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FIRST IN THE NATION

SHAPING PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS SINCE 1972



Curriculum Material

State Historical Museum of Iowa

Curriculum Suggestions

This material is designed for two or three class sessions. Learners and educators ought to review the vocabulary words as part of Day 1 Activities. The readings on pages 6-7 and 9-10 are a brief history of the caucuses and how caucuses are conducted. The information will provide a few answers to the crossword activity on page 8. Educators may wish to have students work on the crossword collaboratively.

The Day 2 activities can be selected at the discretion of educators. Activity 3—Picking a Party Symbol includes an art activity. Activity 4 may be rather brief. Teachers may prefer to show the television advertisements for Activity 5 as a group through a classroom computer and projector as the video from the Sen. Robert Dole Library advertisements are on YouTube.

Day 1 Material—Learn the Caucuses

Pages 3-4—Vocabulary Word Review

Page 5—Activity 1—Caucus Word Search

Page 6—What are the Caucuses?

Page 7—Why are the Iowa Caucuses Important?

Page 8—Activity 2—Caucus Crossword

Page 9—How are the Caucuses Different from Primaries?

Page 10—How do the Political Party Caucuses Work?

Day 2 Material—Presidential Politics

Page 11—Political Symbols

Pages 12—Activity 3—Picking a Party Symbol

Pages 13-14—Symbols of Presidential Candidates

Page 15—Activity 4—When Can You Run for President

Page 16-17—Activity 5—Analyzing Television Advertisements

Additional on-line resources and past caucus results follow Activity 5.

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Alignment with Educational Standards

This curriculum addresses the following standards and others in Social Studies from the Iowa Core for Grades 6-8.

- Understand historical patterns, periods of time and the relationships among these elements.
- Understand cause and effect relationships and other historical thinking skills in order to interpret events and issues.
- Understand the influences on individual and group behavior and group decision making.
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

The materials, online resources and activities contained in this guide are intended to supplement and enhance student learning around this exhibition and connect to applicable educational standards.

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Unless indicated photographs are courtesy of the Des Moines Register.

Themes

- Any candidate can be competitive in the Iowa caucuses
- Face-to-face campaigning is effective in Iowa.
- Candidates must meet or exceed expectations to continue a campaign.

Take Home Messages

- Iowans play a special role in the presidential selection process.
- Candidates use multiple strategies in campaigns.
- Iowans can participate in the caucuses in many ways.
- It is important for Iowans to participate in the caucuses.
- I should participate in the Iowa caucuses.

Introduction

Iowans play a special role in the presidential selection process in the United States. We hold the Iowa caucuses, the first presidential candidate selection contest. The Iowa caucuses gained this place in 1972 when the leaders of the Iowa Democratic Party moved their caucuses to January.

Sometimes people ask why Iowa should have this unique role. Iowa is a state with literate, educated and engaged citizens. Iowans take this role seriously and it is our civic obligation to participate in the caucus process and all elections. Iowans don't choose the president, they demonstrate which candidates have appealing messages and a well-organized campaign.

Critics of the Iowa caucuses question whether Iowa is a proper place to play this role. They wonder if Iowa is too rural, too conservative or not diverse enough to represent national interests.

Iowa's track record is pretty good. Every president since 1972 except Bill Clinton in 1992 has finished in the top three in the Iowa caucuses. In 2000 Iowans Republicans selected George W. Bush and in 2008 Iowa Democrats chose Barack Obama as their preferred candidates. Both won the presidency twice. Maybe Iowans do better than the critics think.

As learners discuss and discover the history of the Iowa caucuses and how the process works we hope they will be inspired to participate in a campaign and shape the future of our country.

Vocabulary

The world of politics has its own special language. A party isn't a fun celebration where cake is served, and a platform isn't something to stand on. Learn the lingo so you will be a more informed citizen.

Absentee ballot—a paper ballot that allows a registered voter to vote before Election Day. You can't use an absentee ballot at the Iowa caucuses.

Ballot—electronic or paper mechanism for voters to show their preferences.

Blue state—a state in which the majority of voters typically choose the Democratic candidate.

Candidate—someone who is running for elected office.

Caucus—a meeting at a local level that brings voters together to select delegates for political conventions.

Convention—meeting of party members.

Delegate—person chosen by his/her party to represent the party at a convention.

Dark horse—an underdog, a candidate not expected to do well.

Election—a time when voters can choose candidates.

Electoral college—System used for selecting the president and vice president. Each state receives the same number of electors as they have members of Congress, and the District of Columbia receives three electoral votes. To win, a candidate must receive 270 of the 538 available votes

Frontrunner—the leader at any given time during an election cycle.

Incumbent—current holder of political office.

Independent—a voter who is not registered with the Democratic or Republican party. In a general election independents are courted by candidates of both parties.

Landslide—victory when one candidate receives far more votes than his/her opponent.

