

# **Governments of Latin America Activator**

**With an elbow partner, compare the  
two types of government below  
according to how power is  
distributed and citizen  
participation**

**Federal  
Republic**

**Dictatorsh  
ip**

# Essential Question: How is a federal-republican system different from a dictatorship?

Standard:

SS6CG2a. Compare the federal-republican systems of the Federative Republic of Brazil (Brazil) and the United Mexican States (Mexico) to the dictatorship of the Republic of Cuba (Cuba).

# **Governments of Latin America**

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**Before we begin our studies of specific governments of Latin America, let's review some important concepts.**

# Form of Leadership

## Chief of State:

Leader of a country who represents the state at official and ceremonial functions, but who may not be involved with the day-to-day activities of the government.

## Head of Government:

A country's top administrative leader who is designated to manage the day-to-day activities of the government.

# Form of Leadership

## Chief of State



## Head of Government

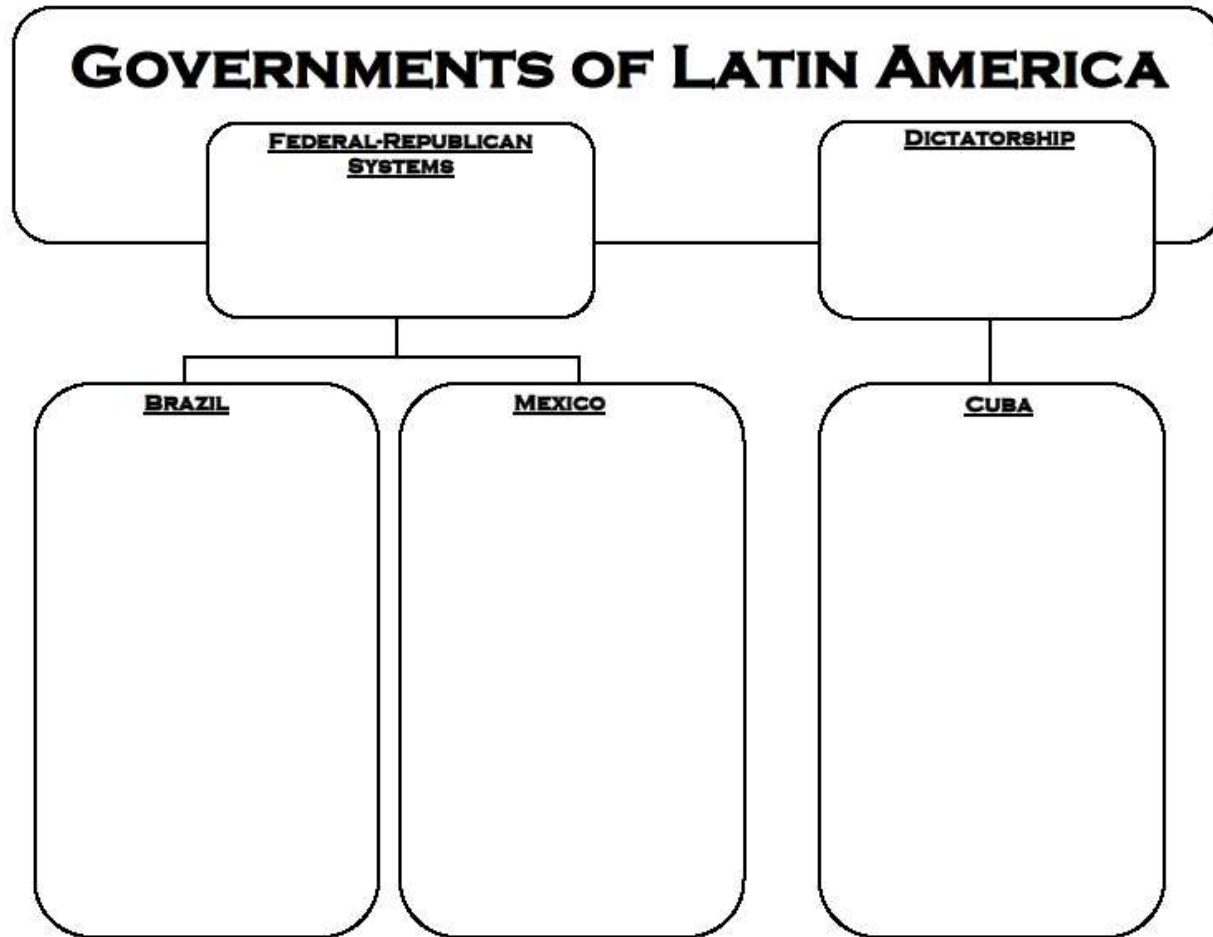


# **Governments of Latin America**

**What is the Legislature?**

**The Law making body of government. For the U.S., it is Congress [House of Representatives and the Senate].**

# Use your graphic organizer to take notes



# **Governments of Latin America**

**Brazil and Mexico both  
have a Federal Republic.**





# **Governments of Latin America**

**A Federal Republic is a state in which the powers of the central government are restricted and the parts (states, colonies, provinces) keep a degree of self-government.**

