

Australia's Government

A Federal Parliamentary Democracy

**Brain
Wrinkles**



Standards

SS6CG6 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.

SS6CG7 The student will explain the structure of the national government of Australia.

- a. Describe the federal parliamentary democracy of Australia, distinguishing form of leadership, type of legislature, and the role of the citizen in terms of voting and personal freedoms.

Teachers

- Print off the following slide for each student.
- Have the students glue (or tape) the left side, “Australia’s Government” to their Interactive Notebook. They will cut along the lines of the right side (between each topic) so that they are flaps.
- The students will write facts/definitions inside of each flap while discussing the presentation.

Australia's Government

**Federal
System**

**Parliamentary
Democracy**

**Constitutional
Monarchy**

Leaders

Parliament

**Role of
Citizen**

Teachers

- Print off the following slide for each student.
- Have the students complete the Anticipation Guide BEFORE the presentation to gauge what they already know about Australia's government.

*There are also economic-related questions in this guide, but the notes in this presentation are government-related only. I have an "Australia's Economy" file in my store if you're interested.

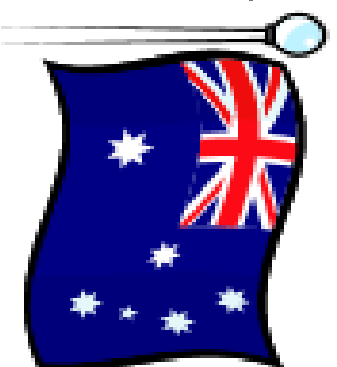
Name: _____

Political & Economic Systems of Australia

Anticipation Guide

Directions: Make predictions about the answers to the following questions BEFORE learning about this unit.

- How is power distributed in a unitary government?**
 - One ruler makes all the decisions for a country.
 - Smaller units of government, like counties, control the central government.
 - A central government assigns power and duties to smaller units of government within the country.
 - The central government does not have much power over the smaller units of government in the country.
- Who represents the Queen in Australia's government?**
 - governor-general
 - president
 - prime minister
 - senate
- In a confederation government, power lies with the**
 - people.
 - constitution.
 - central government.
 - governments of member countries.
- Which type of government divides power between the central government and smaller units such as states?**
 - confederation
 - federation
 - totalitarian
 - unitary
- Which is true about democracies?**
 - Elections for leaders are a part of few democracies.
 - There are many different ways to set up a democracy.
 - Kings or queens rule autocratically in a democratic government.
 - Laws created in a democracy are more likely to protect the parliament.
- Which country is closest to having a market economy?**
 - Australia
 - Cuba
 - Germany
 - United States
- Who sets the price for goods in Australia?**
 - Buyers and sellers agree upon price.
 - The governor-general sets prices.
 - Parliament sets a price for all foods.
 - Prices for goods are set by foreign countries.
- What action did Australia take to try to stop fighting in Yugoslavia?**
 - embargo
 - tariff
 - quota
 - free trade
- What is the currency used by people in Australia?**
 - dollars
 - euros
 - pounds
 - pesos
- What has helped Australia to have a high GDP?**
 - high taxes
 - uneducated workers
 - new factories and businesses
 - immigrants with low paying jobs



Australia's Government

A Federal Parliamentary Democracy

Let's Review

Government Systems – Who has the power?

- **Unitary**--power is held by one central authority
- **Confederation**--association of independent states that agree to certain limitations on their freedoms by joining together
- **Federal**--power is divided between central authority & several regional authorities

Which system does Australia have?

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

Which type does Australia have?

