Votes and Vetoes

Compare the appeals and policies of Democratic and Whig presidents.

6-12.US1.25 "Compare the political differences and similarities among Democratic and Whig presidents from 1825 to 1860, including but not limited to: • Expansion of voting rights • Rise of the Democratic Party • The Spoils System • Jackson's veto of..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two political differences between Democrats and Whigs, and circle one way they were alike in seeking voters.

A Growing Rivalry

1. In 1825, John Quincy Adams entered the White House after the House of Representatives chose him from an election with no electoral majority. By 1828, Andrew Jackson's supporters had organized the Democratic Party and won the presidency. States had been dropping property rules for voting, bringing many more white men to the polls. Women and most Black Americans still could not vote. Democrats presented Jackson as a defender of ordinary white voters. Jackson also rewarded political supporters with government jobs, a practice called the spoils system. His opponents argued that this practice put party loyalty ahead of ability.

2. Jackson and his opponents disagreed about federal power, but neither side held a simple position on it. In 1832, Jackson vetoed a bill to renew the charter of the Second Bank of the United States. He said the bank favored wealthy interests. Many opponents wanted a national bank and later joined the Whig Party. Yet Jackson acted forcefully when South Carolina claimed it could reject federal tariffs. The 1828 Tariff of Abominations had angered many southerners. During the Nullification Crisis, Jackson opposed the state's claim, and Congress passed a lower tariff and a law authorizing force in 1833.

3. In 1840, Whigs ran William Henry Harrison against Democratic president Martin Van Buren. Their log cabin campaign pictured Harrison as a man of the people, even though he came from a wealthy family. Like Democrats, Whigs sought votes from the growing white male electorate. Unlike Jackson's Democrats, many Whigs supported a national bank and federal help for roads and canals. Harrison won but died soon after taking office. Harrison's vice president, John Tyler, became president and vetoed Whig bills to create a new national bank. The dispute showed that a president linked to a party did not always support that party's plans.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did changes in voting help both Jackson's Democrats and Harrison's Whigs seek support? Who remained outside this expansion?

2. How were Jackson's and Tyler's bank vetoes alike, and what different bank bills did they block?

3. How did Jackson's actions on the bank and nullification show different uses of federal power?

4. How did the Whigs' 1840 log cabin message resemble the Democrats' appeal to voters, and how did their bank positions differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word exchange between a Democratic voter and a Whig voter in 1840. Give them different views of a national bank, a shared reason to seek votes, and a recognition of someone left out of voting.

ANSWER KEY

Votes and Vetoes

GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.US1.25

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two political differences between Democrats and Whigs, and circle one way they were alike in seeking voters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did changes in voting help both Jackson's Democrats and Harrison's Whigs seek support? Who remained outside this expansion?	**As states dropped property rules, both parties sought votes from more white men. Women and most Black Americans still could not vote.**
2	How were Jackson's and Tyler's bank vetoes alike, and what different bank bills did they block?	**Both vetoed national bank bills. Jackson blocked renewal of the existing bank's charter, while Tyler blocked Whig bills to create a new bank.**
3	How did Jackson's actions on the bank and nullification show different uses of federal power?	**Jackson vetoed the bank renewal bill because he said the bank favored wealthy interests. He also defended federal authority by opposing South Carolina's claim that it could reject federal tariffs.**
4	How did the Whigs' 1840 log cabin message resemble the Democrats' appeal to voters, and how did their bank positions differ?	**Both parties appealed to white male voters by presenting their candidate as a defender of ordinary people. Many Whigs supported a national bank, while Jackson's Democrats opposed it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Democratic voter: Jackson was right to veto the bank's renewal. A national bank gives wealthy people too much influence, so I want Van Buren to resist a new one.
Whig voter: A national bank could help steady the economy. I want Harrison to support one.
Democratic voter: We both need the votes of more white men now that many states have dropped property rules.
Whig voter: Yes, but our talk of ordinary voters leaves women out of the polls.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons. For the exchange, look for distinct bank positions, a shared appeal to the expanded white male electorate, and an accurate voting exclusion.