

# FEBRUARY 2024 PARENT GUIDE



**ARTICLE SUMMARIES &  
FAMILY DINNER CONVERSATION STARTERS**

# LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents,

We want our *Tuttle Times* Parent Guide to be a valuable resource for you. Parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's minds and helping them understand the big ideas that lay the foundation for a bright future. We want to empower you to confidently guide your children in learning these principles.

Our mission is to equip you with knowledge and resources to make learning engaging and meaningful for your children. By encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and a love for learning, your children can apply their knowledge in real-life situations and nurture their problem-solving skills and creativity.

We have included dinner table conversation starters in this Parent Guide. We firmly believe that changing the world begins at the dinner table. We hope these conversation starters will spark meaningful discussions and provide opportunities for bonding as a family.

—The Tuttle Twins team



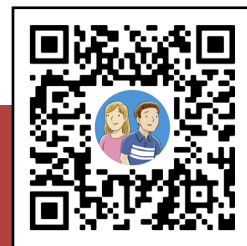
Be sure to check out our [February Issue Resources](#), which has links to the challenge badges, activity solutions, and more!

**New!** We would love for you (and your child!) to share your thoughts on this month's issue with us. Find the survey links on the February Issue Resources page!

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## Article Overviews and Dinner Table Conversations

We encourage you to read the *Tuttle Times* articles with your children, and we hope that the topics and big ideas bring about conversations that expand their knowledge and understanding of how the world works.

For each article, we explain our reasoning for including it in this month's issue along with dinner table conversation starters. Bon appétit!

### Ice Cream Party (Issue pages 3-8)

As the Tuttles enjoy their ice cream, their parents use the family's ice cream choices as a metaphor to explain the pros and cons of political parties. The twins discover that limiting themselves to only two choices—much like a two-party political system—restricts their ability to explore a variety of options.

The family reflects on the benefits of thinking beyond political parties—and government politics altogether. The best solutions to our country's problems don't come from political parties—or government at all! They come from thinkers, inventors, and entrepreneurs.

#### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- What political party (if any) do you as a parent typically vote for? Explain specifically the benefits of those decisions, and also identify some consequences (if any) you have to accept with the decision.
- What are some choices people make that seem to have two choices, but if you think about it, there are actually more choices?

### Parties In Play (Issue pages 9-10)

This article provides an overview of the Republican, Democratic, and Libertarian parties. It also discusses the Independent candidate in this 2024 presidential election, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

#### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- Elected members of Congress are mostly all Democrats or Republicans. If a few Congress members are members of a third party or independents, how might that affect what Congress does?
- How do you think Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. running as an independent presidential candidate will affect the presidential election? Who do you think will vote for him?



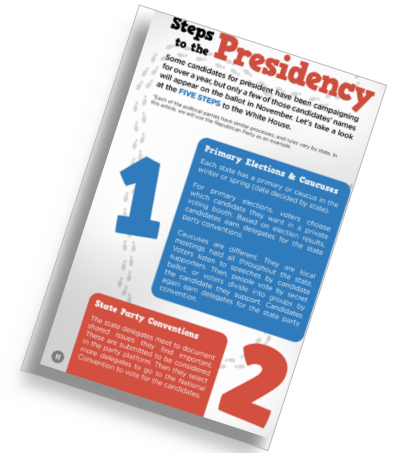
## Steps to the Presidency (Issue pages 11-12)

This article outlines the five main steps for someone to become president. It doesn't start or end on election day, and it goes way beyond just campaigning.

There are a lot of details in each step, and requirements vary by state—starting with primary vs. caucus—so this is definitely a high-level overview that curious readers can use to jumpstart learning more about their state's election process.

### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- Were you aware of all the steps that happen before someone is elected president? What parts were new to you?
- What are your thoughts on delegates and their role in shaping the political platform and nominating their party's presidential candidate?



## Latest Buzz: The US/Mexico Border Crisis (Issue pages 13-14)

Texas Governor Abbott recently sent the Texas National Guard to Eagle Pass, Texas. The Biden administration has issues with Texas "interfering" with the US Border Patrol, but Governor Abbott considers the crisis at the border to be an invasion, so he believes that Texas needs to protect its people.