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

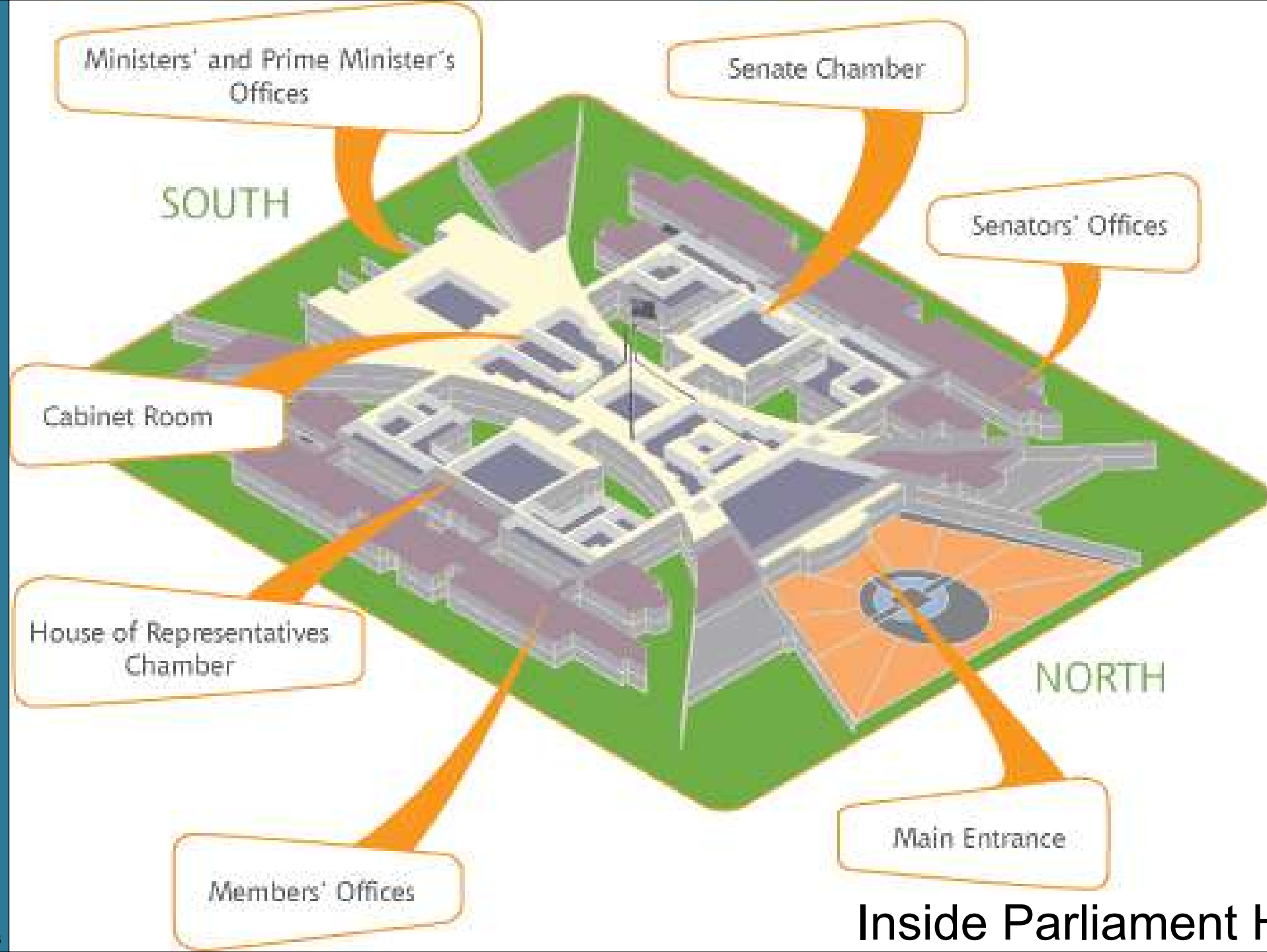
Which type does Australia have?

Australia's Government

- Federation (federal system)
- Constitutional Monarchy
- Parliamentary Democracy

Parliament House in Canberra is home to Australia's government.

