



Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

“Night Games by Concord High Football Team Are Banned by School Board”

Concord Monitor, 3/3/52

“State Faces Flood Possibilities Unless Thaw Runoff Gradual, Added Peril From Heavy Rain”

Concord Monitor, 3/7/52



“Towns Report Strong Turnout For Presidential Voting Despite Wet Snow Clogging Highways”

Concord Monitor, 3/11/52

“U.S. Gives \$300-Million to British Defense Aid”

Manchester Union-Leader, 1/29/52



“Two Tankers Broken Up By Storm Off Cape Cod”

Manchester Union-Leader, 2/19/52

“Three Presidential Hopefuls to Tour State Next Week”

Manchester Union-Leader, 2/27/52



Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

Name _____

The 1952 Democratic Primary

Read about the 1952 primary and specifically, the Democratic primary in 1952, then answer the questions.

1. New Hampshire's primary day was first in the nation even before 1952. Why?

2. What changed in 1952 that made the primary different?

3. Who were the front-runners in 1952?

Democrat:

Republican:

4. Who was President Truman's competitor?

5. List three facts about the Democratic presidential primary.





Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

6. What was the result of the Democratic primary?

7. What ideas do you have for headlines to summarize the Democratic primary? Think about the beginning, middle, and end of the race.



Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

8. With your group, write at least five headlines about the Truman-Kefauver primary race in New Hampshire in 1952. Remember, you must:

- Have at least 5 headlines—the first one is a real headline already added for you!
- Write descriptive, factual headlines.
- Describe the essential parts of the Democrat primary race in an engaging, informative way.

Think about what happened first, second, and so on. What was interesting about the race? What would people have cared about?

Headline 1: "Truman, Kefauver Battle Due; Four-Way Scramble Set for Republican Vote" (*Manchester Union-Leader*, 1/31/52)

Headline 2:

Headline 3:

Headline 4:

Headline 5:



Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

Voting Results from the 1952 New Hampshire Primary			
Republican		Democrat	
Dwight Eisenhower	46,661 votes	Estes Kefauver	19,800 votes
Robert Taft	35,838 votes	Harry Truman	15,927 votes

Now that you have learned about both primaries, who would you vote for? Why?

Source: *First Step to the White House*, by Charles Brereton (1979).

- Estimate to the nearest thousand. How many more votes did Eisenhower get than Taft in the Republican primary?
- Estimate to the nearest thousand. How many more votes did Kefauver get than Truman in the Democratic primary?
- Estimate to the nearest thousand. How many people voted in the 1952 presidential primary in New Hampshire in total?
- Compare the number of votes Republicans got and Democrats got. Who has more? About how much more?
- Were there more Republicans or Democrats in the state of New Hampshire in 1952? Explain how you know.



Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

Name _____

The 1952 Republican Primary

Read about the 1952 primary and specifically, the Republican primary in 1952, then answer the questions.

1. New Hampshire's primary day was first in the nation even before 1952. Why?

2. What changed in 1952 that made the primary different?

3. Who were the front-runners in 1952?

Democrat:

Republican:

4. Who was Senator Taft's competitor?

5. List three facts about the Republican presidential primary.





Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

6. What was the result of the Republican primary?

7. What ideas do you have for headlines to summarize the Republican primary? Think about the beginning, middle, and end of the race.



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Think about what happened first, second, and so on. What was interesting about the race? What would people have cared about?

Headline 1: "Sen. Taft to Challenge Ike for N.H. Support" (*Manchester Union-Leader*, 1/29/52)

Headline 2:

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10. Estimate to the nearest thousand. How many more votes did Kefauver get than Truman in the Democratic primary?
11. Estimate to the nearest thousand. How many people voted in the 1952 presidential primary in New Hampshire in total?
12. Compare the number of votes Republicans got and Democrats got. Who has more? About how much more?
13. Were there more Republicans or Democrats in the state of New Hampshire in 1952? Explain how you know.





Voting Results from the 1952 New Hampshire Primary

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Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

Name _____ Answer Key _____

The 1952 Democratic Primary

Read about the 1952 primary and specifically, the Democratic primary in 1952, then answer the questions.

1. New Hampshire's primary day was first in the nation even before 1952. Why?

The state wanted to save money by having town meeting day and the primary on the same day. They had to make the primary sooner to match the town meeting.

2. What changed in 1952 that made the primary different?

People could vote directly for their candidate. In the past they had voted for delegates that then voted for the candidate. People felt their vote counted more than before.

3. Who were the front-runners in 1952?

Democrats: **President Harry Truman**

Republicans: **Senator Robert Taft**

4. Who was President Truman's competitor?

Senator Estes Kefauver

5. List three facts about the Democratic presidential primary.

Possible Responses:

- **Kefauver thought that if he won in New Hampshire, he could extend that over the country.**
- **He spent months in New Hampshire before the primary using retail politics.**
- **He wore a coonskin cap and even rode in sleds to meet people.**
- **Truman did not go to New Hampshire.**



Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

6. What was the result of the Democratic primary?

Senator Kefauver won and Truman dropped out.

