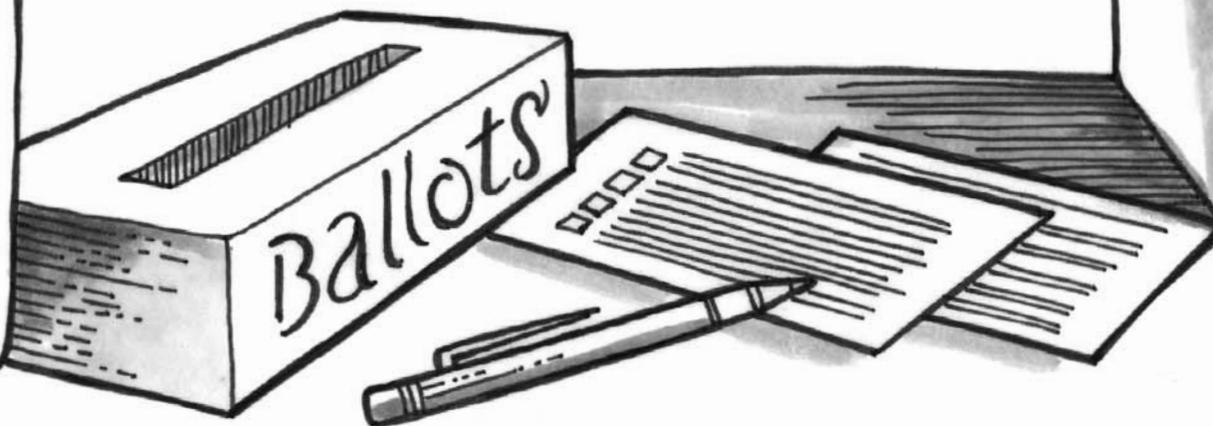
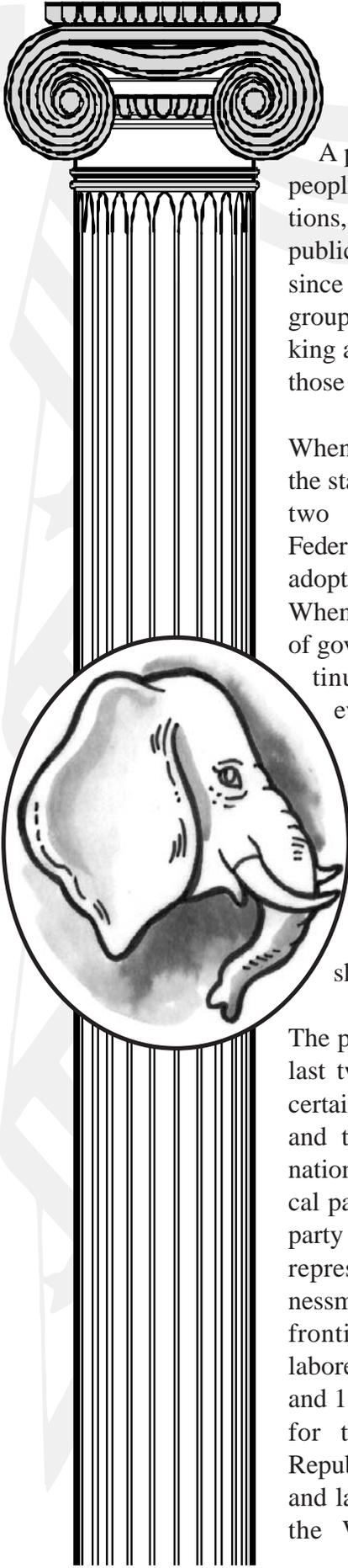


Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| History of Political Parties | 4 |
| History of United States Political Parties Chart | 6 |
| Caucuses, Nominating Conventions and Primaries | 8 |
| The Electoral College | 10 |
| Changes in Each State's Electoral Votes over Three Decades | 12 |
| Electoral College Surprises | 14 |
| The Growth of Voting Rights in the United States | 16 |
| Qualifications for Presidential Candidates | 17 |
| Background to 2000 Presidential Election | 20 |
| Time Line of 2000 Presidential Election | 22 |
| Teacher Directions for Mock Presidential Election | 28 |
| Mock Presidential Election | 29 |
| Presidential Elections and the Media | 31 |
| My Presidential Candidate's Television Advertisement | 33 |
| Television Advertising Campaign Worksheet | 34 |
| Advertising Campaign Cost Sheet | 35 |
| Chart of Population for the 50 Largest U.S. Cities | 36 |
| United States Map with Number of Electoral Votes Per State | 37 |
| Activities for Multiple Intelligences | 38 |
| The Internet and Presidential Elections | 40 |
| Glossary | 42 |
| Presidents of the United States | 44 |
| Answer Key | 46 |



History of



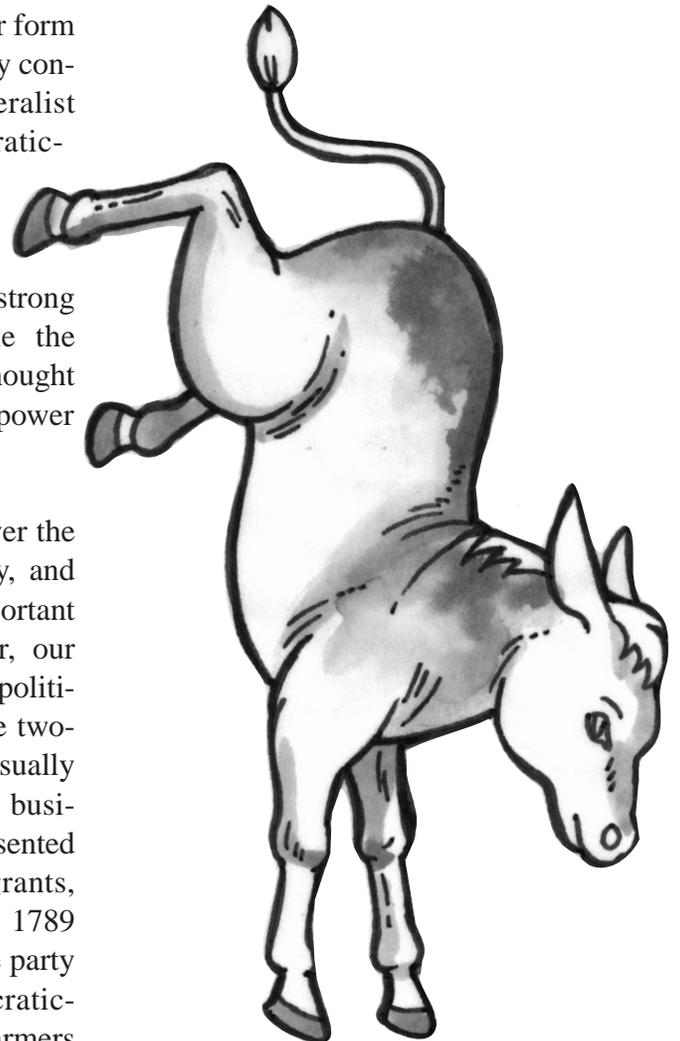
A political party is an organization of people who join together to win elections, control government and decide public policy. Such parties have existed since colonial days when there were groups of people who supported the king and the governor of the colony and those who were against both rulers.

When the Constitution was written and the states were voting on its ratification, two new parties appeared. The Federalists wanted the Constitution to be adopted, and the Anti-Federalists didn't. When the Constitution became our form of government, the Federalist Party continued, and the Anti-Federalist evolved into the Democratic-Republicans. The major difference between the two parties was that the Federalists believed in a strong central government, while the Democratic-Republicans thought that the majority of the power should remain with the states.

