Intro to Political Parties

Current Events

http://vimeo.com/17426143

What are political parties...

- What are the major political parties today?
- Why are Political parties important?
- How did the first Political Parties emerge?
- The first political parties:
 - Federalists
 - Democratic-Republicans

Emergence of Political Parties

- Attacks on President Washington by Thomas Jefferson supporters.
- Hamilton and Jefferson disagreed on many issued
 - Economic Policy
 - Foreign Relations
 - Power of the federal government
 - Interpreting the Constitution

Good or Bad?

- In the late 1700s, many Americans believed the emergence of political parties would be a bad thing; and even potentially dangerous.
- Even George Washington opposed the creation of Political Parties. Why?

Washington's position

- Writes his concerns in a Farwell
 Address as he leaves the Presidency:
 - Fears a threat to Unity
 - Believes Political parties will lead to revenge seeking behavior against political opponents.
 - Make us vulnerable to foreign nations influence on national affairs.
 - Weaken National Security



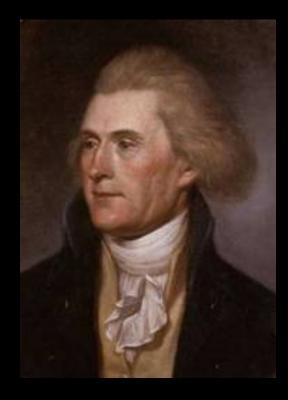
Federalists vs Democratic-Republicans

Alexander Hamilton



Thomas Jefferson

VS.



Federalists

- Led by Alexander Hamilton:
 - Rule By the Wealthy class
 - Strong Federal Government
 - Emphasis on manufactured products
 - Loose interpretation of the Constitution (Implied Powers)
 - Favor an alliance with the British
 - National Bank
 - Protective Tariffs

Democratic-Republicans

- Led by Thomas Jefferson
 - Rule by the people
 - Strong State Governments
 - Emphasis on Agricultural products
 - Strict interpretation of the Constitution
 - Favor an alliance with the French
 - State Banks
 - Free Trade and Free Markets

CAUSES:

EFFECTS:

- Different philosophies of government
- Conflicting interpretations of the Constitution
- Different economic and regional interests
- Disagreement over foreign affairs

- Federalists and Democratic-Republicans propose different solutions
- The two parties nominate candidates
- Clear division in beliefs
- Political parties become a way of American life.

The Election of 1796

- In the presidential election of 1796, candidates sought office for the first time as members of a party rather than as individuals.
- To prepare for the election, the parties held meetings called caucuses, where members of Congress and other leaders chose their party's candidates for office.
- The Federalists nominated Vice President John Adams as their candidate for president, while the Republicans chose Thomas Jefferson.

The Election of 1796

Adams received 71 electoral votes, winning the election.

Jefferson, who finished second with 68 votes, became the new vice president, even though he represented a different party from the elected president.

Political Parties Today

Republicans

- More power to people and states
- Lower taxes for everyone
- Less gun control
- Marriage between a man and a woman

Democrats

- Larger federal government
- Lower taxes for *lower* income
- More gun control
- Pro Gay marriage



Federalists

Leader: Alexander Hamilton

Favored:

- ★ Rule by the wealthy class
- ★ Strong federal government
- ★ Emphasis on manufactured products
- Loose interpretation of the Constitution
- ★ British alliance
- ★ National bank
- ★ Protective tariffs

Democratic-Republicans

Leader: Thomas Jefferson

Favored:

- ★ Rule by the people
- ★ Strong state governments
- ★ Emphasis on agricultural products
- ★ Strict interpretation of the Constitution
- ★ French alliance
- ★ State banks
- ★ Free trade

Closing Activity

- Select 2 groups of 4 students to represent one of the two political parties (Federalists and Democratic-Republicans).
- In a school issue (or relevant issue to students) have them construct an argument based the principles these groups stood for.
 - Create Slogan, Come up with 3 main points, and select a spokesperson to represent the group in front of the class.
 - Remaining students will do a short writing activity to draw on knowledge gained from lecture. Then later vote on which party they would belong to as both groups present.