

## **Newspaper Narratives**

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THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY 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:

- students use the slides\_with\_notes power point
   from the slide, click on the picture or buttons
   then click on the zoom link, located on the right side
- 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



# The Two-party System

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The United States has a twoparty 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 dick on star to learn more

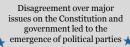
Any American citizen may join a political party, but most members are 18 years or older



## Political Parties in the U.S.

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#### Hamilton vs. Jefferson





Jefferson's group took the name of democraticrepublicans 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**.



## 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.



## **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!





## **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





## 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



# 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.



# 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.



Ball Moose's attempt to influence the Republican Convention in Chicago click on star to view: zoom in to read the print at the bottom of the newsp



## **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



Do "count the votes" math activity Then complete the "electoral votes" worksheet!



# **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.



# Democrat or Republican?



Use the "comparing political parties" worksheet

To find out how you stand on the issues!

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