Nominee—person selected by a political party to run for office. In some elections, only one person chooses to run and thus becomes the nominee without a primary.

PAC—Short for political action committee, a group that raises money to support or oppose a certain candidate. Some PACs are aligned with corporations, trade unions or special-interest groups. Many political advertisements today are produced by and paid for by PACs.

Party—group of people who share similar views.

Vocabulary (Continued)

Platform—statement of a candidate or a political party's stands and views on various issues.

Polls—the place where people go to vote. Polling places include schools, recreation centers and town halls. The term can also refer to opinion polls, which survey potential voters to find out which way they likely will vote.

Pols—short for politicians.

Precinct—the section a town, city or county is divided into when people vote in an election.

Primary—an election held by a political party before a national, state or local election to see where voters stand. Delegates to conventions are awarded to winners; rules vary by state.

Red state—a state in which the majority of voters typically choose Republican candidates.

Retail politics—the face-to-face campaigning by candidates common in Iowa.

Stump speech—talk given by candidates to would-be voters. Phrase originated at a time when speeches were given outdoors, sometimes on the stump of a cut-down tree.

Suffrage—the right to vote in elections.

Third-party candidate—one who is not affiliated with the Republican or Democratic party.

Turnout—percentage of eligible voters who vote in a given election.

Viable—a presidential candidate group that reaches the 15 percent level at an Iowa Democratic caucus



Governor Mitt Romney of Massachusetts finished second in the Iowa Republican caucuses in both 2008 and 2012. He was the Republican nominee for president in 2012.

ACTIVITY 1: CAUCUS WORD SEARCH

N G I A P M A C E L E C T I O N
U C I T I Z E N C R Z J E U M O
Q G U D X S A B O I V O T E R R
Z P C N V L M P N W Q K A B O E
X R R H E L L Z V K W V D A L P
S E R Q M O H U E M I H I L F U
U C F V R P O I N H G S D L Z B
F I J N O I T U T I T S N O C L
F N D P F L O Y I L W U A T B I
R C E R T P I D O C A U C U S C
A T M I A L O W N H O O V E R A
G M O M L O S P E E C H E S Y N
E M C A P J Q P K B Z C G X A Q
J M R R W S I D E L E G A T E D
P J A Y I F R O N T R U N N E R
K B T H Y N O M I N A T I O N A

**Search For These Caucus-Related Words In The Above Grid.
(Look In The Vocabulary Words If You Need A Definition!)**

BALLOT

CAMPAIGN

CANDIDATE

CAUCUS

CITIZEN

CONSTITUTION

CONVENTION

DELEGATE

DEMOCRAT

ELECTION

FRONTRUNNER

HOOVER

NOMINATION

PLATFORM

POLLS

PRECINCT

PRIMARY

REPUBLICAN

SPEECHES

SUFFRAGE

VOTER



Q: What are the caucuses?

A: Caucuses are meetings of voters held in every precinct in Iowa. The caucuses are organized by political parties. In presidential election years, voters indicate their favorite candidate. Based on the results, candidates are awarded delegates, or representatives, to county political conventions. Later, at each of the 99 county conventions, representatives are chosen for larger conventions, which choose delegates to the national conventions. Delegates to the national conventions have the final say in picking the presidential nominee from each party. These delegates also help write the party's stand on key issues, known as a platform.

Q: When are the presidential caucuses held?

A: They are typically held on an evening in January or February, every four years. The ones that generate the most excitement are those, like the ones in 2008 or 2016, where several candidates from each party are vying to secure the nomination. If a sitting president is running for re-election, he is usually uncontested. That means that delegates from his party will renominate him.



Q: Where are the caucuses held?

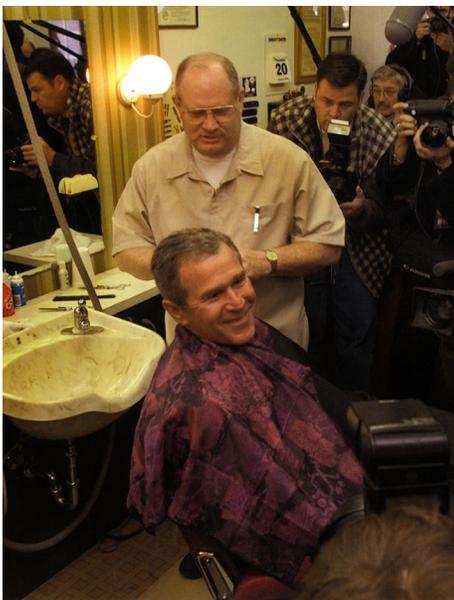
A: The caucuses are held in every Iowa precinct—more than 1,600 of them. Caucuses take place in schools, churches, town halls, recreation centers and even people's homes.

Q: Do the Republicans and Democrats meet in the same place?

A: No. though sometimes caucuses are held in the same building each party has its own meeting room. In addition, each party has different rules governing the procedures for selecting delegates.



Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter campaigns at the Iowa State Fair in 1976.



George W. Bush won the Iowa Republican caucus in 2000 and eventually became president. He is pictured here getting his haircut in Indianola in January of 2000..

Q: Why are the Iowa caucuses important?

A: "Iowa is important because it's the first time average Americans get a say in who the presidential nominees should be," explains David Yepsen, former chief political writer for *The Des Moines Register*. During his time in Iowa, he covered nine presidential campaign cycles. "Until caucus night, it's all about raising money and getting on TV."

Q: When did Iowa become first in the nation?

A: Although caucuses have been held since Iowa became a state, they took on more importance in 1972. That year, the date of the Democratic caucuses was moved up for several reasons. As a result, the caucuses occurred before primary elections in New Hampshire.

Suddenly, the eyes of candidates, reporters and voters nationwide were on Iowa. When George McGovern did better than expected in Iowa and went on to receive the Democratic presidential nomination, Iowa was believed to have made a difference. Our state offered "first in the nation" insights about how candidates and their opinions were viewed.

Q: Why is the 1976 caucus significant?

A: In 1975, Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter spent a lot of time traveling across Iowa meeting voters. At the time, he was not well-known outside of his home state of Georgia. On caucus night, more caucusgoers preferred Carter than any other Democratic candidate. As a result, would-be presidential candidates realized that they could not ignore the caucuses. 1976 was also the first year the Republican Party of Iowa held their caucus on the same date as the Democratic caucus. Since then, presidential contenders have flooded Iowa looking to do well in the caucuses.

ACTIVITY 2: CAUCUS CROSSWORD

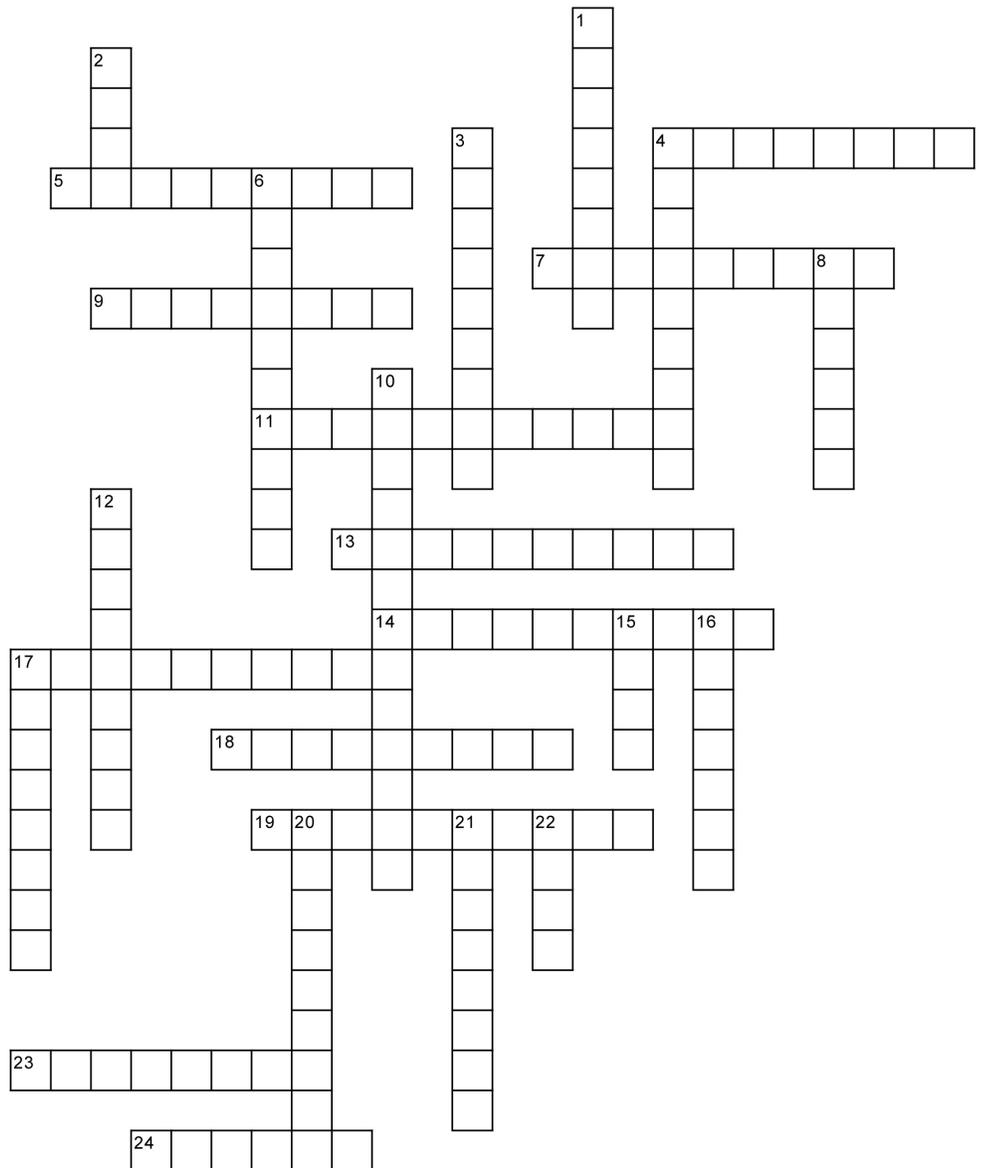
(Check the Vocabulary Words and Page 7 for a Few Hints)

