

Canada's GOVERNMENT

Presentation, Graphic Organizers, & Activities

Role of the Citizen

- Citizens must be 18 to vote, but voting is not required by law.

As for Parliament Hill, in Ottawa, Ontario, is home to Canada's central government.

Brain Wrinkles



Canada's Gov. CLOZE Notes I

Let's Review

- Unitary—power is held by _____ authority
- Confederation—association of independent states that agree to certain limitations on their freedoms by _____
- Federal—_____ between central authority & several regional authorities
- Autocracy—1 person possesses _____ & citizens have limited role in government
- Oligarchy—_____ exercises control & citizens have limited role in government
- Democracy—supreme power is vested in the people & exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation involving _____
- Parliamentary—citizens _____ of Parliament and then the members select the leader
- Leader works with or through the _____
- Presidential—system of government in which independent of the legislature, citizens directly _____

LEADER WORKS

- CANADA
- Background
- _____ Canada _____ the British constitution.
- In that year, Canada established its _____ that outlines the country's laws and freedoms
- Canada still has _____ in the country's government.
- Federal
- Canada has a _____ national government and the provincial & territorial _____
- There are _____
- Canada's central government handles things like _____, which _____ control over local affairs.

Report Card

You are the teacher! Give Canada a grade based on its government. In the comments section, explain why you chose the grade/effort and what things the country can do to improve.

Name _____

Name Canada

Grade:	
Effort:	
Comments:	

Canada's Government

Directions: Complete the chart below after discussing the presentation.

Background	
Distribution of Power	
Constitutional Monarchy	
Type of Government	

Can-ada's Government



Directions: Design a soda can to represent the foundations of Canada's government. The can should include symbols and words to represent Canada's government. In the textbox, describe what the symbols mean and how they are important to Canada's government.

Can Description:

STANDARDS:

SS6CG2 Explain citizen participation in the Canadian government.

- a. Explain the role of citizens in choosing the leader of Canada (parliamentary democracy).

Canada's Government

Constitutional Monarchy
Parliamentary Democracy

**Brain
Wrinkles**



Let's Review


Government TYPES– HOW DO CITIZENS PARTICIPATE?

- **Autocracy**-- 1 person possesses unlimited power & citizens have limited role in government
- **Democracy**--supreme power is vested in the people & exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation involving free elections

Let's Review

TWO TYPES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS:

- **Parliamentary**– citizens elect members of Parliament, and then the members select the leader
 - Leader works with or through the legislature
- **Presidential**--system of government in which the leader is constitutionally independent of the legislature; citizens directly elect leader
 - Leader works separate from legislature

The image features a vibrant, multi-colored zigzag pattern in shades of green, yellow, orange, and purple. In the center, there is a large teal oval with a white border. Inside this oval, the word "CANADA" is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font with a yellow outline and a slight drop shadow.

CANADA

Background

- Until 1982, Canada was under the authority of the British constitution.
- In that year, Canada established its own constitution that outlines the country's laws and freedoms.
- Canada still has ties to the United Kingdom today, which can be seen in the country's parliamentary democracy that is structured like Great Britain's.

Constitutional Monarchy

- Canada can be described as a constitutional monarchy, which means that it has its own constitution but its head of state is the monarch of Great Britain.
- Since the monarch does not live in Canada, she chooses a governor-general to act in her place.
 - Both of these roles are mostly ceremonial and hold very little power.

Leadership

1. **Head of State: Monarch** of the United Kingdom (presently, Queen Elizabeth II); mostly ceremonial with little political power
2. **Governor General:** stands in for the monarch to represent her interests in Canada
3. **Prime Minister:** holds the most political power and makes key executive decisions; works closely with the legislature

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **Monarch:** position inherited through family line
- **Governor General:** appointed by the monarch; serves a 5-year term

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **Prime Minister:** citizens age 18 and older vote to elect members to the House of Commons. The governor general then selects a prime minister from the majority party in the elected legislature.

Legislature

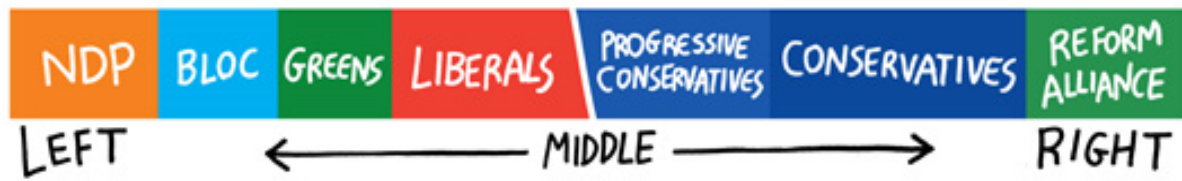
- A country's legislature is its central authority (law-making body).
- Canada's legislature is called Parliament.
- The citizens of Canada vote for members of one house of Parliament.
- Members of Parliament belong to many different political parties.

Political Parties in Canada's Government



Party	Seats	Percentage
CON	102	30.62
NDP	34	10.41
LIB	34	10.41
BQ	4	1.22
GRN	1	0.30
IND	0	0.00

- Liberal
- Bloc Québécois
- Other
- Conservative
- Green
- NDP
- Independent



Legislature

- The Parliament of Canada is the country's bicameral legislature.
- It consists of:
 - 1. Senate** (105 seats): members are appointed by the governor general with advice from the Prime Minister
 - Members are not elected by the people; can serve until they are 75 years old
 - 2. House of Commons** (308 seats): members are directly elected by the people
 - Members serve 5-year terms
 - Prime Minister is chosen from the majority party in the House of Commons.

Parliamentary Democracy

- The prime minister is selected from the majority party in the legislature.
- **This is the major difference between a Presidential Democracy and a Parliamentary Democracy!**
- Parliamentary Democracy – legislature (Parliament) chooses Head of Government (Executive Leader)
- Citizens vote for members of the House of Commons, not directly for the prime minister.

Parliamentary Democracy

- In Canada, the prime minister and his cabinet are members of the legislature, and they must answer to the legislature.
- The government will stay in office for a specified period unless the prime minister loses support of the majority in the legislature on an important vote.
- If that happens, the prime minister must resign and a new one is chosen immediately.

Role of the Citizen

- Citizens must be 18 to vote, but voting is not required by law.
- As a democracy, Canada's citizens can participate in voting and elections.
- The citizens vote for members of the Parliament, not directly for the prime minister.

Role of the Citizen

- Canada's constitution guarantees citizens many personal rights and freedoms, much like what we have in the United States.
- Some examples include equal rights, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and right to a fair trial.
- The right to communicate with the national government in either French or English is also included.