Republican, Democratic and Third Parties

1. Almost everyone knows that George Washington was our first president but not as many people know he was the only president voted in unanimously, which means he won 100% of the vote. But, that was the first and last time we've ever had a candidate elected without being a member of a political party.

2. Washington didn't like political parties. He said 'I was no party man myself, and the first wish of my heart was, if parties did exist, to reconcile them.' But obviously we have political parties today, so what exactly are they?

3. A political party is a group of citizens or voters with similar views on public issues. Political parties play a major role and have a large impact on American society. These groups of citizens work together to put candidates into public office because by working together they can try to put their ideas into action in the government.

4. In this video, we're going to look at political parties that influence things in the United States. We're going to look at the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, and three third parties and how they play a role in our society.

5. After watching this video, you will be able to
•   compare current political parties' ideas about government , and
Be sure to watch the other video in this module to be able to evaluate the impact that political parties have on society, government, and the political system and really get a deeper understanding of political parties in this particular benchmark.

6. Before we begin our discussion of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, and third parties, it's important to remind ourselves that these parties will tell us what they believe in what we call platforms. A platform is a written statement that shows a party's principles, beliefs, and positions on issues. So now that we got that out of the way, let's really dive in.

7. Since the end of Washington's presidency (who you'll remember didn't have a party), our country has had a tradition of a two party system. This means that two major political parties have controlled the elections and have the most participation by voters. Today the two parties are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.

8. Let's begin with the oldest of our two major parties, the Democratic Party.

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9. The Democratic Party holds a basic core belief that the federal government should take a more active role in people's lives, especially those in need. Democrats sometimes support raising taxes and government spending to pay for social programs that can help those people in need. Let's talk now about the Republican Party.

10. The Republican Party, sometimes called the GOP, or Grand Old Party, came about just before the civil war. Let's take a look at some of its major ideas.

11. The basic core belief of the Republican Party is that the federal government should take a less active role in people's lives and that individuals can take care of themselves without government help. They sometimes also support lowering taxes and government spending, although they do support increased spending for national defense.

12. Although they don't often win elections, there are third parties, and you're required by Florida Benchmarks to know three of them: the Libertarian Party, the Communist Party, and the Socialist Party. So let's begin with the Libertarians.

13. The Libertarian Party believes that the federal government should be very small, and that its only purpose is to protect freedom and property. They focus very heavily on the rights and liberties of the individual, above all else.

14. The core beliefs of the Communist Party are primarily economic. It revolves around the idea that that the federal government should control everything about the economy and the workers should control their own lives and destinies. The Community Party also believes that individuals should not own private property.

15. The core belief of the Socialist Party is that people should own and control all businesses through democratically elected federal agencies. The Socialist Party believes though that, unlike the Communists, private property would still be allowed.

16. It's important to remember that while these Third Parties, and others like the Greens and the Constitution Party, may not often win elections, if at all, they do tend to sometimes influence the Republican and Democratic Parties in areas of economics, politics, and society as they build their platform.

17. Let's check in: try to answer the following questions in your own words.

18. Marcus believes that individual rights and property are the most important things the government must protect. Which party is he most likely to join and why.
19. ANSWER TO QUESTION

20. Susie believes that the government needs to be able to take care of the people who are most in need. Which party is she most likely to join and why?
21. ANSWER TO QUESTION

22. Meghan believes that people can take better care of themselves without government help. She also believes that the government should spend more on national defense. Which part is she most likely to join and why?
23. ANSWER TO QUESTION

24. Let's recap what we've learned so far. The United States has a two party majority system. The two major parties are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. The Democratic Party favors a larger federal government and higher taxes and spending to support social programs to help people. The Republican Party favors a less active government and believe people can do a better job taking care of themselves.

25. Don't forget too that we do have third parties, but they don't often win elections. Three third parties are Libertarians, Communists, and Socialists.

26. So, in this video, we learned about the core beliefs of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, and a few of the minor parties. Be sure to watch the other video in this module on the impact of political parties, where we'll also continue to explore some of the ideas of these parties and how they influence society, government, and the political system.