7. What ideas do you have for headlines? Think about the beginning, middle, and end of the race.

Answers will vary.



Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

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- Have at least five headlines—the first one is a real headline already added for you!
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 - Describe the essential parts of the Democrat primary race in an engaging, informative way.

Think about what happened first, second, and so on. What was interesting about the race? What would people have cared about?

Headline 1: "Truman, Kefauver Battle Due; Four-Way Scramble Set for Republican Vote" (*Manchester Union-Leader*, 1/31/52)

Possible Responses:

Headline 2: **Senator Estes Kefauver to Challenge Truman for Democratic Nomination**

Headline 3: **Where is Truman? Kefauver Campaigning Hard in NH**

Headline 4: **Kefauver Is Favorite; Coonskin Cap Candidate Rides in Sled to Get to Voters**

Headline 5: **Kefauver Wins NH Democratic Presidential Primary; President Truman Drops Out**



Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

Voting Results from the 1952 NH Primary			
Republican		Democrat	
Dwight Eisenhower	46,661	Estes Kefauver	19,800
Robert Taft	35,838	Harry Truman	15,927

Source: *First Step to the White House*, by Charles Brereton (1979).

Now that you have learned about both primaries, who would you vote for? Why?

Answers will vary.

9. Estimate to the nearest thousand. How many more votes did Eisenhower get than Taft in the Republican primary?

47,000 – 36,000 = 11,000 more votes

10. Estimate to the nearest thousand. How many more votes did Kefauver get than Truman in the Democratic primary?

20,000 – 16,000 = 4,000 more votes

11. Estimate to the nearest thousand. How many people voted in the 1952 presidential primary in New Hampshire in total?

47,000 + 36,000 + 20,000 + 16,000 = 119,000 people voted in total

12. Compare the number of votes Republicans got and Democrats got. Who has more? About how much more?

Republicans: 47,000 + 36,000 = 83,000 votes

Democrats: 20,000 + 16,000 = 36,000 votes

Republicans got about 47,000 more votes than Democrats.

13. Were there more Republicans or Democrats in the state of New Hampshire in 1952? Explain how you know.

There were more Republicans. The Republican primary had about double the number of votes than the Democratic party.



The 1952 Republican Primary

Read about the 1952 primary and specifically, the Republican primary in 1952, then answer the questions.

1. New Hampshire's primary day was first in the nation even before 1952. Why?

The state wanted to save money by having town meeting day and the primary on the same day. They had to make the primary sooner to match the town meeting.

1. What changed in 1952 that made the primary different?

People could vote directly for their candidate. In the past they had voted for delegates that then voted for the candidate. People felt their vote counted more than before.

2. Who were the front-runners in 1952?

Democrats: **President Harry Truman**

Republicans: **Senator Robert Taft**

3. Who was Senator Taft's competitor?

General Dwight D. Eisenhower

4. List three facts about the Republican presidential primary.

Possible Responses:

- **Ike was the General in charge of forces in Europe.**
- **Ike was running for president because his friends thought he would be a good president. He hadn't decided to run.**
- **His friends ran his campaign: Adams and Gregg.**
- **Adams and Gregg made many events to explain why voters should vote for Ike.**
- **People were more interested in Ike than in Taft: they felt like they knew Ike because of the retail politics.**



Lesson 16.4: The 1952 Primary

5. What was the result of the Republican primary?

General Dwight D. Eisenhower won and he quit the armed forces to run for president.

6. What ideas do you have for headlines? Think about the beginning, middle, and end of the race.

Answers will vary.



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Headline 1: "Sen. Taft to Challenge Ike for N.H. Support" (*Manchester Union-Leader*, 1/29/52)

Possible Responses:

Headline 2: **Adams and Gregg Running Ike's Campaign While Ike in Europe Leading Armed Forces**

Headline 3: **Ike's NH Campaign Holding Many Personal Events for Voters**

Headline 4: **Ike Still in Europe; Voters Not Excited About Taft**

Headline 5: **Ike Wins NH Republican Primary; Quitting Army to Return Home and Run for President**



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Republicans got about 47,000 more votes than Democrats.

13. Were there more Republicans or Democrats in the state of New Hampshire in 1952? Explain how you know.

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“Ike Scores Smashing Win In Concord, Takes all NH Republican Delegation; Kefauver Crushes Truman Backers”

Concord Monitor, 3/12/52

“Truman Bitter at NH Results, Won’t Talk to Newsman, Aides”

Concord Monitor, 3/13/52