ACROSS

- 4 Member of _____ (a senator or representative)
- 5 County in southeastern Iowa named after the third president
- 7 State bird of Iowa
- 9 First-in-the-nation events where voters show preferences for candidates
- 11 Voter not affiliated with a major political party
- 13 Political party unofficially represented by a donkey
- 14 Minimum age to be president
- 17 Town where Herbert Hoover was born
- 18 Capital of Iowa
- 19 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote
- 23 Ability to vote
- 24 Televised event where candidates answer questions

DOWN

- 1 Chief executive of a state
- 2 Synonym for cast a ballot
- 3 Representatives to political convention
- 4 Person who runs for elected office
- 6 Political party whose symbol is an elephant
- 8 Last name of candidate who rose to prominence after 1976 caucuses
- 10 Full name of only Iowa-born president
- 12 Huge victory by one candidate over others
- 15 Car maker's name or last name of only president who did not run for office as president or vice president
- 16 Former Iowa governor and Secretary of Agriculture for President Obama
- 17 State flower of Iowa
- 20 Current holder of a political office
- 21 Time when voters get to choose candidates
- 22 Last name of cartoonist who helped popularize symbols of political parties





Republicans and Democrats vote on platform issues at a caucus.

Q: How are caucuses different from primaries?

A: Many states, including New Hampshire, hold primary elections, also known as primaries. On primary day, citizens visit their polling places and vote anonymously, just as they do for other elections. Generally, the results dictate the number of delegates awarded to candidates for the national convention.

On the other hand, caucuses require voters to meet at a certain time on a specified day. Depending on a party's procedures, votes may not be anonymous. For example, at Iowa's Democratic caucuses, voters gather in preference groups, which means neighbors, friends and co-workers know everyone's views. At Iowa's Republican caucuses, however, voters select candidates anonymously.

Q: Who can participate in the Iowa caucuses?

A: Registered voters can participate. In addition, 17-year-olds who will be old enough to vote in the general election in November can participate. Children of all ages are generally welcome at caucuses, although they do not have a say in the delegates chosen.

It's not always easy for everyone who wants to participate in a caucus to do so. People who must work and those who have no transportation don't get a say. Neither do military members stationed outside of the state, people on vacation and those who must be away on business. The Iowa Democratic Party is promoting Satellite Caucuses and a Military Tele-Caucus to allow greater participation.



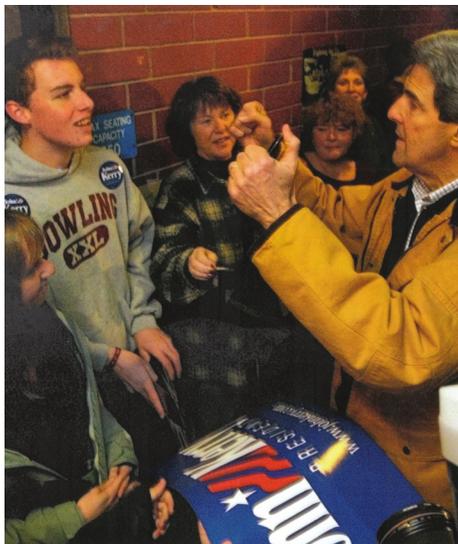
This board showed the results from the 1980 Democratic caucuses.

Q: Do other states hold caucuses?

Yes. These states include Maine, Minnesota and Wyoming.



You don't have to be an adult to attend your area caucus.



Young Iowans often get to meet presidential candidates.

How Do the Political Party Caucuses Work?

Individuals must reside in the precinct in which they wish to participate, and they must be registered with the political party they wish to caucus. Party registration is available on caucus night.

A Democratic Caucus

At a Democratic caucus, each candidate must attract enough supporters to be “viable” for the rest of the night. In most precincts, the “viability” number is 15 percent. So, in a room of 25, a candidate must have at least four supporters.

If one candidate does not meet the viability threshold, speakers from each of the groups can try to sway participants of the “non-viable” group or non-viable groups can try to recruit others to their side. After supporters have spoken, all groups must meet the “viability” threshold.

A Republican Caucus

Republican caucus participants cast a single ballot for their preferred presidential candidate. Sometimes a candidate will send a spokesperson to a caucus site to seek support. At the close of balloting, a caucus official reports the tallies to the state party. Results report the percentage of ballots won by each candidate.

