

Guided Reading Activity

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Political Parties

Lesson 1 *Development of Political Parties*

Review Questions

Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

I. Functions of Political Parties

- A. Although the Constitution does not provide for _____, they are an integral part of the American democratic system.
- B. Political parties _____ the public and involve people in the _____ process.
- C. Political parties play a key role in running the _____ and they dispense favors, or _____, to their members.
- D. While the winning party works to implement its key policy initiatives, the party not in power assumes the role of "_____."
- E. A key function of political parties is their contribution to political _____ as transfers of power take place peacefully.

II. Party Systems

- A. _____ are usually found in nations with authoritarian governments.
- B. _____ like that of the United States are less common than the multi-party systems.
- C. Multi-party systems are more common in countries with _____ governments.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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III. Evolution of American Parties

- A. The _____ wanted a strong central government but the Democratic-Republicans believed that the _____ should have more power.
- B. The Democrat-Republican party split into _____ and National Republicans, or _____.
- C. Today's _____ Party was formed to oppose slavery in the years just prior to the Civil War.
- D. Since the Civil War, the political scene has been dominated by the _____ Party and the _____ Party.

IV. Minor or Third Parties

- A. Minor, or _____, are generally _____ parties, ideological parties, or _____ parties.
- B. Minor parties, such as Theodore Roosevelt's _____, have influenced the outcome of national elections.
- C. Third parties face difficulties getting onto _____, being elected under _____ districts, and getting funding and _____ coverage.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How can a strong third-party candidate impact the two-party system in the United States?
