

Presidential Primaries and Caucuses (Answers)

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Directions: Fill in the worksheet as you watch the presentation.

1. A **Primary** is an election where voters choose the candidate that will represent their political party in the general election.

2. A **Caucus** is a small meeting of members of a legislative body who are members of a particular political party, to select candidates or decide policy.

3. Place a “C” next to the states that use a caucus and a “P” next to the states that use primaries.
 - a. **C.** Kansas
 - b. **P.** Georgia
 - c. **P.** Oregon
 - d. **C.** Maine
 - e. **C.** Minnesota

4. T or F F Newt Gingrich is a Democrat candidate running against Barack Obama.

5. T or F F New Hampshire is the last state in the Union to hold a primary.

6. T or F F Iowa is the first state in the Union to hold a caucus.

7. T or F F The first primaries and caucuses are always held by the most populous states.

8. Label the following states with the date of their primary or caucus.

- a. Colorado – **February 4, 2012**
- b. Montana – **June 5, 2012**
- c. North Dakota – **March 6, 2012 (Super Tuesday)**
- d. South Dakota – **June 5, 2012**
- e. Minnesota – **February 7, 2012**
- f. Iowa – **January 3, 2012**
- g. Wisconsin – **April 3, 2012**
- h. Nebraska – **May 15, 2012**

9. Define the winner-takes-all award method.

Election in which the candidate who gets the most votes wins, while any other candidate(s) loses and receives nothing.

10. Define the proportional award method.

The candidates win numbers of delegates based on the number of votes they received in the Primary or Caucus.

11. Republicans utilize the **Winner-Takes-All** award method while Democrats utilize the **Proportional** award method.

12. T or F North Dakota uses the caucus system.

13. The prototype for primary elections was first used in the state of **Oregon** .
(Build to test the model – a learning experience)

14. The presidential election that served as the first major test in using primaries was in the year **1912** .

(This was the election between Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Howard Taft - Woodrow Wilson won the election).

-Theodore and Taft split the Republican vote thus allowing Wilson to step in and win the majority.

15. **T** or F In New Hampshire, it is written law that the Secretary of State is required to schedule their primary at least one week before a similar event.

16. **T** or F In Iowa, 17-year olds can vote in the state's caucus, if they turn 18 before the general election.

17. **Mitt Romney** won both the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary in 2012; this is significant because he was the first to win both states since the year **1976** .

(-This winner was Jimmy Carter)