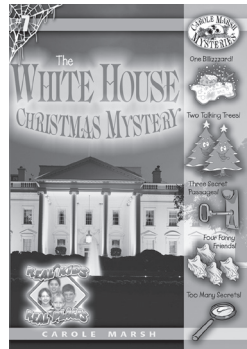
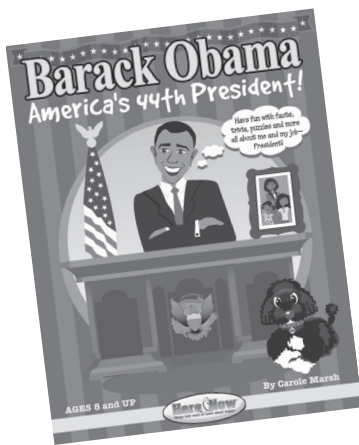


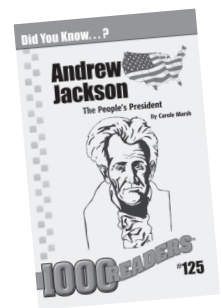
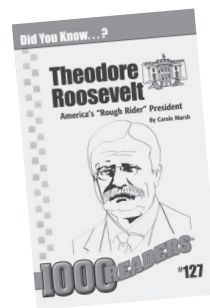
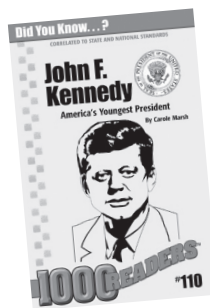
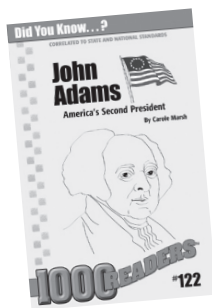
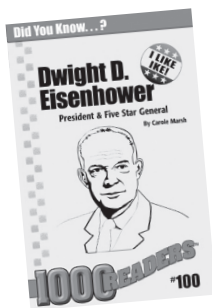
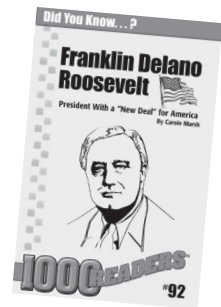
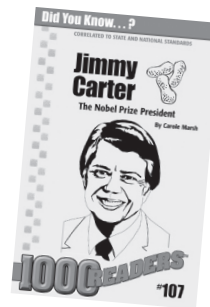
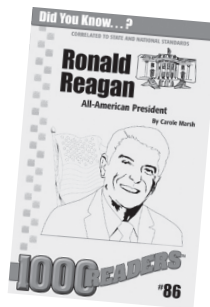
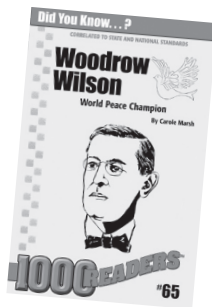
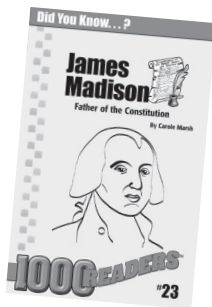
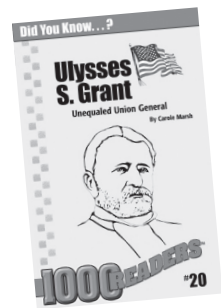
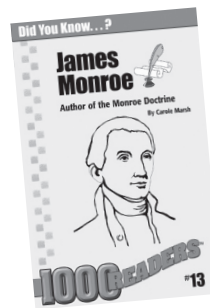
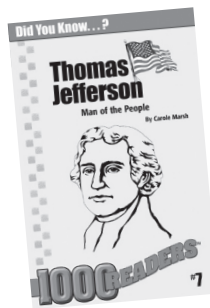
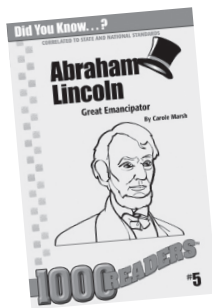
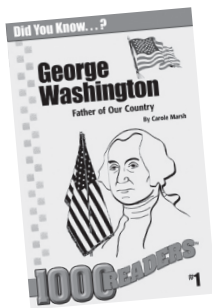
Editor: Chad Beard ● Graphic Design: Cecil Anderson & Lynette Rowe ● Cover Design: Victoria DeJoy



Other Carole Marsh Books



Presidential Readers



Hitting the Campaign Trail

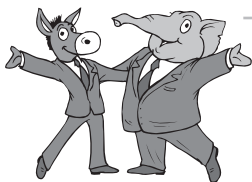


At each level of government, candidates for elective office are chosen using a variety of nominating methods. Individuals may seek nomination for national, state, and local office through:

- **Caucus** — a meeting of residents of an electoral district belonging to the same party to nominate and select candidates
- **Direct primary** — nomination system by which the people vote directly to select party nominees
- **Nominating convention** — a large meeting where delegates representing members of political parties get together and officially select nominees
- **Petitions** — document or list of signatures requesting a legislative or decision-making body to place a person on an election ballot

The two major political parties, Democrats and Republicans, use the national nominating convention to select presidential and vice-presidential candidates. State parties usually hold a series of local caucuses among rank-and-file members, culminating in a state convention where candidates receive the party's endorsement.

Be sure to vote for me!



Fill in the blanks using the words from above.

1. Citizens determine who will be a parties' candidates by voting in a _____.
2. Voters of a community get together to choose a candidate in a _____.
3. Political representatives gather to choose a candidate at a _____.
4. Voters of a community sign their name to support a candidate on a _____.



Political Symbols



Many different political parties exist in the United States today. A political party is a group of people who think alike about how to govern the nation. These organizations are usually very large.

Political parties want to get members elected to federal, state, and local offices so that their ideas will spread everywhere. Staff members in offices around the country help organize political campaigns to get people from their political party elected. They raise money to finance campaigns and recruit volunteers or staffers to help candidates win elections.



Currently, the two main political parties in the United States are the Republican and Democratic organizations. The Republican symbol is an elephant and the Democratic symbol is the donkey.

