

Election of 1828

- (1) Candidates President John Quincy Adams was running for re-election in 1828. His opponent was Andrew Jackson, who hoped to avenge an earlier loss to Adams in the disputed Election of 1824. Adams' supporters belonged to the National Republican Party. The challengers at first called themselves "Friends of Jackson," but later used the name "Democrats." They were the founders of today's Democratic Party.
- (2) The Campaign Both Adams and Jackson were nominated by state legislatures and special conventions and mass meetings. This was the first time that no presidential candidate was chosen by a "caucus," a meeting of members or leaders of a political party.

Both Adams and Jackson stayed in the background during the campaign of 1828. President Adams' views on the issues were well known. He favored a national bank, a protective tariff, and the spending of federal monies for such internal improvements as roads and canals. He also wanted to develop new programs in science and education. The President's strength was in the Northeastern states. His supporters included businessmen, bankers, and rich and well-educated people. Jackson took a different position on the issues. He preferred a lower tariff, and thought internal improvements should be the responsibility of the states instead of the federal government. He wanted to give government jobs to those who, in his opinion, better represented the will of the people.

The Jacksonians ran a well-organized campaign. They put together national committees, state committees, and local "Hickory Clubs." Newspapers were printed that convinced thousands of voters that Jackson was "the people's candidate." Jackson's campaign leaders collected money, made lists of voters, thought up slogans, wrote political songs, handed out pamphlets, and organized parades, barbecues, dinners, and street rallies. Party workers distributed hickory brooms, hickory canes, and hickory sticks. They even planted hickory trees.

The National Republicans (Adams' party) eventually realized that they too needed a strong political organization. They adopted the oak as their symbol, held some parades, and formed a number of committees. But it was too late to overcome the early lead of the Jacksonian Democrats.

In the months before the election, the mood of the campaign turned ugly. It became one of the bitterest political confrontations in American history. Both sides launched personal attacks on the opposing candidate. They often exaggerated the facts and told outright lies. The Jackson people said President Adams was like a king looking down on the common people. They said that their candidate's common sense was more important than Adams' "book learning." When President Adams used his own money to buy a billiard table and some chessmen, he was accused of installing gambling equipment in the White House.

Meanwhile, the backers of Adams put out a pamphlet which said Andrew Jackson was unable to spell more than one word in every four. They drew up a long list of his "sins," which they claimed included gambling, slave-trading, drunkenness, theft, lying, and murder. He supposedly was in fourteen fights, duels, brawls, shoot-outs, and free-for-alls. But the worst remarks were directed at his wife Rachel. She had previously been married to a man named Lewis Robards, who had left her to get a divorce. Some time later Rachel met Jackson and they were married. It was assumed that the divorce from Mr. Robards had been finalized, but it had not. When the divorce finally went through, the Jacksons remarried. Political opponents used the incident to question Mrs. Jackson's morality. Rachel, whose health was poor, suddenly died a month after the election. Jackson blamed her death on Adams and the National Republicans. At her funeral he exclaimed, "May God Almighty forgive her murderers as I know she forgave them. I never can."

(3) Election Results

	<u>Popular</u> <u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent of</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Electoral</u> <u>Votes</u>
Andrew Jackson	647,292	56	178
John Quincy Adams	507,730	44	83

- Andrew Jackson
- John Quincy Adams

(4) Map Exercise

Put the results of the Election of 1828 on the map to the right. Use two colors, or two different markings, to show which states were won by Andrew Jackson and which were taken by John Quincy Adams. In states where the electoral votes were split between the candidates, color or mark the state for the candidate receiving the most votes.

<u>State/Map</u> <u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Jackson</u>	<u>Adams</u>
Alabama (AL)	5	
Connecticut (CT)		8
Delaware (DE)		3
Georgia (GA)	9	
Illinois (IL)	3	
Indiana (IN)	5	
Kentucky (KY)	14	
Louisiana (LA)	5	
Maine (ME)	1	8
Maryland (MD)	5	6
Massachusetts (MA)		15
Mississippi (MS)	3	
Missouri (MO)	3	
New Hampshire (NH)		8
New Jersey (NJ)		8
New York (NY)	20	16
North Carolina (NC)	15	
Ohio (OH)	16	
Pennsylvania (PA)	28	
Rhode Island (RI)		4
South Carolina (SC)	11	
Tennessee (TN)	11	
Vermont (VT)		7
Virginia (VA)	<u>24</u>	<u>83</u>
	178	