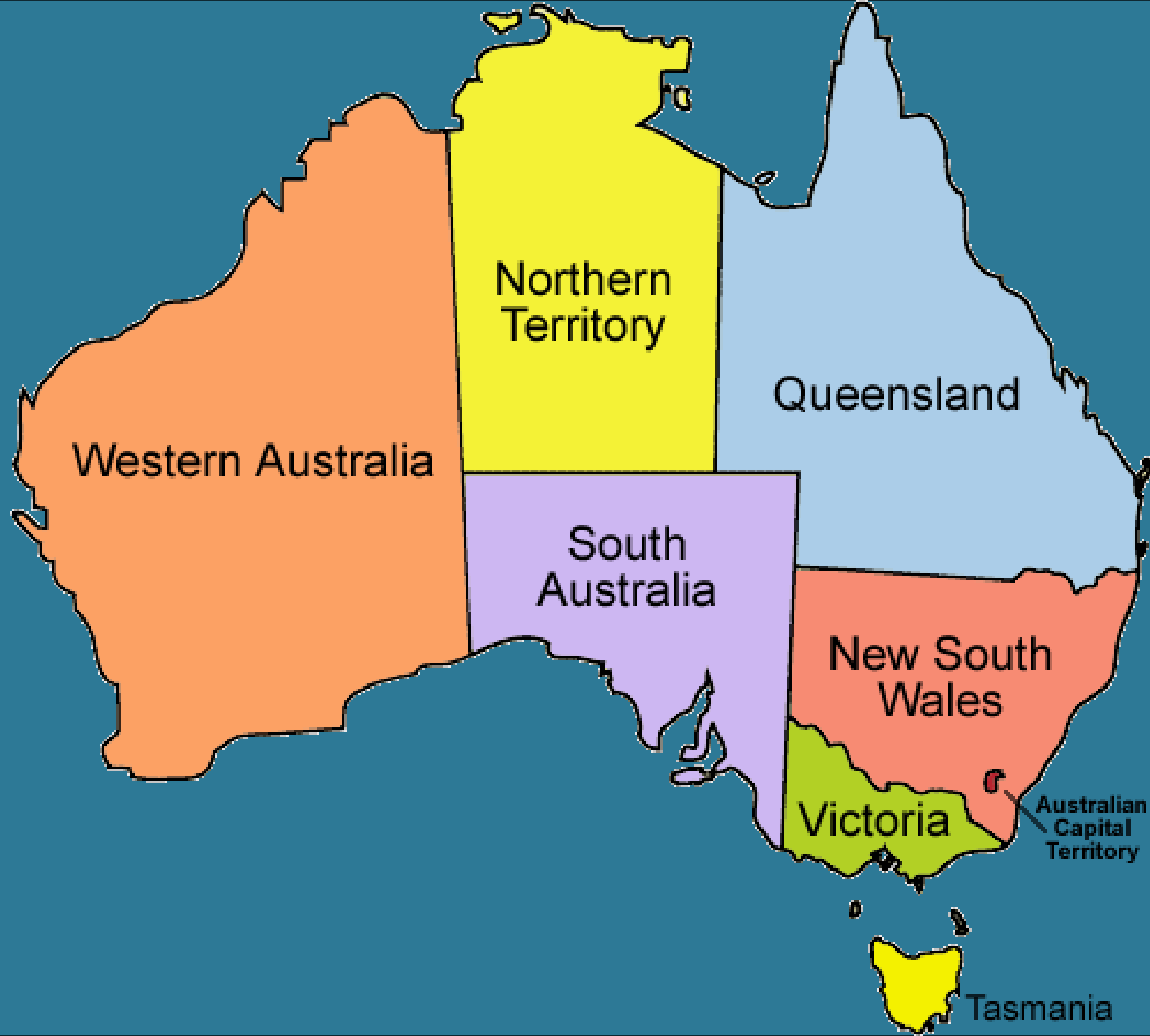




Inside Parliament House

Federal System

- Australia has a federal system, which means that the national government and the state governments SHARE power.
- There are 6 states and 2 territories in Australia.



Constitutional Monarchy

- Constitutional Monarchy- A monarch inherits the right to rule but is limited by laws and a law making body elected by the people.
- Australia's constitution lists the powers of the government.
- The British monarchy, a king or queen, is the head of state. However, since the monarchy does not live in Australia, he or she chooses a governor-general to act in his or her place...

Leadership

1. **Head of State: Monarch** of the United Kingdom (presently, Queen Elizabeth II); 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 Honorable Sir Peter Cosgrove



Governor General

The Honorable Anthony “Tony” Abbott



Prime Minister

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **Governor General:** appointed by the monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister; the Constitution does not set a length of term but most serve for 5 years
- **Prime Minister:** is the leader of the majority party in the House of Representatives; indirectly elected by the people

Legislature

Legislature = the central authority of a government

- Australia's legislature is called Parliament.
- The citizens of Australia vote for members of Parliament.
 - Members of Parliament belong to many different political parties.

