

COMPARING THE DEMOCRATS AND THE WHIGS

From 1828 to 1852, the two major political parties in the U.S. were the Democrats and the Whigs. Historians refer to the political system during this time as the Second Party System.

Research the Second Party System to complete the table below.

	DEMOCRATS	WHIGS
Who were the leaders and key figures of this party?	Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, John Calhoun, and James Polk	John Quincy Adams, William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Henry Clay, and Daniel Webster
What social groups typically supported this party?	farmers, working-class people in cities, and Irish Catholics	rich business people or farmers, middle-class people, and social reformers
Did the party favor a strong Federal government or states' rights?	states' rights	a strong federal government
What kind of banking system did this party support?	private, local banks	a national bank
Did the party support or oppose tariffs on goods bought from other countries?	opposed	supported
Did the party generally support or oppose the Mexican-American War?	supported	opposed
Did the party generally support or oppose expanding slavery into new territory?	supported	opposed