The party names have changed over the last two centuries of U.S. history, and certain issues have become important and then faded away. However, our nation has always had two major political parties, which is known as the two-party system. One party has usually represented manufacturers and businessmen, while the other has represented frontiersmen, farmers, immigrants, laborers and the poor. Between 1789 and 1820, the Federalists were the party for the rich, and the Democratic-Republicans reached out to the farmers and laborers. Between 1828 and 1840, the Whigs took the place of the

Federalists with the manufacturers, while the Democrats supported the common man. This difference between the two major parties has continued with the modern Republicans and Democrats, though the lines of distinction are becoming increasingly blurred.

At some times in U.S. history, a third political party has appeared to challenge



¹ *The American Political Dictionary*, 3rd ed., by Jack C. Plano and Milton Greenberg, New York: Holt, Rhinehart and Winston, Inc., 1972, pg. 132.

Political Parties

the two major parties. These usually are created because a special issue becomes important and is not being resolved by the major parties or because some people are dissatisfied with both of the existing parties. Our current Republican Party was originally a third party, created by those who opposed the extension of slavery. Other important third parties include the Populists, who supported farmers' causes in the late 1800s, and

the Progressive Party, which worked for reform in politics, business and society in the early 20th century. These parties often have a great influence on national politics. Even if their candidates are not elected President, their ideas can change the results of an election. Also, one of the two major parties often adopts the ideas of a strong third party. The third party fades away, but its ideas continue.

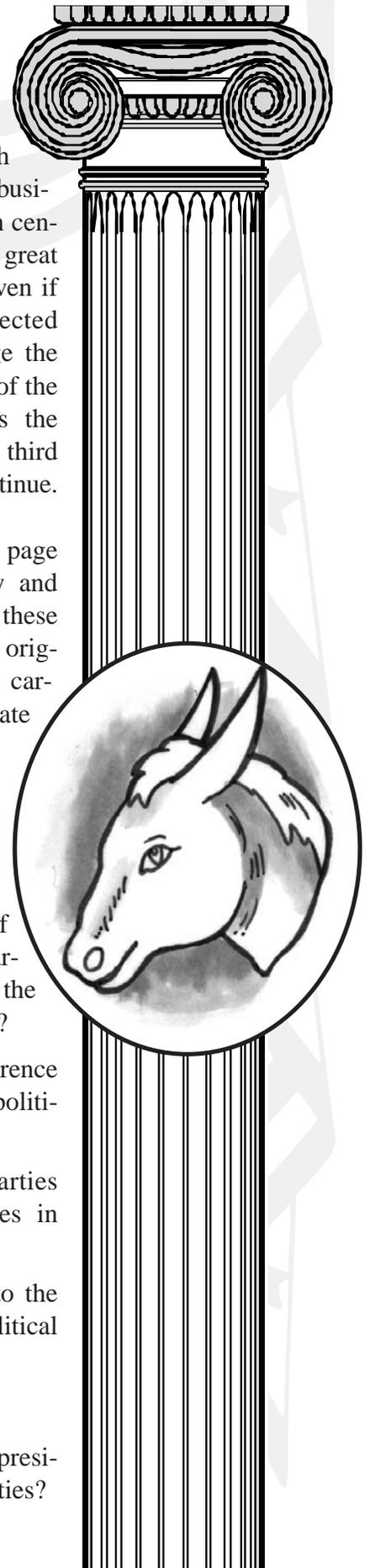
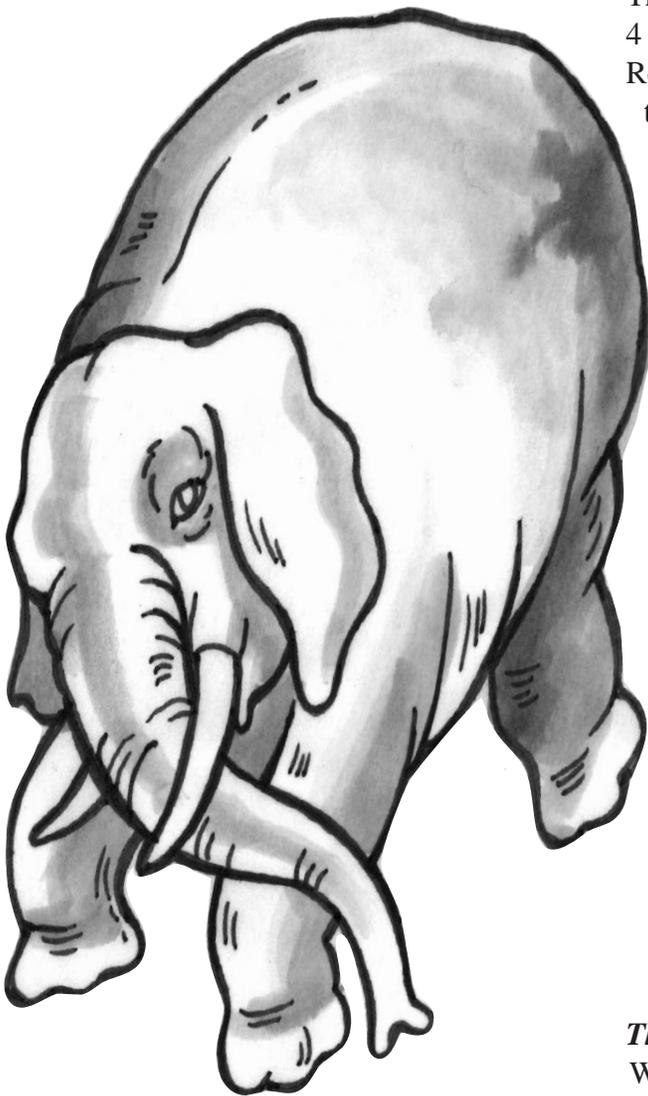
The illustrations on this page and page 4 show the Democratic donkey and Republican elephant, symbols of these two parties. Both symbols were originally drawn by the political cartoonist Thomas Nast in the late 1800s.

