

Party Time!

Benchmark: SS.7.C.2.8 Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government.

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will compare current political parties' ideas about government.
- Students will evaluate the impact political parties have on society, government, or the political system.

Content Focus: Communist Party, Democratic Party, Libertarian Party, Republican Party, Socialist Party

Time: One class period

Materials:

- Party Time! PowerPoint
- Party Time! Handout
- Computer
- Projector
- Computer/tablet access for students

Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in "notes view". The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.
- Make copies of handouts

Lesson Overview

Warm Up: Instruct students to draw a line down the middle of a blank sheet of paper. Using the PowerPoint, have students write the word "Democrat" at the top of one column and the first three words that come to mind underneath. The following slide will have the word "Republican". Students should write this word in the other column and the first three words that come to mind underneath. Have students work in small groups to create a comprehensive list of the words they wrote. Create a class list by having each group share.

Continue with the PowerPoint and discuss the two-party system in the United States. The PowerPoint will highlight the two major political parties as well as some of the minor parties.

Distribute the Handout A. Students will need to use computers or tablets to complete the handout. Divide your class into groups of three. Each student in the group will be responsible for going on a WebQuest to answer questions about a political party (Democrat, Republican, and one of their choices from the list). Once the questions are complete, students will teach each other, in their group of three, about the political party they were responsible for investigating.

Debrief the activity by having the students share about the political parties they researched and comparing and contrasting the ideologies of the parties. **As an extension**, have each student complete the "My Kind of Party" handout where they will create their own political party based on what they have learned.

Check for Understanding The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask student to explain how they made their decision.

Party Time!

Directions: In your group of three, each person will need to select a political party they will be responsible for researching (Democratic, Republican, and one from the list provided). Visit the official website for your assigned party and complete the chart below by identifying the party's ideas about that topic. Once completed, teach the ideas of your assigned political party to the other members of your group and complete the chart.

Note: Issues can be found at the bottom of each party's website	Democratic Party www.democrats.org	Republican Party www.gop.com	<i>Circle one:</i> Communist Party Constitution Party Green Party Libertarian Party Socialist Party
Economy			
Environment			
Health Care <i>Health care is addressed as "ObamaCare" on some websites</i>			
Immigration			
National Security/ Defense			
Issue of your choice:			

My Kind of Party!

Directions: Based on what you have learned about political parties, create your own political party by outlining your ideas on the issues in the chart below. You will need to think of a name and a symbol to represent your party.

Party symbol:	Party name:
Economy	
Environment	
Health Care <i>Health care is addressed as "ObamaCare" on some websites</i>	
Immigration	
National Security/ Defense	
Another issue of importance to your party:	