

Canada's Government

Constitutional Monarchy
Parliamentary Democracy
Federation

STANDARDS:

SS6CG1 The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.

- a. Describe the ways government systems distribute power: unitary, confederation, and federal.
- b. Explain how governments determine citizen participation: autocratic, oligarchic, and democratic.
- c. Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential.

SS6CG3 The student will explain the structure of the national government of Canada.

- a. Describe the structure of the Canadian government as a constitutional monarchy, a parliamentary democracy, and a federation, distinguishing the role of the citizen in terms of voting and personal freedoms.

Canada's Government

Directions: Complete the chart below after discussing the presentation.

Background	
Distribution of Power	
Constitutional Monarchy	
Type of Government	
Executive Branch	
How are Leaders Chosen?	
Legislative Branch	
Role of the Citizen	

Let's Review

Government TYPES– HOW DO CITIZENS PARTICIPATE?

- **Autocracy**-- 1 person possesses unlimited power & citizens have limited role in government
- **Oligarchy**-- small group 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 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



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 Great Britain today, which are seen in the country's government.

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

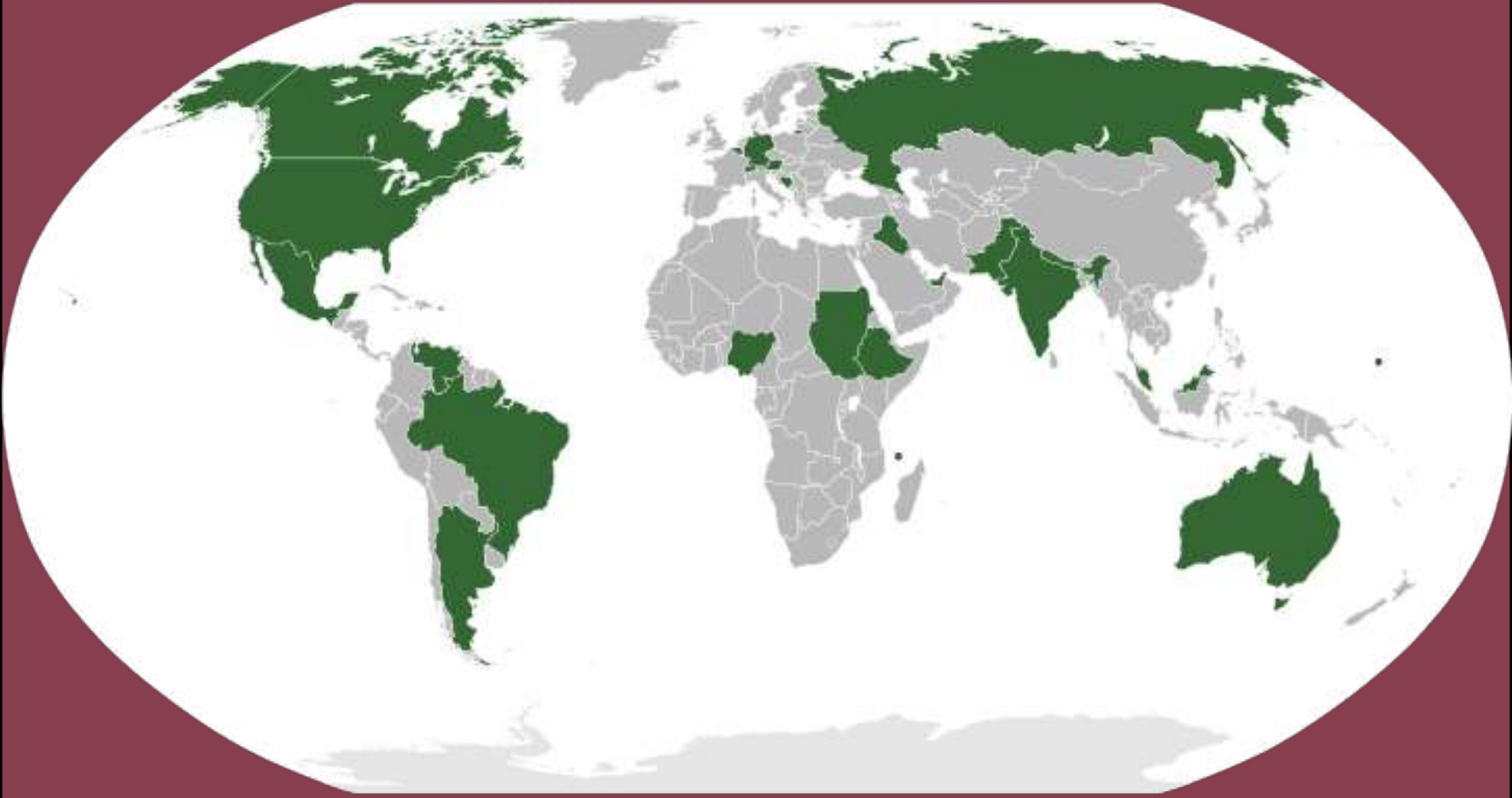




Federal System

- Canada has a federal system, which means that the national government and the provincial & territorial governments SHARE power.
 - There are 10 provinces and 3 territories in Canada.
- Canada's central government handles things like trade and national security, while the local governments have control over local affairs.

Federal Governments



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
3. **Prime Minister:** holds the most political power; works closely with the legislature

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



His Excellency
The Right Honorable
David Johnston



Governor General

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau



Prime Minister

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **Governor General:** appointed by the monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister; serves a 5-year term
- **Prime Minister:** is the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons; indirectly elected by the people

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 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	4	1.23
BQ	1	0.31
GRN	1	0.31
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
 - The largest political party in the House elects the Prime Minister.



Canadian Senate



Canadian House of Commons

Parliamentary Democracy

- Whichever political party has the most members in the legislature selects the prime minister.
- **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 Parliament, and the members choose 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, who then elects 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.

True or False?

In a democracy,
citizens play an
important role because
they are able to vote
for leaders.

ANSWER:

True

True or False?

Canada has a
presidential
democracy.

ANSWER:

**False –
Parliamentary
Democracy**

True or False?

Although Canadians adopted their own constitution in 1982, they still have ties with the British government.

ANSWER:

True

True or False?

Citizens do not directly
vote for the prime minister
in Canada.

ANSWER:

True

True or False?

In a democracy, a ruler has absolute power and the citizens do not possess the right to choose their own leaders.

ANSWER:

False -
Autocracy

True or False?

Both Canada and Russia
have federal systems of
government.

ANSWER:

True

True or False?

Canadian citizens have many personal freedoms guaranteed to them in their constitution.

ANSWER:

True

True or False?

In a presidential democracy, citizens vote for members of the legislature and the members select the country's leader.

ANSWER:

**False –
Parliamentary
Democracy**

True or False?

The head of Canada's government (person with the most political power) is the governor-general.

ANSWER:

**False – Prime
Minister**