



IT'S PARTY TIME!

(60 minutes over two days)

OBJECTIVE

Students use their knowledge of political parties to analyze the actions of current political leaders.

MATERIALS

It's Party Time! handout; Internet access

GET READY

- ✓ Copy the *It's Party Time!* handout for each student.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Have your students read the *It's Party Time!* handout.
- ✓ Ask your students to use the Internet and other sources of information to find information about the Republican and Democratic parties. They should use this information to fill in the handout.
- ✓ Have your students use the Internet or other sources to research an additional political party of their choice. Your students should use the chart on the handout to describe the party's history and values.
- ✓ Discuss your students' findings for the major parties. If possible, invite local representatives of the two major parties to class to explain the views of their party. Discuss the other parties students chose to research.

- ✓ For homework, ask students to read the government section of a newspaper and find an article about a Democrat or a Republican. Students should bring the article to class and be prepared to give an example of an action the person in the article took, or comments the person made, that demonstrates his/her political affiliation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What does the Democratic Party stand for?*
- ★ *What does the Republican Party stand for?*
- ★ *Do you think there are important differences in what Republicans and Democrats stand for? If yes, what are some differences?*
- ★ *How many other political parties have you heard of besides the Democratic and Republican Parties? How many are represented locally?*



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In the presidential election of 2004, over 100 people announced their candidacy for president of the United States of America. This group of candidates represented at least 20 different political parties, most from the two most popular and powerful political parties, Republican and Democratic. The people in these organizations share in the effort to get laws passed, to support candidates that support their issues, and to organize elections at the local level where we vote.

To learn about the differences between the two major parties, research them using the Web site addresses provided in the chart below. List a brief history and the important values or principles of the Republicans and the Democrats in the appropriate columns. In the third column, research one other political party and write there about its history and values.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY	THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY	THIRD PARTY:
<p>Republican Party Web site <i>http://www.rnc.org/</i></p>	<p>Democratic Party Web site <i>http://www.democrats.org/</i></p>	<p>Research other political parties at this Web site: <i>http://www.vote-smart.org</i></p>