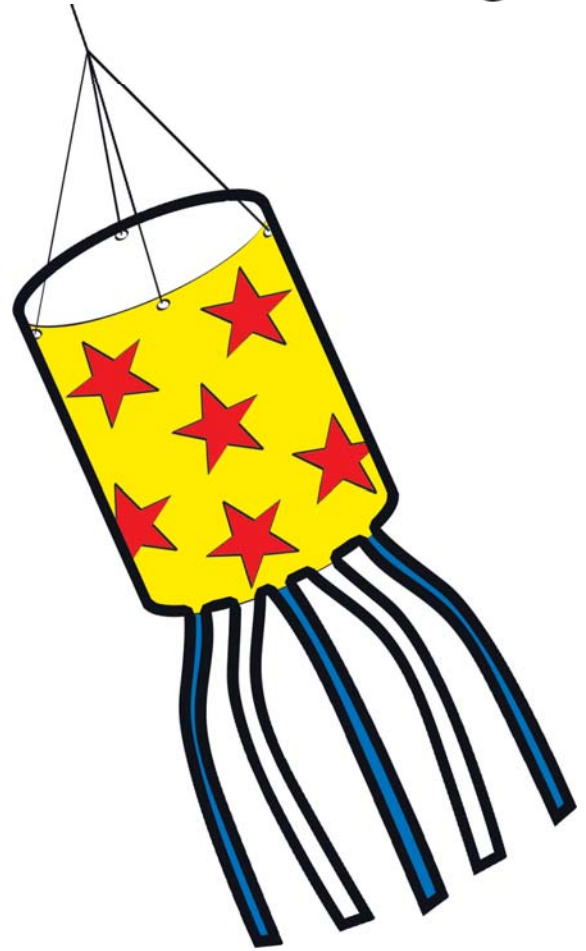


What's a Political Party?

Have your students heard the terms "Republican" and "Democrat?" Do they wonder what those words mean? Explain that a political party is a group of people who join together because they share similar opinions about issues facing their community and their nation. They usually want laws and decisions made that favor their opinions. Political parties urge voters to support their candidates in elections. They publicize their candidates through the use of signs, and advertisements on television, radio, and in newspapers. There are other political parties besides the Republicans and Democrats. Many people don't even belong to a political party. They call themselves "independents." Blowin' In the Wind!



Activity:

Patriotic Windsock

Description:

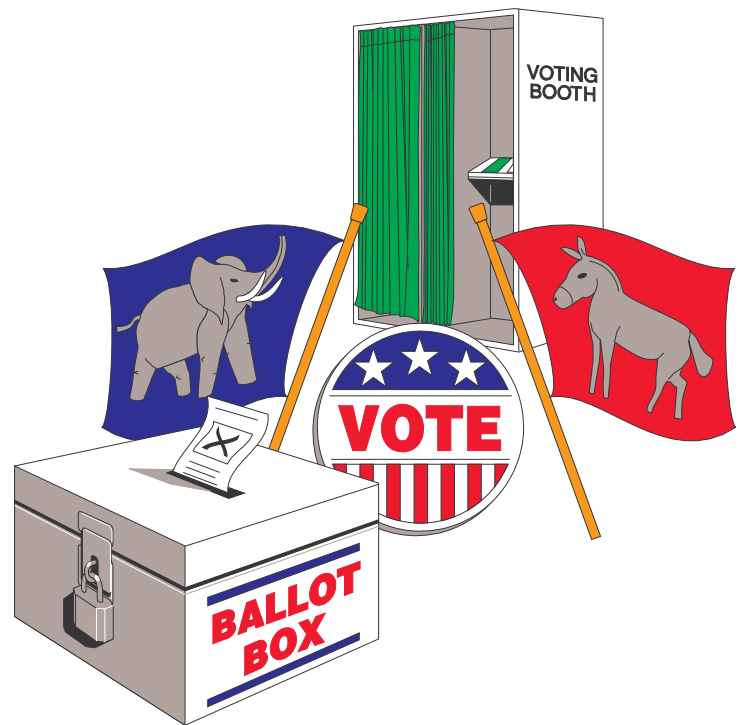
This is a fun art activity making windsocks to celebrate political parties. Explain to students that the Republican party uses an elephant for its mascot, and the Democratic party uses a donkey. Use the directions below to make a windsock for the American political parties.

Objective:

Familiarize students with the two major political parties in the United States and their mascots. Both the donkey and elephant mascots originated in political cartoons in the 1870s.

Materials:

Cylindrical cardboard oatmeal boxes or 9"x12" tagboard, white or yellow construction paper, red and white crepe paper to make streamers, white yarn or strong ribbon, glue, stapler, scissors, and a hole punch.



What to Do:

1. Use scissors to cut off the bottom of the cylindrical box. Tagboard can be rolled into a cylinder and glued in place.
2. Glue construction paper all over the windsock. Then draw pictures of either an elephant or a donkey. You can draw some stars around the animal for decorations, or anything else you'd like!
3. Cut equal sections of red and white crepe paper streamers. Staple them to the bottom of the windsock.
4. Punch four holes along the top of the windsock. Cut two 12" lengths of yarn or ribbon. Tie the ends of the yarn pieces to the holes on the opposite sides.
5. Tie a longer piece of yarn to the smaller pieces. Hang your patriotic windsock from your window or porch by the longer piece of yarn! Cut off bottom of cylindrical box.
6. Hang your patriotic windsock! Punch holes along the top of windsock.