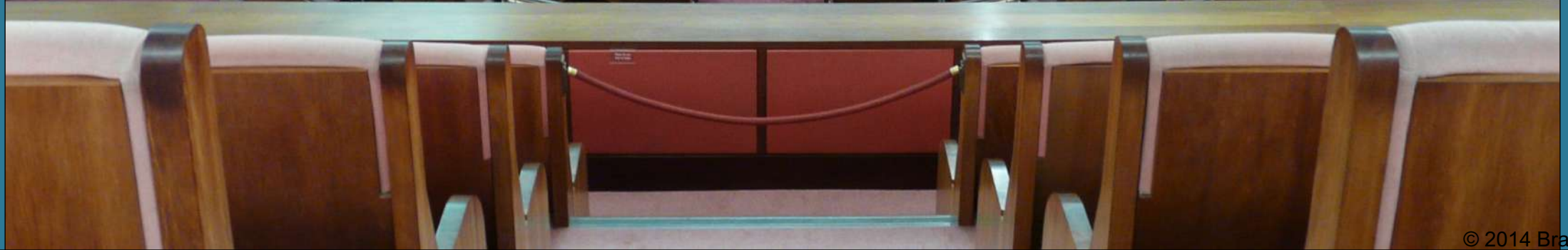
Parliament

- **House of Representatives** (150 seats): Australia is divided into areas called electorates; people living in each electorate vote for a person to represent them in Parliament.
 - The elected person becomes the member of parliament of the House of Representatives for that area.
- **Senate** (76 seats): People from each state and the 2 territories elect people to be their senators



House of Representatives

Senate



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, members choose the Prime Minister.

Role of the Citizen

- Citizens who are 18 - 70 are required by law to vote.
- As a democracy, its citizens must participate in voting and elections:
 - They elect members of Parliament.
 - They elect regional government officials (state governors).
 - They also vote on specific issues.

Branches of Government

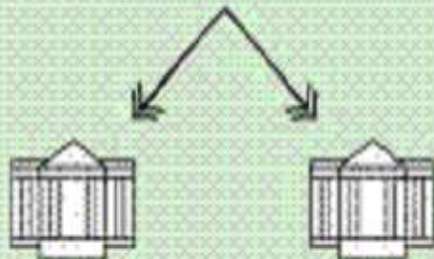
- Australia has 3 Branches of Government just like any other Democratic Country.
 - Executive Branch – this is the Prime Minister
 - Legislative Branch – this is Parliament.
Parliament is made up of two groups: the House of Representatives and the Senate
 - Judicial Branch – made up of all the courts in Australia

CONSTITUTION



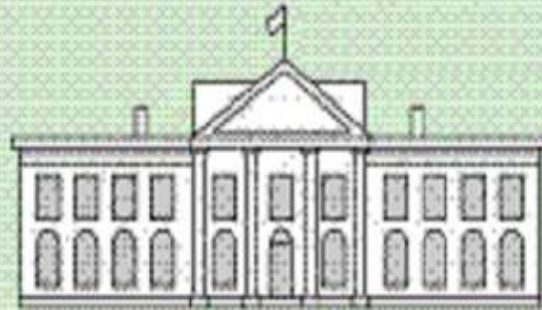
LEGISLATIVE

PARLIAMENT



HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

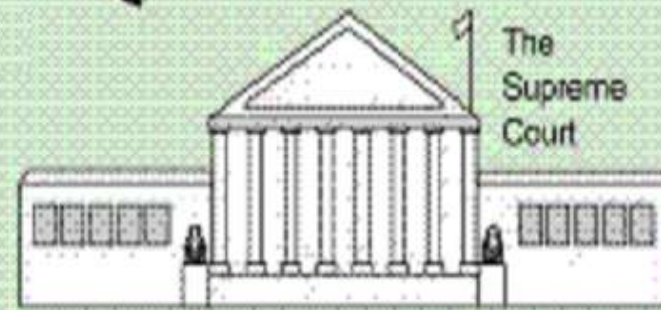
SENATE



EXECUTIVE



PRIME MINISTER



JUDICIAL



SUPREME COURT

Name: _____



Australia's Government

Directions: Fill in the chart below while reviewing the *Australia's Government* notes. When you are finished with the chart, please answer questions 1-5 below.

