

SS.7.C.2.8

Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government.

Two Major Parties: Democratic & Republican

Democratic

- More likely to favor large government programs
 - especially "social programs" (healthcare, anti-poverty, etc)
- More likely to favor government regulations & government involvement in the economy
- generally, the Democratic Party is more popular in urban areas, the Northeast & the West Coast

Republican

- Founded by anti-slavery groups in the 1850's (just before the Civil War)
- More likely to be in favor of lower taxes and less government

Minor Parties

- dozens of minor parties, but they can all be called "Third Parties"
 - some are single-issue parties
 - others are based on a popular leader
 - "Ideological" parties are based on strongly-held opinions
 - ideological parties can last for many years even if they don't win elections
 - Biggest third party is the Libertarian Party
 - an ideological party, believes in maximum freedom for individuals with very little government interference