

SOCIAL STUDIES  
Civics/United States History  
Grade 8  
Political Parties

**Lesson Components:**

Benchmarks

- C-1B-M6 analyzing the importance of political parties, campaigns, and elections in the American political system
- H-1A-M1 describing chronological relationships and patterns
- H-1A-M2 demonstrating historical perspective through the political, social, and economic context in which an event or idea occurred
- H-1A-M3 analyzing the impact that specific individuals, ideas, events, and decisions had on the course of history
- H-1A-M4 identifying issues and problems from the past and evaluating alternative courses of action
- H-1B-M8 relating the institutions and practice of government established during and after the American Revolution to the foundation of the American political system

Key Concepts

Political parties, campaigns, and elections in the U. S. political system—Electoral College; U. S. Census and reapportionment of districts; chronology; major historical issues/problems; course of action; timeline; change over time; historical context; famous speeches and addresses; historical analysis; alternative courses of action; emergence of political institutions; U. S. Constitution; Federalist Papers; Federalists; Antifederalists; Democratic-Republicans; George Washington; Alexander Hamilton; John Adams; Thomas Jefferson; Republican Party; Democratic Party

Lesson Duration

5 days

## Purpose/Introduction

See individual lessons attached

## Objectives

1. Describe the role of political parties in the American political system. (C-1B-M6)
2. Explain how political parties, campaigns, and elections provide opportunities for citizens to participate in government. (C-1B-M6)
3. Describe various kinds of elections (e. g., President, Senator, Mayor), including the electoral college. (C-1B-M6)
4. Interpret data presented in a timeline. (H-1A-M1)
5. Compare or contrast events or ideas from the past with events or ideas in the present, demonstrating awareness of differing political, social, or economic context. (H-1A-M2)
6. Explain change or continuity over time based on information in stimulus material. (H-1A-M3)
7. Identify historical issues or problems and possible courses of action to address them. (H-1A-M4)
8. Describe major events and issues involving early presidencies. (H-1B-M8)

## Prior Knowledge/Pre-requisites

A basic knowledge of the American political situation following the writing and adoption of the United States Constitution

## Materials/Resources

Student notebooks, student textbooks, chart of political party development, overhead projector, student LEAP folders

## Teacher Preparation

The teacher should have an understanding of American politics, of the origin and development of political parties in the United States, of elections in the early history of the United States, and of the political situation in the United States between 1788 and 1800.

## Body of the Lesson

See overview of the unit on “The Role of Political Parties in the U. S.” and in individual lessons on this topic.

# UNITED STATES HISTORY

## THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE U. S.

### Objectives:

1. Students will be able to describe the role of political parties in the American political system. (C-1B-M6)
2. Students will be able to explain how political parties, campaigns, and elections provide opportunities for citizens to participate in government. (C-1B-M6)
3. Students will be able to describe various kinds of elections (e. g., President, Senator, Mayor), including the electoral college. (C-1B-M6)
4. Students will be able to describe the basic operation of the electoral college. (C-1B-M6)
5. Students will be able to explain how political parties have become a major component of American politics, yet have no constitutional foundation. (C-1B-M6)
6. Students will be able to complete a timeline on the development of political parties in the United States between 1788 and 1800. (H-1A-M1, H-1B-M8)
7. Students will be able to compare early political parties with those of today. (H-1A-M2)
8. Students will be able to compare and contrast the political, social, and economic stands of early political parties with those of today. (H-1A-M2)
9. Students will be able to explain how political parties have changed since their creation in the late 1790's. (H-1A-M3)
10. Students will be able to explain how political parties have enhanced democracy.
11. Students will be able to analyze the political split within the Washington Administration that led to the formation of political parties (H-1B-M8)

### Content Outline:

The ratification of the United States Constitution (H-1B-M8)

Federalist and Antifederalist positions  
The impact of the Federalist Papers on ratification  
Ratification, 1787-1790

The role and origins of political parties in American democracy

The role of political parties in American politics (C-1B-M6)  
How political parties, campaigns, and elections help citizens participate in government (C-1B-M6)  
Types of elections and the impact of political parties on them (C-1B-M6)  
The role of the electoral college in Presidential elections (C-1B-M6)

The development of political parties in America, 1788-1800

The Federalist/Antifederalist split in the Washington Administration (H-1A-M2, H-1-M3, H-1B-M8)

Hamiltonian v. Jeffersonian views (H-1A-M2, H-1A-M3, H-1B-M8)

Formation of political parties in the 1790's (H-1B-M8)

Comparison of past and present political parties

Political, social, and economic positions of Federalists and Antifederalists in the 1790's (H-1A-M2, H-1A-M3)

Political, social and economic positions of Republican and Democratic parties today (H-1A-M2, H-1A-M3)

The impact that political parties have had on American democracy (C-1B-M6)

## **Lesson 1:**

Benchmarks: C-1B-M6

Lesson Outline:

### **The ratification of the United States Constitution**

- **Federalist and Antifederalist positions**
- **The impact of the Federalist Papers on ratification**
- **Ratification, 1787-1790**

### **The role and origins of political parties in American democracy**

- **The role of political parties in American politics**
- **How political parties, campaigns, and elections help citizens participate in government**

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to describe the role of political parties in the American political system. (C-1B-M6)
2. Students will be able to explain how political parties, campaigns, and elections provide opportunities for citizens to participate in government. (C-1B-M6)

Procedures:

Whole group discussion and review of the ratification of the United States Constitution; and whole group discussion of describe the role of political parties in the American political system, and of how political parties, campaigns, and elections provide opportunities for citizens to participate in government

Identify the following:

Terms—ratification, Federalists, Antifederalists, political parties, political campaigns

Persons—George Washington, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson

Dates—1787

Begin creating a timeline on early political party development

Copy review questions into LEAP folders

Materials:

Student notebooks, student textbooks, overhead projector, student LEAP Folders, copy of the United States Constitution

Evaluation:

Whole class review of today's lesson

Students will copy the following questions into their LEAP folders and answer them for homework:

1. Which of the following was someone who supported ratifying the U. S. Constitution in 1787:
  - A. Democrat
  - B. Republican
  - C. Federalist
  - D. Antifederalist
  
2. Which of the following had a great influence on persuading states to ratify the U. S. Constitution:
  - A. Bill of Rights
  - B. Federalist Papers
  - C. Declaration of Independence
  - D. Treaty of Paris of 1783
  
3. Which of the following was the **last** of the original thirteen states to ratify the U. S. Constitution in 1790:
  - A. Virginia
  - B. New Jersey
  - C. Delaware
  - D. Rhode Island
  
4. Which of the following events occurred **first**:
  - A. the inauguration of George Washington as President
  - B. the formation of political parties
  - C. the writing of the U. S. Constitution
  - D. the ratification of the U. S. Constitution
  
5. Political parties have become a major part of the election process in the United States since 1789. Answer the following questions concerning the role and origins of political parties:
  - a. Briefly describe how the Federalist and Antifederalist debates of 1787-1788 over the ratification of the Constitution helped lead to the formation of political parties.
  - b. What is the constitutional basis for the formation of political parties?
  - c. List three roles of political parties in American politics.