Form of Leadership	Type of Legislature	Role of Citizen

1. Who is the head of state of Australia?

2. Which government leader do citizens in Australia vote into office?

3. What responsibility to citizens of Australia have after their 18th birthday?

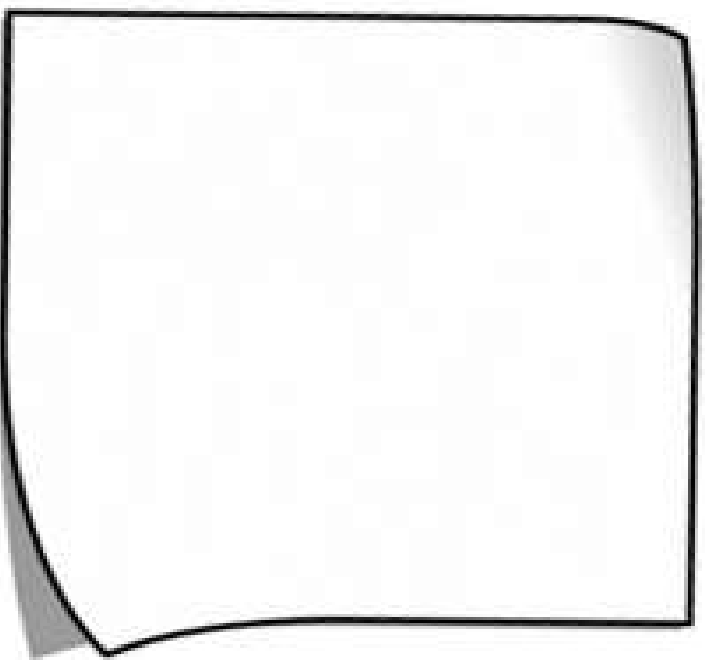
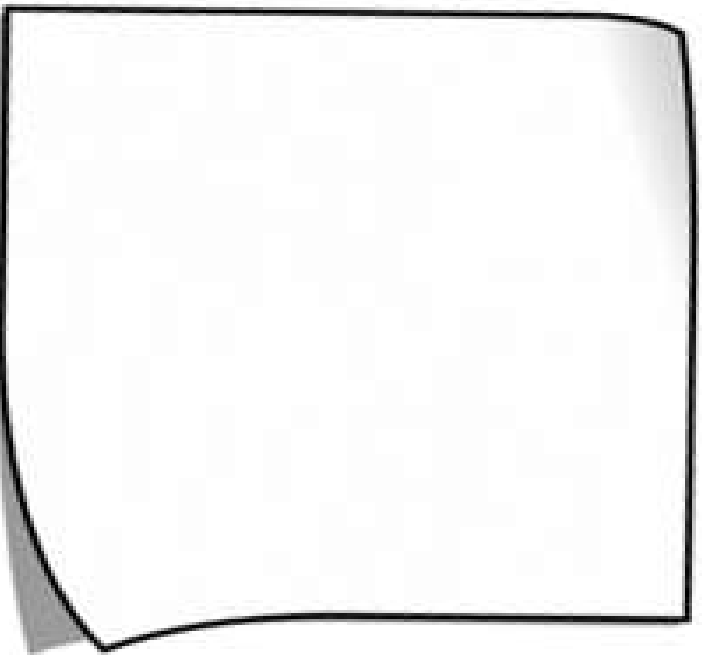
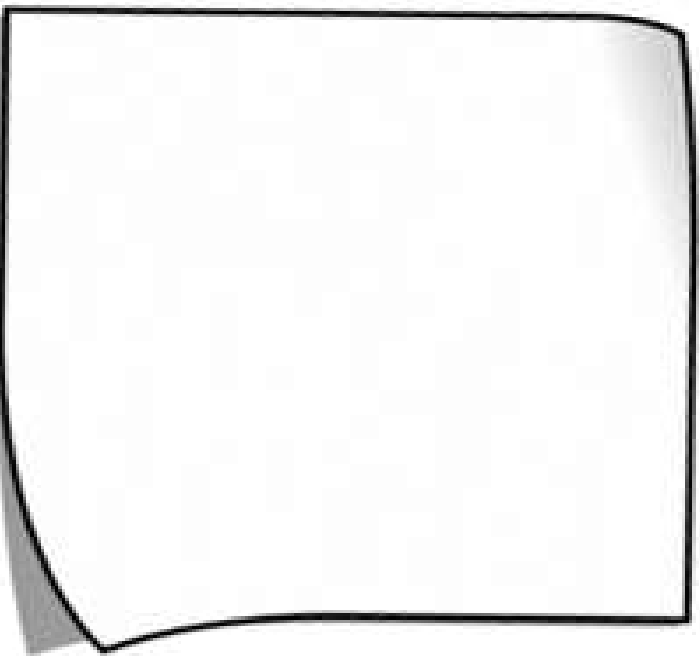
4. Who represents the Queen in Australia's government?

5. Who has the most political power in Australia's government?

6. What three words could you use to describe Australia's government?

Stump Your Classmates!

