



Political Parties

Major Political Parties Corners Activity

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Benchmark

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

Activity

Students will complete a corners activity to demonstrate their knowledge of Democratic and Republican political party beliefs. Students will listen to statements about common political party beliefs and they will determine whether each statement more closely aligns with the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. Students will complete an exit slip for assessment of their understanding of the benchmark.

Materials

- ★ Political Party Belief Statements [Google Slides](#)
- ★ Political Party Corners Activity Exit Slip, page 2 – one per student
 - Optional Student Scaffolded Version, page 4
- ★ For In Person Learning: Tape & Two Pieces of Paper to create “Democratic Party” and “Republican Party” corners
- ★ For Hybrid or Distance Learning: Instruct students to find red and blue objects
- ★ Answer Key

Instructions for In Person Learning

1. Prepare for the activity by writing “Democratic Party” and “Republican Party” each on one piece of paper. Tape each paper to different sides of the room, with enough space for students to move during the activity.
2. Use the [Google Slides](#) to either project each statement and read aloud to the class during the activity or use it to read aloud from your computer. Read each question or statement and give students 20-40 seconds to think and move to the correct political party sign. Once students have chosen which major political party they believe is the correct answer (Republican or Democrat) click on the presentation to show the answer. Discuss why the answer is the CORRECT answer and why the other political party is the incorrect answer before moving on. Call on a student to say why they chose this answer for critical thinking and to assist auditory learners.
3. Use the final slide to debrief and review the activity as a whole class. Pass out the Exit Slip and have students complete it before leaving class.

Instructions for Hybrid or Distance Learning

1. Prepare for the activity by having students gather two objects from their home: one red item and one blue item. These items will be used to represent the Republican Party (red) and the Democratic Party (blue).
2. Use the [Google Slides](#) to project each statement and read aloud each one to the class. Have students hold up their ‘red’ item or ‘blue’ item to signal which political party most identifies with the statement. Once students have chosen which major political party they believe is the correct answer (Republican or Democrat), click on the presentation to show the answer. Discuss why the answer is the CORRECT answer and why the other political party is the incorrect answer before moving on. Call on a student to say why they chose this answer for critical thinking and to assist auditory learners.
3. Use the final slide to debrief and review the activity as a whole class. Provide students with the Exit Slip and have them complete the handout to assess understanding of the benchmark.

This resource series was developed in partnership between OCPS civics teachers and the Lou Frey Institute.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Political Party Corners Activity Exit Slip

Directions: Read the questions and highlight or underline the correct political party.		
Which political party generally believes that the federal government should take a more active role in people's lives, especially those in need?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally supports lowering taxes and government spending, but supports increasing military spending?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party sometimes supports raising taxes and government spending to pay for social programs?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes wages should be set by the free market and not the government?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes in supporting a strong military but having a lower military budget?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes that there are too many government regulations and that regulations negatively impact job growth as well as the expansion of the economy?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally supports government-run health care and protection from pre-existing conditions?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally supports a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes the government should take a less active role in people's lives and that individuals can take care of themselves without government help?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes that the federal government should set a higher minimum wage?	Democrat	Republican

Directions: Read the following questions and answer in complete sentences	
What is the main difference in ideas about government between the two major U.S. political parties, Democrats and Republicans?	
Do you think there should be more than two major political parties in the United States? Why or why not?	
What is something you still do not understand?	

**STUDENT HANDOUT
SCAFFOLDED VERSION**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Student Exit Slip

Directions: Read the questions and <u>highlight</u> or <u>underline</u> the correct political party.		
Which political party generally believes that the federal government should take a more active role in people's lives, especially those in need?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally supports lowering taxes and government spending, but supports increasing military spending?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party sometimes supports raising taxes and government spending to pay for social programs?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes wages should be set by the free market and not the government?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes in supporting a strong military but having a lower military budget?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes that there are too many government regulations and that regulations negatively impact job growth as well as the expansion of the economy?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally supports government-run health care and protection from pre-existing conditions?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally supports a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes the government should take a less active role in people's lives and that individuals can take care of themselves without government help?	Democrat	Republican
Which political party generally believes that the federal government should set a higher minimum wage?	Democrat	Republican

Directions: Read the following questions and answer in complete sentences	
What is the main difference in ideas about government between the two major U.S. political parties, Democrats and Republicans?	The main difference in ideas about government between the two major political parties is _____.
Do you think there should be more than two major political parties in the United States? Why or why not?	I think _____.
What is something you still do not understand?	Something I still do not understand is _____.