Questions

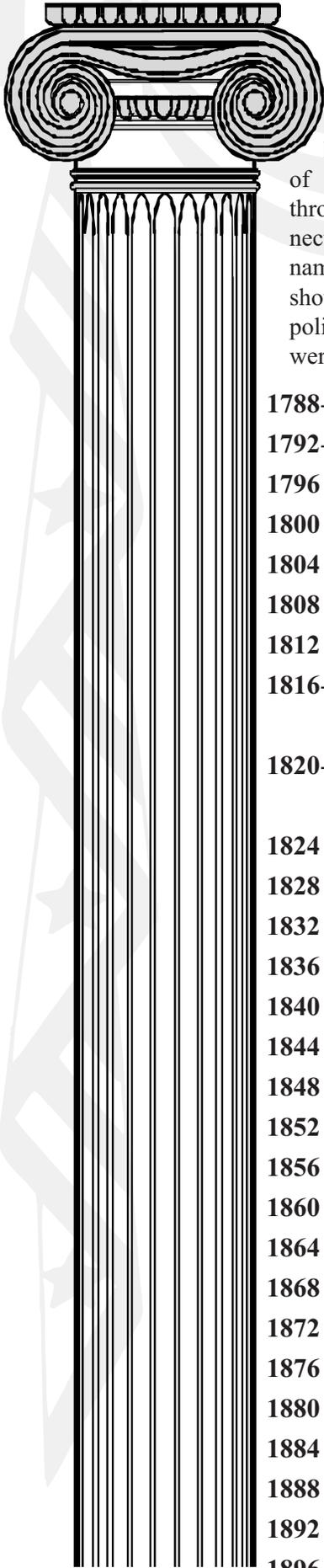
1. Explain the two-party system.
2. What were the names of the first two political parties that developed after the Constitution was adopted?
3. What is the major difference between the two present political parties?
4. Why have third parties appeared at various times in U.S. history?
5. What usually happened to the best ideas of the third political parties in U.S. history?

Thought Question

Why don't many people vote for presidential candidates from third parties?



