

Political Parties: Guided Reading: Lesson 2 Political Parties Today

Guided Reading

POLITICAL PARTIES

Lesson 2 *Political Parties Today*

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do citizens, both individually and collectively, influence government policy?

Organization of Political Parties

1. **Explaining** Every four years both the Democratic and the Republican Parties have a national convention. The conventions are always held in a major American city. What happens at these conventions?

2. **Describing** As you read, answer the questions that follow.

Define *precinct captain*: _____

Provide three examples of the responsibilities of a precinct captain.

3. **Defining** What is a political machine?

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Selecting Party Candidates

Explaining As you read the text, describe and define the terms and these methods of selecting candidates.

4. Direct primary:

5. Closed primary:

6. Open primary:

7. Plurality:

8. Majority:

9. Petition:

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Other Political Party Functions

10. **Describing** After nomination, candidates need the support of their parties in order to win the general election. In what ways do political parties help their candidates win elections?

11. **Identifying** When parties help candidates and voters connect, government works better. In what ways are political ideas communicated?

Summarizing Political parties affect how government operates. Answer the questions to identify effects that political parties have on government.

12. How do political parties affect the legislative branch?

13. How do political parties affect the executive branch?

14. List one way that political parties affect the how levels of government are linked.

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

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15. **Defining** The political party that loses an election is called the opposition party. How does the opposition party act as a watchdog?