The Republican presidential preference poll can take as little as 30 minutes, after which some participants leave. Those that remain select delegates selection and conduct platform discussions.

Political Symbols: Elephants, Donkeys and Moose, Oh My!

Both of the country's two major political parties are often symbolized by animals. The Republican Party, or GOP, uses an elephant. A donkey unofficially represents Democrats. It's easy to remember which is which: just think of the letter "D," and you'll remember that donkeys and Democrats go together. Have you ever wondered why these animals were chosen?

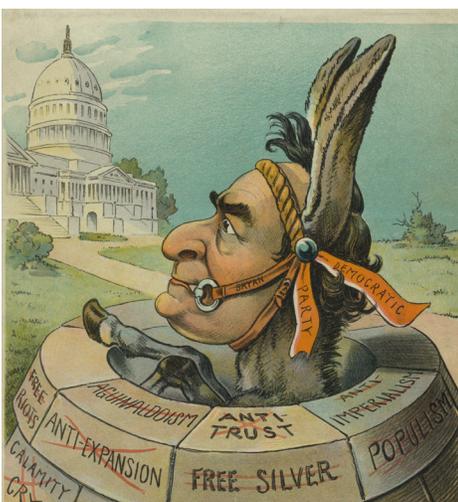
In the election of 1828, Democrat Andrew Jackson became associated with the donkey—but not in a good way. Opponents used the symbol to portray him in an unflattering light. Jackson did not want to give them the satisfaction of poking fun at him. Instead, he started using donkeys on campaign posters. More than 40 years later, cartoonist Thomas Nast drew a picture of a donkey representing a group of Democrats that opposed the Civil War. Gradually, the animal became the unofficial symbol of the party.

Nast gets credit for solidifying the link between Republicans and elephants. Although an elephant had been used to represent the party at least once before Nast did so, he popularized that image. In 1874, he used a pachyderm to represent "The Republican Vote." Soon others were using elephants to represent the party, too. Unlike the Democrats, the Republicans officially adopted the elephant as their symbol.

Elephants and donkeys aren't the only animals to represent political parties. In the election of 1912, the moose was the symbol of the Progressive Party. That year, former president Theodore Roosevelt sought the Republican nomination. He was unhappy with the policies of Republican President William Howard Taft. When Taft received the nomination instead of him, Roosevelt formed the Progressive Party and ran against him. The party was nicknamed the Bull Moose Party after Roosevelt proclaimed that he was as fit as a "bull moose."



This 1922 cartoon by Clifford Berryman shows that the elephant and donkey had become accepted symbols of the Republican and Democratic parties. (National Archives)



Puck, a magazine from England, used the donkey as a way to identify William Jennings Bryan as a Democrat in this 1899 cartoon. (Library of Congress)

Activity 3: Picking a Party Symbol

Imagine you are running for president. Instead of representing one of the two major political parties in the United States, you start your own party. Assuming that you need to pick an animal as a party symbol, which animal would you choose?

Here are some things to consider:

- Does your animal have favorable traits, such as courage? Would these traits be appropriate for your campaign/party platform?
- Would this animal be well known to people around the country? Do you think this is an important consideration? Why or why not?
- Is this animal controversial or unpopular in certain regions of the country? Among certain groups of people? How would this affect what people think or say about you?
- Can this animal be eaten for food? Do you think it would be a good idea to pick an animal that people eat? Why or why not?
- Would it be easy for your opponents to find something negative to say about this animal and use this information against you?
- Is the animal's name simple to say? Does it rhyme easily with other words if you are trying to create a catchy slogan?

Once you decide on the symbol, draw sketches that you could use when campaigning. What colors would you incorporate into the symbol? What would these colors represent?

Symbols of Presidential Candidates through the Years

Memorable symbols do more than identify the two main political parties in the United States. Sometimes presidential candidates use symbols, too. These symbols are designed to remind voters of a candidate's stand on an issue or their background. Here are some examples from the State Historical Society of Iowa's collections:

Goldbug, 1896

Does this campaign item make your skin crawl? This pin was worn by supporters of William McKinley in the election of 1896. McKinley, former governor of Ohio, faced William Jennings Bryan in a hard-fought contest. Three years earlier, the United States suffered an economic crisis known as the Panic of 1893. During hard times, banks failed and railroad companies collapsed. The economic crisis spurred a debate about the merits of tying the value of money to the value of gold or silver. McKinley and his backers believed in the gold standard, which is why gold bugs became a symbol of the Republican campaign. McKinley and his running mate, Garret Hobart, won the election. Sadly, Hobart died in office in 1899; McKinley was assassinated in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1901.



