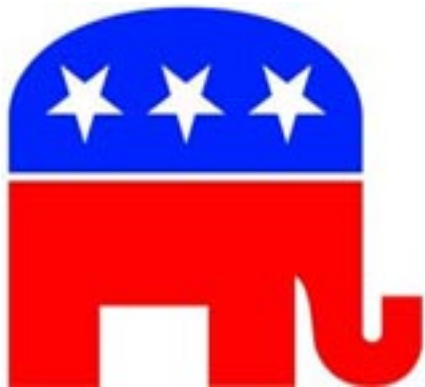


The Democratic Donkey and the Republican Elephant

Ever wondered what the story was behind these two famous party animals?

The now-famous **Democratic donkey** was first associated with Democrat Andrew Jackson's 1828 presidential campaign. His opponents called him a jack*** (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.” That’s all it took for the elephant to become associated with the Republican Party.

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