History of United States



How to Read This Chart: The vertical lines (up and down) show the existence of parties down through the years and through several elections. They also connect the same party when it changed its name. The horizontal lines (right and left) show parties that broke off from the main political parties or whose ideas and voters were eventually absorbed by the main political parties.

Third parties listed to the right of the Democrats broke off from that political party. Third parties listed to the left of the Republicans broke off from that political party. Third parties listed between the two major political parties had ideas and voters that were later absorbed by both of the major parties. The dates below each political party show how long it lasted.

1788-No official political parties, but they are beginning to form.

1792-No official political parties, but they are beginning to form.

1796 **Federalists** 1796-1816 **Democratic-Republicans** 1796-1824

1800

1804

1808

1812

1816-Federalists die out, but some of their influence continues, especially in the Supreme Court.

1820-“Era of Good Feeling” when Monroe was re-elected almost unanimously by the Electoral College, and political parties seemed to have disappeared.

1824

1828

1832

1836

1840

1844

1848

1852

1856

1860

1864

1868

1872

1876

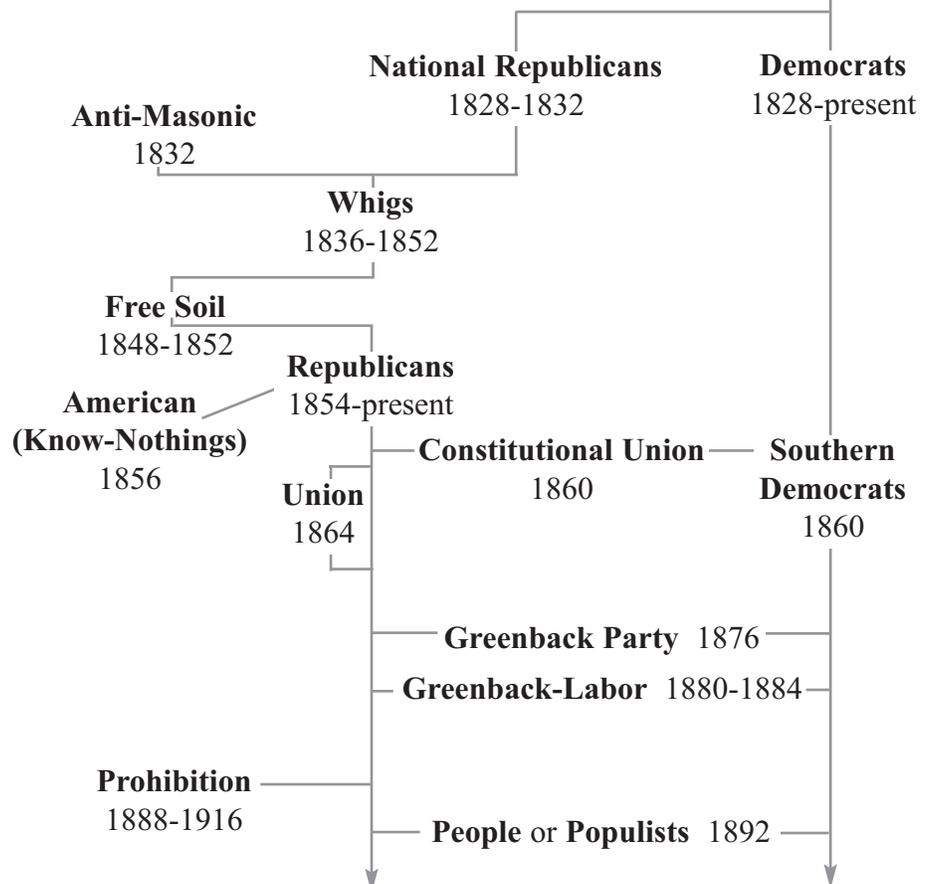
1880

1884

1888

1892

1896



¹ “Advanced Placement United States History . . . Parties and Presidential Elections” <http://members.icanect.net/~tincat/lec/parties.htm>