(State Historical Museum of Iowa)

Button with Felt Sunflower Petals and Elephant Charm, 1936

In the election of 1936, Alf Landon opposed Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt. At the time, Landon was governor of Kansas. Landon's campaign used an image of Kansas's state flower, a sunflower, on buttons and other items. This button lists the last name of the candidate and his running mate Frank Knox. It also includes an image of an elephant labeled "GOP." GOP stands for Grand Old Party, another name for the Republican Party. Surrounding the yellow and black button are felt "petals." Roosevelt won the election in a landslide victory. Knox later became Roosevelt's Secretary of Navy from 1940 until 1944.



(State Historical Museum of Iowa)

Symbols of Presidential Candidates through the Years (Continued)

Tie Clip in the Shape of a PT Boat, 1960

When John F. Kennedy ran for president, he had served in the U.S. Senate for more than seven years. He had also represented Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives. Still, the handsome candidate faced obstacles. He was young—only 43 years old. And voters had never elected a Catholic president. In the 1960 campaign, Kennedy highlighted his record as a war hero. During World War II, he was captain of PT-109. While on patrol in the Pacific, the boat was sunk by a Japanese destroyer. Kennedy helped get his injured crew to safety and swam to get aid. The crew was rescued. Kennedy never forgot that difficult time—and he didn't want voters to forget either. As a result, a PT boat became a symbol of his campaign. Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963.



(Image courtesy of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum)

Button, 1976

What do peanuts have to do with politics? A lot in the 1970s. In 1976, Democrat Jimmy Carter ran against Republican President Gerald Ford. Carter was a graduate of the Naval Academy. Before entering politics, he worked on nuclear submarines. His family business, though, gave the one-time Georgia governor a memorable symbol. After his time in the Navy, Carter moved back to the Plains, Georgia, area to run his family's peanut farm. Peanuts appeared on all types of campaign items, including this button. The peanut is depicted with a wide grin to mimic Carter's big smile. Carter was grinning on Election Night, too. He defeated Ford in 1976, but did not win re-election in 1980. Ronald Reagan defeated him in 1980.



(State Historical Museum of Iowa)

Foam Baseball Mitt, 2008

Republican Mitt Romney sought the presidency in 2008. This foam baseball mitt reminds voters of his name. Romney's first name was Willard, but everyone knew him by his middle name. A businessman, Romney was Massachusetts governor from 2003 until 2007. In 2008, he campaigned heavily in Iowa. However, he finished second behind Mike Huckabee in the Republican caucuses. He also finished second in the New Hampshire primary. Ultimately, Romney's effort failed. That summer, Republicans chose Senator John McCain as their nominee. Four years later, Romney tried again. In 2012, he secured the Republican nomination. In the general election, voters re-elected President Barack Obama.



(State Historical Museum of Iowa)

A Female President? A First Man?

In 1990, First Lady Barbara Bush spoke at a college graduation. She made a point of saying that a president's spouse might not always be a first lady. "Somewhere out in this audience may even be someone who will one day follow in my footsteps and preside over the White House as the president's spouse, and I wish him well."

The United States has never elected a female president. Argentina, Brazil, Germany, India, South Korea and the United Kingdom are just some of the countries that have chosen a female president or prime minister. Perhaps in your lifetime, there will be a female president living in the White House.

If that happens, no one is sure what title will be bestowed on the president's husband. Will he be a first spouse? A first gentleman? And what will his responsibilities be? Will he have to plan parties? Will anyone care what he wears? Only time will tell.

Activity 4: When Can You Run for President?

The United States Constitution has three requirements to be eligible for the presidency. A presidential candidate must be a natural born citizen of the United States, a resident for 14 years and 35 years of age or older.

You don't have to be born in the United States to be a presidential candidate. If your parents are citizens of the U.S. and you are born in a foreign country you can be president. For example 2008 Republican candidate John McCain was born in Panama. Because his parents were U.S. citizens, he was eligible to run for the presidency.

Do you dream of becoming president of the United States one day? Calculate the first year that you would be eligible to be a presidential candidate.

Remember that the president and vice president of the United States must be at least 35 years old on Inauguration Day. Presidential elections occur every four years, and Inauguration Day currently takes place in January following the election.

Example: If you will turn 35 in 2039, you will be eligible to be on the ballot for the 2040 presidential election. However, if you will be 35 in February 2040, you won't be eligible to run for president until the 2044 election.

Contact the Iowa Democratic Party or Iowa Republican Party to learn how you can help a candidate in the caucus.

Activity 5: Analyzing Television Ads

Objectives: Compare and contrast advertisements; think critically about their content.

View and Analyze Campaign Ads

Televised political ads have become an important part of the election process in the United States. Candidates choose to run different types of ads for different reasons.

Some ads are designed to portray the candidate or his/her strengths in a positive way. Conversely, others are created to show an opponent (or the opponent's qualifications) in a negative light.

In other cases, ads are issue-based. This means that a candidate or supporters of the candidate take a particular campaign issue and highlight it. In doing so, viewers may learn where the candidate stands on an issue or how the candidate's experience makes him/her ideally suited to tackle that issue.