The article covers sanctuary cities and how Abbott has transported some of the immigrants that entered illegally to these cities, whose leaders said everyone was welcome there. Then, the leaders changed their tune once the people were actually in their city, realizing that it is a huge strain on resources.

### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- Is it important for a country to secure and patrol its border?
- Do you think Texas has the right to protect its border even though the Constitution says it is primarily the federal government's responsibility? Do you think Governor Abbott is correct to classify the situation as an invasion?



## Unpacking Political Parties and Government Power

It's an election year. The incessant media coverage and social media arguing has already overstayed its welcome—and it's only February. What can be done? Avoiding the media and bickering might help our mental health, but it doesn't really solve the problem of the government growing its power every day.

It's not easy, and it certainly isn't going to solve all our problems, but we need to help people, including our children, understand that political parties and elections are not a long-term solution. They are a result of desperation and fear of being ruled over by others, which creates a system of division amongst people, who would, in most circumstances, be friendly. The long-term solution is to cultivate a culture of freedom and a love of liberty.

There is infighting with sound bites all over the media calling out competitor candidates for not being a "real" member of the party because they have a different view on an issue. Couldn't that be said about practically anyone? Does anyone align with absolutely all the positions and goals of a political party? We're all individuals with a unique set of beliefs—to expect everyone to align 100% with one of the two major parties on so many issues is pretty silly, but it is very effective... at distracting us. The arguing prevents people from paying attention as the government continually increases its power—way beyond its constitutional role.

Political parties, by their very nature, tend to create an "us vs. them" mentality, perpetuating the notion that there are only two sides to every issue. This binary thinking limits many people's willingness to explore innovative solutions that may fall outside the predefined party lines—and outside the realm of government completely.

We recognize the detrimental impact of this divisive mindset on our nation's future, which is why we usually focus on liberty, free markets, and entrepreneurship—not politics. It is essential for us, as parents and concerned citizens, to rise above the divisive rhetoric and encourage a more nuanced and open-minded approach to problem-solving.

