

CHAPTER
5
SECTION 2

READING COMPREHENSION

Two-Party System in American History

3

For each of the parties listed below, identify (1) the party's major beliefs and (2) the groups that generally supported that party.

Origins (to 1800)

Anti-Federalists: _____

Federalists: _____

1800–1860

Democrats: _____

Whigs: _____

1860–1932

Democrats: _____

Republicans: _____

1932–1968

Democrats: _____

Republicans: _____

Reflection Question

What were some of the issues and events that resulted in the era of divided government that began in 1968?

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Directions: Complete the following table with information about the four major time periods of political parties. In the "Party in power" column, list the political party that held control for most of the period. Under "Politicians/supporters," note any important politicians or interest groups that helped keep that party in power. In the "Important events" column, list the major events during that time period.

Time Period	Party in power	Politicians/supporters	Important events
1800–1860			
1860–1932			
1932–1968			
1968–present			

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CORE WORKSHEET

Two-Party System in American History

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Political Parties in United States History

1. What political party—Democratic or Republican—might the following people support if they were alive today? Why?

A. Alexander Hamilton _____

B. Thomas Jefferson _____

C. Andrew Jackson _____

D. Daniel Webster _____

2. Identify the common features of the following Presidents and presidential candidates.

A. William Henry Harrison/Dwight Eisenhower _____

B. Grover Cleveland/Woodrow Wilson _____

C. Jimmy Carter/George H.W. Bush _____

D. Theodore Roosevelt/George Wallace _____

3. What major event ushered in the change of administration at the start of these eras?

A. the era of the Republicans _____

B. the second era of the Democrats _____

C. the era of divided government _____

4. Identify the Presidents described below.

A. the first—and last—Federalist Party President

B. the only two Whig Presidents

CORE WORKSHEET (continued)

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C. former President who tried to regain the presidency as the Bull Moose Party candidate

D. President who was elected to an unprecedented four terms during the second era of Democrats

5. Why do you think neither political party has dominated American politics for much of the time since 1968?

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SKILLS WORKSHEET

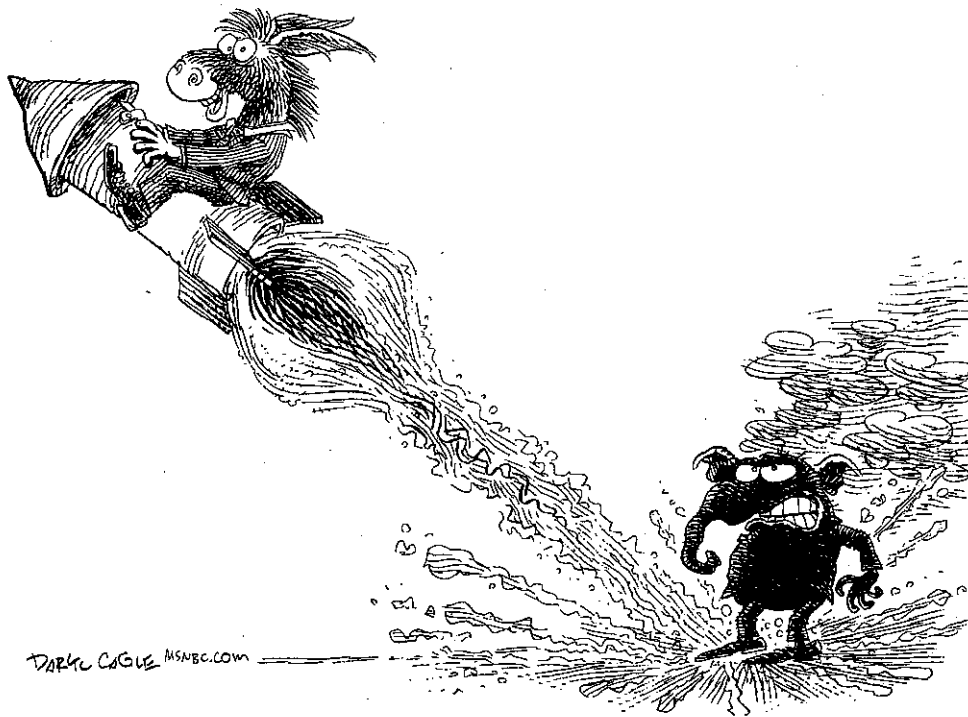
Two-Party System in American History

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Analyze Political Cartoons

In the midterm elections of November 2006, Democrats gained control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate for the first time since 1994. Large numbers of Democrats were also elected to State legislatures and governorships. The election was widely seen as evidence of Americans' dissatisfaction with the Iraq War, the federal government's response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster, and the growing federal deficit—all of which occurred under a Republican president and Congress.

Examine the political cartoon below, titled "Democrats Flying High" (dated November 8, 2006). Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.



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Apply the Skill

1. Identify the two characters in this cartoon. What do they represent?
2. What symbol does the cartoonist use to represent the Democrats' victory in the 2006 elections?
3. Does the cartoonist think Democrats and Republicans will work together well as a result of the election? Explain your answer.
4. Why is the cartoon titled "Democrats Flying High"?

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SKILL ACTIVITY

Two-Party System in American History

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Analyze Political Cartoons

In the elections of November 2006, Democrats gained control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate for the first time since 1994. Many Democrats were also elected to state legislatures and governorships. Americans had used their votes to express their unhappiness with the Iraq War, the federal government's clumsy response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster, and the growing federal deficit—all of which occurred under a Republican President and Congress.

Examine the political cartoon below. Its title is "Democrats Flying High," and it appeared on November 8, 2006. This was right after the elections. Answer the questions that follow the cartoon on a separate sheet of paper.



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Apply the Skill

1. What are the two characters in this cartoon? What do they represent?
2. How does the cartoonist show the Democrats' victory in the 2006 elections?
3. How are the characters in the cartoon feeling?
4. Does the cartoonist think Democrats and Republicans will work well together after the election? Why or why not?