For example, a war veteran might make the case for supporting the military and understanding the issues involved in sending troops overseas. Conversely, an ad may show an opponent's lack of experience with a particular issue. It may also aim to convince viewers that an opponent lacks good judgment on a particular issue based on previous decisions.

Below are links to various political ads. Have the students view some or all of the ads individually, in groups or as a class. Here are some questions to guide your discussion:

- Is the ad designed primarily to tell you about a candidate or an issue?
- Does the ad portray the candidate in a positive way or an opponent in a negative light? Or both?
- What words or images can you cite to support your choice?
- What role, if any, does the choice of music help to convey the tone of the ad?
- Does the ad provide specific facts to support its stand?
- For issue-based ads, how important are the specific issues today?
- In the "Daisy" ad, why do you think the candidate chose to show a child?
- In the "Welfare" ad, do you think the type of worker gives you a clue to the target audience?

Activity 5: Analyzing Television Ads (Continued)

Daisy Ad (“Peace Little Girl”)

Year: 1964

Candidates: President Lyndon Johnson (D) and Barry Goldwater (R)

www.livingroomcandidate.org/commercials/1964/peace-little-girl-daisy

Welfare Ad

Year: 1972

Candidates: President Richard Nixon (R) and Senator George McGovern (D)

www.livingroomcandidate.org/commercials/1972/mcgovern-welfare

Essence Ad

Year: 1976

Candidates: Jimmy Carter (D) and President Gerald Ford (R)

www.livingroomcandidate.org/commercials/1976

Bob Dole Ad

Year: 1988

Candidates: Bob Dole (R) and George H.W. Bush (R)—caucus ad

www.youtube.com/watch?v=tx6Sp8h_WAw

Barack Obama Ad

Year: 2008

Candidates: Barack Obama (D) and John McCain (R)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaU3fjVAFbE

Who Can Vote?

When Iowa became a state in 1846 the state had three requirements to participate in elections.

Iowa in 1846

- A U.S. citizen
- White
- Male

Today in Iowa

- Lived in the state 6 months
- A U.S. citizen
- An Iowa resident
- At least 18 years old

(for the caucuses you can participate if you will be 18 years old by election day .)

- Cannot be a convicted felon, unless your voting rights have been restored
- Must not be judged mentally incompetent in vote by a court

If you are passionate for a candidate or a cause join the campaign! You can help no matter your age.

On-Line Resources—Links to Help You Learn

American Political Items Collectors

www.apic.us/

This non-profit organization is dedicated to the collection, study and preservation of presidential campaign items.

Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics/ Iowa State University

cattcenter.las.iastate.edu

Includes Archives of Women's Political Communication, where you can browse campaign speeches and political ads of female candidates.

Des Moines Register Caucus Site

www.desmoinesregister.com/iowa-caucuses/

This comprehensive web site offers information on all the candidates, photos, videos, information about upcoming events and results of caucuses starting in 1972.

Goldfinch Magazine Issues

(onetime history magazine for young readers published by State Historical Society of Iowa):

“Carrie Chapman Catt and Woman Suffrage” (September 1989)
ir.uiowa.edu/goldfinch/40/

“From Iowa to the White House” (September 1988)
ir.uiowa.edu/goldfinch/36/

“Winnowing the Field: Candidates, Caucuses and Presidential Elections” (November 1991)
ir.uiowa.edu/goldfinch/49/



On-Line Resources (Continued)

Iowa Caucus Consortium

www.catchdesmoines.com/iowacaucus/

A project of the Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitor Bureau, this site includes history, events calendar and information for media.

Iowa Democratic Party

www.iowademocrats.org/

Official site of the state Democratic Party, it includes information on candidates, issues and events.



Kids Voting USA

www.kidsvotingusa.org

This organization aims to create life-long voting habits in children through education, mock elections and more.

Northeastern University Political Conventions and Campaigns

conventions.cps.neu.edu/history/1789-1832/

This site tells the history of campaigns and conventions, including the role of debates.



Republican Party of Iowa

www.iowagop.org/

Official site of the state Republican Party, it includes information on candidates, issues and events.

VoteSmart

www.votesmart.org

Non-partisan site that provides information about politician's positions, past votes and speeches. Search by ZIP code for local politicians, or type in a name to learn more about those

Results of Iowa Caucuses, 1972-2012

1972

Democratic Party Winners: Uncommitted (35.8 %), Edmund Muskie (35.5 %) and George McGovern (22.6 %)

Republican Party Winners: The Republicans held a caucus later in the spring. President Nixon won.

