

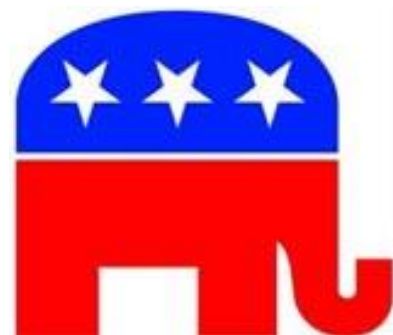
The Democratic Donkey and the Republican Elephant

Do you know the story behind these two famous political party symbols?



The now-famous **Democratic Donkey** was first used during Democrat Andrew Jackson's 1828 presidential campaign. His opponents called him a jackass (a donkey), and Jackson decided to use the image of the strong-willed animal on his campaign posters. Later, cartoonist Thomas Nast used the Democratic donkey in newspaper cartoons and made the symbol famous.

Nast invented another famous symbol—the **Republican Elephant**. In a cartoon that appeared in *Harper's Weekly* in 1874, Nast drew a donkey clothed in lion's skin, scaring away all the animals at the zoo. One of those animals, the elephant, was labeled “The Republican Vote.” After that, the elephant became associated with the Republican Party.



Democrats today say the donkey is smart and brave, while Republicans say the elephant is strong and dignified.