Directions: On the sticky notes below, write down two true statements/facts and one false statement/fact about Australia's government. Don't label them! We are going to move around the classroom and challenge each other. Let's see if you can STUMP YOUR CLASSMATES!





A CHILDREN'S BOOK: AUSTRALIA'S GOVERNMENT

Name: _____



Procedure:

You will be creating a mini-children's book on Australia's government. You can find all of the information that you will need for your book in the "Australia's Government" PowerPoint. As you are working on your book, keep in mind that you will be writing for a younger audience, so make sure that you present the information in a simple way that children will understand. Be sure to use clear and simple language, and to keep your ideas focused and brief. Remember, most children really enjoy the pictures in books, so be sure to include colorful artwork on each page.

Use the chart below to record the main ideas and details that you will use on each page of your book.

Cover	Title?	
Page 1	What does the word "Australia" mean to you?	
Page 2	What does the word "government" mean to you?	
Page 3	What is Australia's government called? Describe.	
Page 4	What is the form of leadership in Australia? Describe.	
Page 5	What is the type of legislature in Australia? Describe.	
Page 6	What is the role of the citizen in Australia? Describe.	
Page 7	Write 3 Questions for readers to answer about your book.	

Name: _____

Australia's Government Quiz

1. Which has the most power in Australian government?

- A the constitution
- B the people of Australia
- C the Queen
- D the High Court of Australia

2. Which describes the government of the country of Australia?

- A confederate government
- B federal government
- C unitary government
- D autocratic government

3. Which statement BEST describes an oligarchy?

- A. A dictator holds all political power.
- B The judicial branch shares power with the legislature.
- C A small group runs the government.
- D The citizens vote on the leader of the country.

4. What is the role of the governor-general in Australia?

- A represents the Queen in Australia
- B acts as the chief executive of government
- C waits for recommendations from the prime minister
- D be the leader of the political party with the most representatives in Parliament

5. Which BEST describes a result of British colonization of Australia?

- A. Australia is an old-fashioned country that is governed by the Queen of Great Britain.
- B Australia is an old-fashioned country that is very dependant on Great Britain.
- C Australia is a modern, independent country, which is dependent on Great Britain.
- D Australia is a modern, independent country, but it still has a few ties with Great Britain.

6. Australia has a prime minister that is elected through the legislature. This means that Australia has a

- A presidential democracy
- B parliamentary democracy
- C autocratic democracy
- D direct democracy

7. What responsibility is required by law for Australians over the age of 18?

- A marriage
- B voting
- C military service
- D attending college

8. Australian citizens do not directly vote any of the following people into office EXCEPT

- A. The governor-general.
- B the monarch (Queen).
- C the prime minister.
- D a member of Parliament.

Read the phrases below. Use the information to answer question 9.

- Signs bills into law
- Is commander-in-chief for the military
- Acts as head of state for Australia
- Approves the governor-general

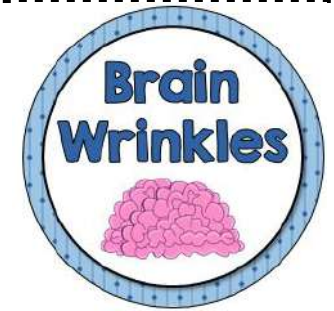
9. What do these phrases explain?

- A duties of the Queen in Australia
- B duties of the Australian governor-general
- C duties of the High Court of Australia
- D duties of Australia's Commonwealth Parliament

10. Who has the most political power in Australia's government?

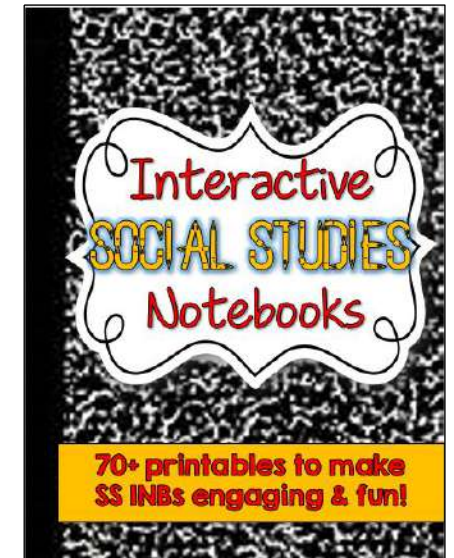
- A Queen
- B Governor General
- C Prime Minister
- D President

Thank You!



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Best of luck to you in the upcoming school year,

Ansley at Brain Wrinkles

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