

# Guided Reading Activity

**networks**

## Political Parties

### Lesson 3 *Party Organization and Nominating Candidates*

#### Review Questions

**Directions:** Read each main idea. Use your text to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

**A. Main Idea:** Within each political party, the local, state, and national levels operate independently of the national organization.

1. **Detail:** At the \_\_\_\_\_ level, parties select candidates and provide information to attract \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **Detail:** At the \_\_\_\_\_ level, parties help elect party candidates for state offices, provide assistance to local parties, and raise \_\_\_\_\_.
3. **Detail:** Party \_\_\_\_\_ provides a way for citizens to increase their influence on government.
4. **Detail:** A successful political party must have a dedicated core of willing \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. Main Idea:** One of the vital functions of political parties is to nominate candidates for elected office.

1. **Detail:** Candidates get their names on the ballot by paying a filing \_\_\_\_\_ or through the \_\_\_\_\_ method.
2. **Detail:** Political candidates are nominated through primary elections, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or a combination of these.
3. **Detail:** A direct primary may be either a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, for members of that party only, or an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, in which all voters may participate.
4. **Detail:** In most states, a primary candidate needs a \_\_\_\_\_ rather than a majority vote to win.

# Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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5. **Detail:** Some state presidential primaries are winner-take-all, while in others the delegates are distributed among the candidates in a process called \_\_\_\_\_.

6. **Detail:** A major criticism of the \_\_\_\_\_ primary system is that it is a long, costly, exhausting process.

**C. Main Idea:** Every four years, each major party gathers during July or August in a national convention.

1. **Detail:** Every four years, each major party holds a national convention to select a \_\_\_\_\_ for the general election.

2. **Detail:** At the convention, delegates debate the individual \_\_\_\_\_ before adopting the party \_\_\_\_\_, a statement of the party's principles, beliefs, and positions on vital issues.

3. **Detail:** Although there is rarely a mystery about who will be \_\_\_\_\_, the state-by-state vote of the delegates is an important part of the convention.

4. **Detail:** The \_\_\_\_\_ candidate is generally selected by the \_\_\_\_\_ nominee and automatically nominated by the convention.

## Summary and Reflection

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

If there is rarely a mystery about who will be nominated at a party's national convention, how do these conventions influence American democracy?

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