They had the support of farmers and workers who called for better working conditions.

They never succeeded in getting a national candidate into office, many of their ideas on workers' rights later became laws in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



click on the picture

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The Republican Split


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Former Republican President Theodore Roosevelt left the Republican Party and was nominated by the **Progressive Party**.

It was nicknamed the "Bull Moose Party" because TR said he was "fit as a Bull Moose".

He split the 1912 Republican vote allowing Democrat Woodrow Wilson to defeat President William H. Taft.



click on star to view: access to read the print at the bottom of the newspaper

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The Electoral Process

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Each state has many electors as it has members in the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives combined.

One for each of the 435 members of the House plus one for each of the 100 senators. Three electors represent the District of Columbia for a total of 538.

Many states do not show the name of the electors on the ballot. Voters see only the names of the candidates for president and vice president.

*What is the Presidential Candidates lucky number? 270*  
for the Winner click on screen

★★★ Do "count the votes" math activity  
click on stars to view breakdown of electoral votes by state Then complete the "electoral votes" worksheet!

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Politics Today!

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**Democrats** usually feel that the federal government has a responsibility to help the poor through government **intervention**. Democrats are generally seen as **liberal**.

**Republicans** hold the view that leaving the economy alone will allow for growth, giving people greater ability to help themselves. They believe in less **regulation**.

Republicans are viewed as being **conservative**.

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Democrat or Republican?

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click on the picture to view other campaign cartoons!

Use the  
*"comparing  
political parties"*  
worksheet

To find out how  
you stand on the  
issues!

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