Nominees at National Conventions: George McGovern (D) and Richard Nixon (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: Richard Nixon

1976

Democratic Party Winners: Uncommitted (37.2 %), Jimmy Carter (27.6%) and Birch Bayh (13.2%)

Republican Party Winners: Straw poll in select precincts; Gerald Ford edged Ronald Reagan

Nominees at National Conventions: Jimmy Carter (D) and Gerald Ford (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: Jimmy Carter

1980

Democratic Party Winners: Jimmy Carter (59.1%), Edward Kennedy (31.2%) and Uncommitted (9.6%)

Republican Party Winners: George H.W. Bush (31.6%), Ronald Reagan (29.5%) and Howard Baker (15.3%)

Nominees at National Conventions: Jimmy Carter (D) and Ronald Reagan (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: Ronald Reagan

1984

Democratic Party Winners: Walter Mondale (48.9%), Gary Hart (16.5%) and George McGovern (10.3%)

Republican Party Winners: President Ronald Reagan was unopposed for renomination.

Nominees at National Conventions: Walter Mondale (D) and Ronald Reagan (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: Ronald Reagan

1988

Democratic Party Winners: Richard Gephardt (31.3%), Paul Simon (26.7%) and Michael Dukakis (22.2%)

Republican Party Winners: Bob Dole (37.4%), Pat Robertson (24.6%) and George H.W. Bush (18.6%)

Nominees at National Conventions: Michael Dukakis (D) and George H.W. Bush (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: George H.W. Bush

1992

Democratic Party Winners: Tom Harkin (76.4%), Uncommitted (11.9%) and Paul Tsongas (4.1%)

Republican Party Winners: President George H.W. Bush was unopposed for renomination

Nominees at National Conventions: Bill Clinton (D) and George H.W. Bush (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: Bill Clinton

Results of Iowa Caucuses, 1972-2012 (continued)

1996

Democratic Party Winners: President Bill Clinton was unopposed for renomination.

Republican Party Winners: Bob Dole (26%), Pat Buchanan (23%) and Lamar Alexander (17.6%)

Nominees at National Conventions: Bill Clinton (D) and Bob Dole (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: Bill Clinton

2000

Democratic Party Winners: Al Gore (63%), Bill Bradley (35%) and Uncommitted (2%)

Republican Party Winners: George W. Bush (41%), Steve Forbes (30%) and Alan Keyes (14%)

Nominees at National Conventions: Al Gore (D) and George W. Bush (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: George W. Bush

2004

Democratic Party Winners: John Kerry (37.6%), John Edwards (31.9%) and Howard Dean (18%)

Republican Party Winners: President George W. Bush was unopposed for renomination.

Nominees at National Conventions: John Kerry (D) and George W. Bush (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: George W. Bush

2008

Democratic Party Winners: Barack Obama (37.6%), John Edwards (29.8%) and Hillary Clinton (29.5%)

Republican Party Winners: Mike Huckabee (34.4%), Mitt Romney (25.2%) and Fred Thompson (13.4%)

Nominees at National Conventions: Barack Obama (D) and John McCain (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: Barack Obama

2012

Democratic Party Winners: President Barack Obama was unopposed for renomination.

Republican Party Winners: Rick Santorum (24.6%), Mitt Romney (24.6%) and Ron Paul (21.5%)

Nominees at National Conventions: Barack Obama (D) and Mitt Romney (R)

Winner of Presidential Election: Barack Obama

Source: Caucus results obtained from the Des Moines Register Iowa Caucuses site.
Visit www.desmoinesregister.com/iowa-caucuses/ to see results of other candidates.

Museum Hours:

Monday through Saturday,
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, Noon - 4:30 p.m.

Closed official state holidays.
Admission is free.

Address and Directions

State of Iowa Historical
Building (Des Moines) 600
East Locust Des Moines, IA
50319 515-281-5111 Take
the E. 6th Street exit off
Interstate 235.

Parking

Buses unload and load
under the portico at the
Locust Street entrance. After
unloading, buses must move
out of the portico area. The
best location for bus parking
is on Finkbine Drive, west
of the Capitol steps. Free
parking for cars is available
in the parking garage north
of the building on Grand
Avenue. There is metered
parking on Locust St. and
Grand Ave

VISITOR INFORMATION

School Tours

For tour information and scheduling, contact

Chaperones and Guest Behavior

One chaperone (adult) is recommended per ten students. Chaperones are expected to stay with their groups and maintain appropriate behavior, including walking slowly up and down the stairs and not running in the exhibits.

Food, drink, gum, and candy are not allowed in the exhibits. Photographs may be taken. Lunches can be eaten inside the atrium depending on the weather or outside on the Grand Terrace if prior arrangements have been made.

Arrival

Check in at the Information Desk so we know your group has arrived. Restrooms and water fountains are located east of the front entrance and behind the stairs on every floor. Please accompany your group to check appropriate behavior. Wheelchairs and strollers are available for use.

School groups sit on the main stairs for an orientation before they go into the exhibits. If arrangements had been made, they will receive Discovery questions, Bingo sheets or Treasure Hunts to use in the exhibits or just go around them accompanied by their chaperones.

Exhibit Location

The exhibit is located in the Resource Room on the first floor of the museum.