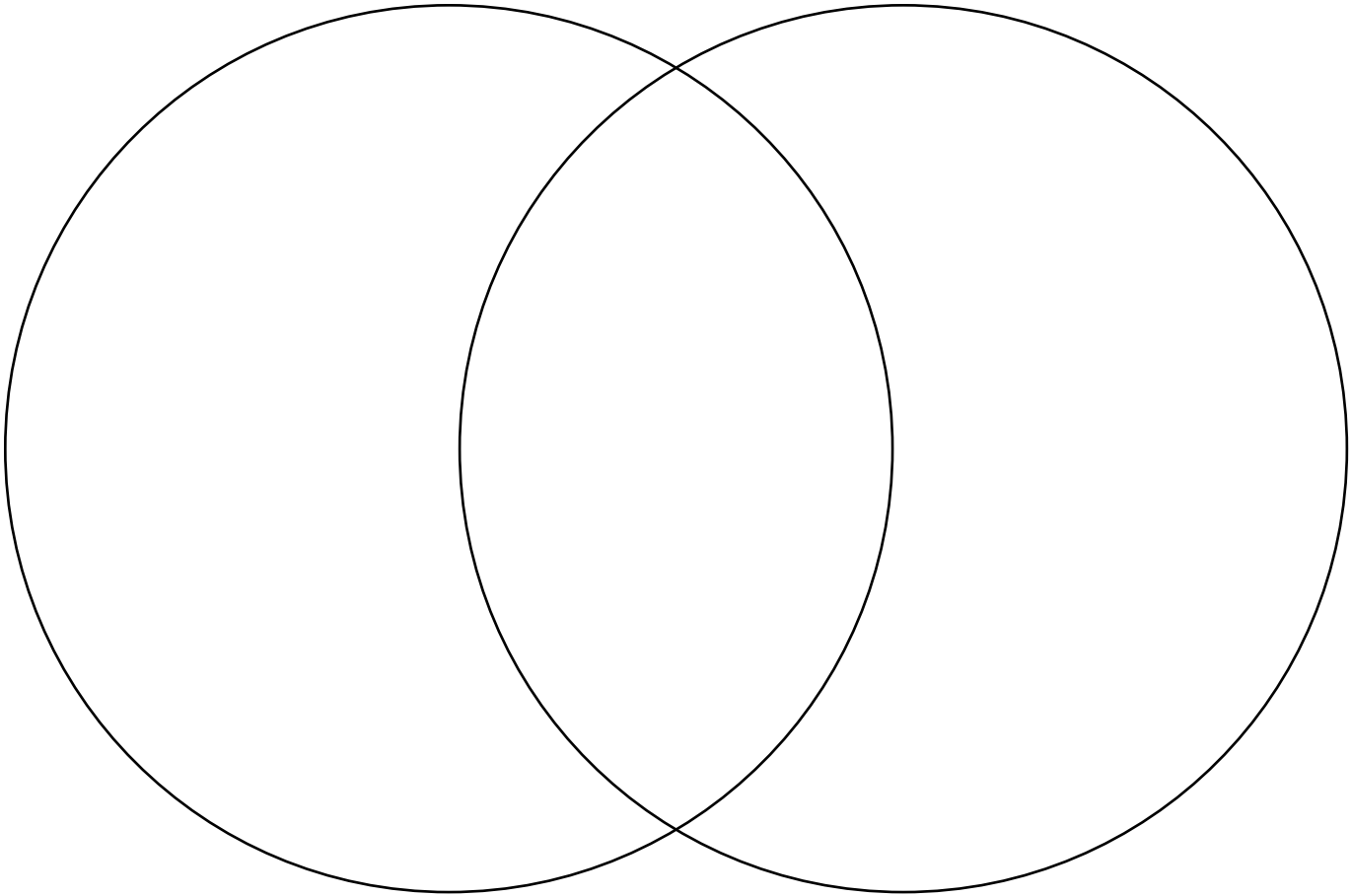
The constant battle between political parties consumes an exorbitant amount of time and energy that could otherwise be dedicated to implementing positive change. It's easy to get caught up in election bickering—especially on social media. But do you really think you're going to change someone's mind? What could we accomplish if we redirected our efforts towards fostering an environment of thoughtful discourse and cooperative problem-solving?

That's why we focus so much on encouraging entrepreneurship. When entrepreneurs solve problems, the government has less ability to convince people that the government is needed for every issue. We focus on liberty and personal responsibility because those who are self-sufficient don't ask the government to help solve problems. They help those who need help.

Non-governmental solutions, driven by community engagement, voluntary associations, and private initiatives, are often more efficient and effective. As parents, we must lead by example. Instead of aligning ourselves solely with one party or another, let us focus on the common ground we share with fellow citizens. By setting aside ideological differences and working collaboratively, we can improve our world, with the well-being of our families and communities taking precedence over political allegiance.

# BADGE ACTIVITY: VENN DIAGRAM – COMPARE 2

Compare and contrast two political parties or two political candidates.

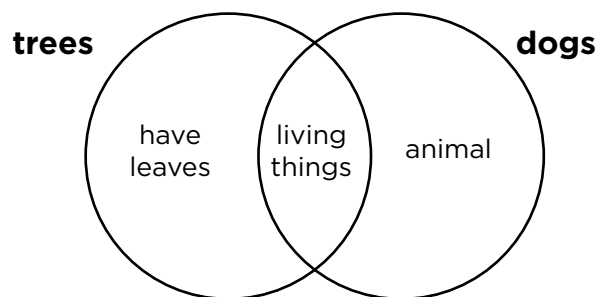


Venn diagrams help compare and contrast things.

Each "thing" has its own circle, and the circles overlap.

