

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

Presidential Candidates Turn to Next Big Contest: Super Tuesday, 01/09/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/jan-june08/nhampshire_1-09.html

Estimated Time: One 45-minute class period with possible extension

Student Worksheet (reading comprehension and discussion questions without answers)

PROCEDURE

1. WARM UP

Use initiating questions to introduce the topic and find out how much your students know.

2. MAIN ACTIVITY

Have students read NewsHour Extra's feature story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions on the student handout.

3. DISCUSSION

Use discussion questions to encourage students to think about how the issues outlined in the story affect their lives and express and debate different opinions.

INITIATING QUESTIONS

1. What has happened in the presidential race thus far?

2. How do Democrats and Republicans choose their candidates for president?

3. What is the difference between the Democratic and Republican parties?

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS – **Student Worksheet**

1. What recently happened in New Hampshire and Iowa?

ANSWER

New Hampshire's primary voters rejected the winners of Iowa's caucuses, breathing life into two presidential campaigns that had been showing recent signs of faltering, and setting up Feb. 5 as a critical contest in the race to the White House.

In the crush of early primaries, the candidates will get a relative breather as some Republicans head toward a devalued Michigan primary and contests in Nevada and South Carolina, leaving Sens. Hillary Clinton and John McCain a week to savor wins -- as well as collect new funds for their campaigns and erase some viability concerns.

2. Who won the New Hampshire primaries? Who came in second and third?

ANSWER

Sen. Hillary Clinton beat Iowa caucus winner Sen. Barack Obama by two percentage points, and former Sen. John Edwards by more than 10 points. On Republican side: John McCain, Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee.

3. Who is John McCain?

ANSWER

McCain again proved himself to be a comeback specialist, a survivor who weathered more than five years in a Vietnam POW camp, a wrenching congressional scandal and three bouts with aggressive skin cancer.

"The people of New Hampshire have told us again that they do not send us to Washington to serve our interests, but to serve theirs," McCain said during his victory speech, amid chants of campaign's new slogan, "Mac is back!" Once considered the favorite in the GOP field, McCain's campaign nearly collapsed last summer as he defended a plan to give illegal immigrants an eventual path to citizenship and the troop surge in Iraq.

But in recent weeks, McCain shot ahead of former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and finally former Massachusetts Gov.

4. Who is Mitt Romney?

ANSWER

Alluding to his experience running the Olympic Games, Romney thanked largely overlooked Wyoming for his first-place finish during that state's weekend GOP primary as he tried to put the best face on the New Hampshire results.

"Well, another silver," he said to his supporters. "I'd rather have a gold but I got another silver. There have been three races so far, I've gotten two silvers and one gold."

5. What is Barack Obama expecting in Nevada and South Carolina?

ANSWER

Obama's bid got a boost Wednesday when he picked up the endorsement of the 60,000-member Culinary Workers Union in Nevada, 10 days before that state's caucus.

Since Obama's victory in Iowa, the volume of calls and inquiries into his campaign had more than doubled, with financial contributors, policy supporters and volunteers eager to join the campaign, the New York Times reported.

Obama is also betting big on a strong showing in South Carolina's Jan. 26 Democratic contest. Half of all registered Democrats in the state are African-American and could opt to back the freshman senator.

Looking ahead to the intense round of primaries, Obama told NBC's morning show, "Right now we're in a very close contest that'll probably go all the way through February 5th, as the voters lift the hood and kick the tires and make an assessment who's going to really fight for them and their families."

6. What happens in Michigan January 15?

ANSWER

Next on the campaign calendar is the Michigan primary on Jan. 15, but don't expect to see any Democrats there. After the state bucked both major political parties' rules to move up its primary date, it will be stripped of half its Republican delegates and every Democratic delegate.

7. What happens February 5?

ANSWER

The crown jewel of the primary season -- contests in 22 states on Feb. 5 -- still looms on the horizon for the remaining candidates, none of whom immediately announced plans to drop out after New Hampshire's vote.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What do the results of the New Hampshire primary tell you about the 2008 race for the White House thus far? Look at things like voter turnout, voter demographics, and exit polling - why voters said they voted for a particular candidate. Do you notice any trends or emerging themes? You can find information at <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008>

2. What do states like Iowa, New Hampshire, Michigan, South Carolina, Wyoming and Florida-the next contests-have in common? How are they different?

3. Make a chart of the upcoming primaries (you can use this map:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/primaries/states/>

Write down who you think will win the state and why. This can be turned into a game with prizes!

4. Several candidates who did not do well in Iowa and New Hampshire dropped out of the presidential race while others with poor showings stayed in the race. Why? What motivates particular candidates to stay in the race? Why do you think this is so?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.