Name _____ Date _____

THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™
The Presidents & The Political Parties Prism

Introduction:

Many of the founders warned that political parties would divide the country into competing factions. Nevertheless, it didn't take long for political parties to develop early in America. The parties promoted the interests of their members and aimed to craft an America based on their policies.

Today, it's hard to imagine presidential politics without political parties, and the two-party system is currently the standard in the American electoral system. In fact, a Democrat or a Republican has occupied the White House since the election of 1852. Let's take a look at the spectrum of parties that have supported winning candidates in the White House.

Questions:

1. How many U.S. presidential elections were won by a candidate with no political party?

2. What do political parties promote?

3. What two political parties make up our current two-party system?

4. What political party has the most wins for the presidency?

5. What party was named for its support of a federal constitution?

6. What two parties arose from a splintering of the Democratic-Republican party?

7. The Whig party formed in opposition to what president?

8. When was the last presidential election that was *not* won by a Democratic or Republican candidate?

9. What groups joined together to form the Republican party?

10. What are some differences between the Democratic and Republican parties today?

Answer Key

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Today, it's hard to imagine presidential politics without political parties, and the two-party system is currently the standard in the American electoral system. In fact, a Democrat or a Republican has occupied the White House since the election of 1852. Let's take a look at the spectrum of parties that have supported winning candidates in the White House.

Questions:

1. How many U.S. presidential elections were won by a candidate with no political party?

   Two; One president, George Washington

2. What do political parties promote?

   The interests of their members, to craft an America based on their policies

3. What two political parties make up our current two-party system?

   Democratic and Republican

4. What political party has the most wins for the presidency?

   Republican; 24 wins

5. What party was named for its support of a federal constitution?

   Federalist

6. What two parties arose from a splintering of the Democratic-Republican party?

   Democratic and Whig

7. The Whig party formed in opposition to what president?

   Andrew Jackson

8. When was the last presidential election that was *not* won by a Democratic or Republican candidate?

   1848 (They have occupied the White House since the election of 1852)

9. What groups joined together to form the Republican party?

   Whigs, Free-Soilers, and Northern Democrats

10. What are some differences between the Democratic and Republican parties today?

    Democratic - Active federal government, more liberal on social issues
    Republican - Stronger federal government, strong military, more conservative on social issues