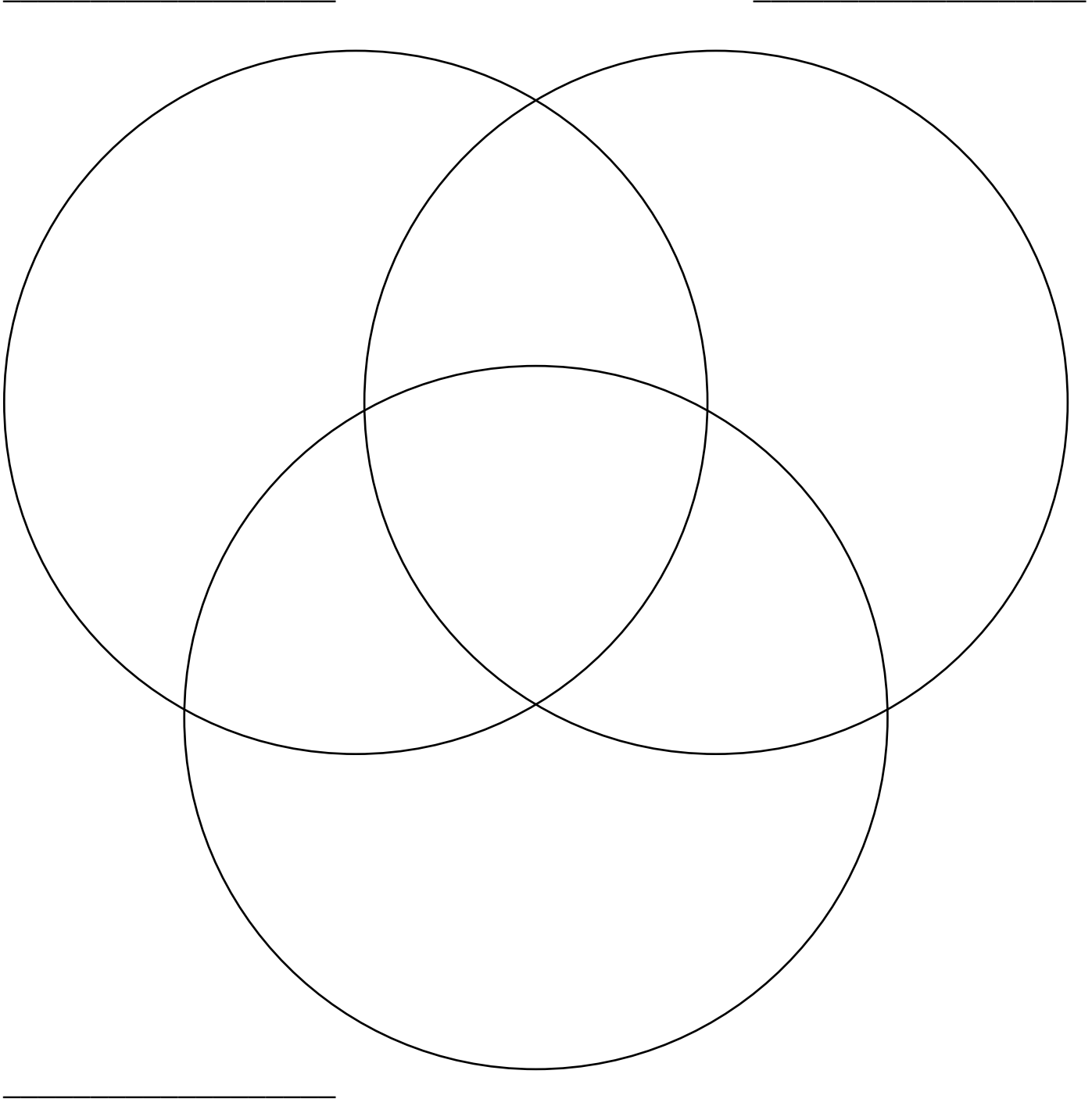
Everything that is true for both things you're comparing should be written where the circles overlap. Example: living things

Everything that just applies to one of the things should be written in the part of the circle that does not overlap. Example.: have leaves



# BADGE ACTIVITY: VENN DIAGRAM – COMPARE 3

Compare and contrast three political parties or three political candidates.



# TUTTLE TIMES

A monthly magazine for kids



## ice cream party

FEBRUARY 2024 - ISSUE #29