**Ultimate sovereign (supreme) power rests with the people who chose their representatives in government.**

# **Federative Republic of Brazil (Brazil)**

# Form of Leadership in Brazil

- ✎ Brazil has a President who is both the chief of state and head of government
- ✎ The President is elected by popular vote
- ✎ The Bicameral National Congress (legislature with two houses) members are also

# Role of Citizens in Brazil

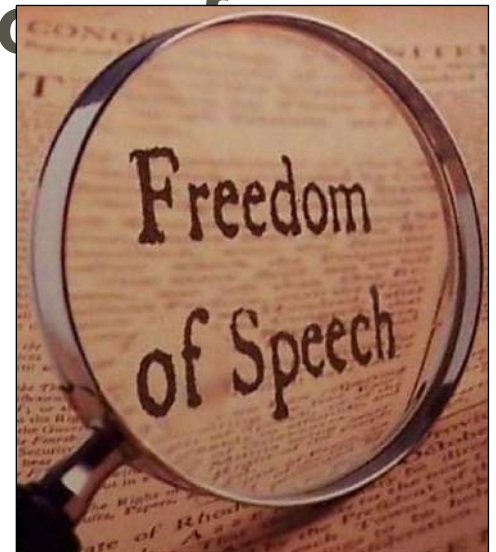
✎ Citizens vote to elect both the President and the members of the Legislature

✎ Voting is mandatory between the ages of 18-70 (voluntary between the ages of 16-18 and over 70).

# Personal Freedoms in Brazil

☞ People can work where they want or start a business [free trade and free enterprise].

☞ Citizens enjoy personal freedoms like freedom of speech.



**United Mexican  
States (Mexico)**

# Form of Leadership in Mexico

- ✎ Mexico has a President who is both the chief of state and head of government
- ✎ The President is elected by popular vote
- ✎ The Bicameral National Congress (legislature with two houses) members are also

# **Role of Citizens in Mexico**

✎ **Citizens vote to elect both the President and the members of the Legislature**

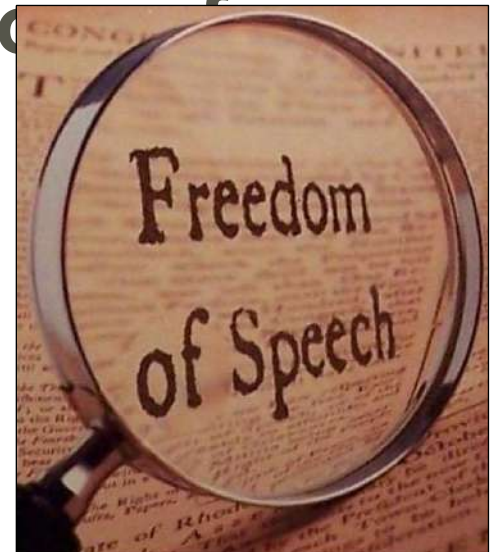
✎ **Voting is mandatory for citizens over the age of 18 (but it is not enforced)**



# Personal Freedoms in Mexico

☞ People can work where they want or start a business [free trade and free enterprise].

☞ Citizens enjoy personal freedoms like freedom of speech.



Turn to a partner and discuss  
how living in Brazil and  
Mexico is similar to and  
different from living in the U.S.  
[in terms of government].

# **Republic of Cuba (Cuba)**

# Governments of Latin America

**Cuba is a dictatorship in which the ruler has absolute power (not restricted by a constitution of**

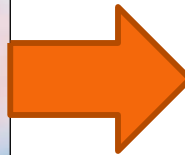


# Form of Leadership in Cuba

- ✎ Cuba has a President who is both the chief of state and head of government.
- ✎ The President (dictator) is elected by the Unicameral National Assembly (legislature with one house). The last election was held in 2008

# Form of Leadership in Cuba

**Fidel Castro ruled Cuba from 1959 to 2008. When he stepped down his brother Raul became ruler.**



# **Form of Leadership in Cuba**

**Cuba's official name is the  
Republic of Cuba. Why is  
this misleading?**



# Form of Leadership in Cuba

∞ The members of the Legislature are those officially sanctioned (approved) by Cuba's Communist Party. They run for office unopposed.



# Role of Citizens in Cuba

✂ Citizens can “vote” at the age of 16 for members of the Legislature.

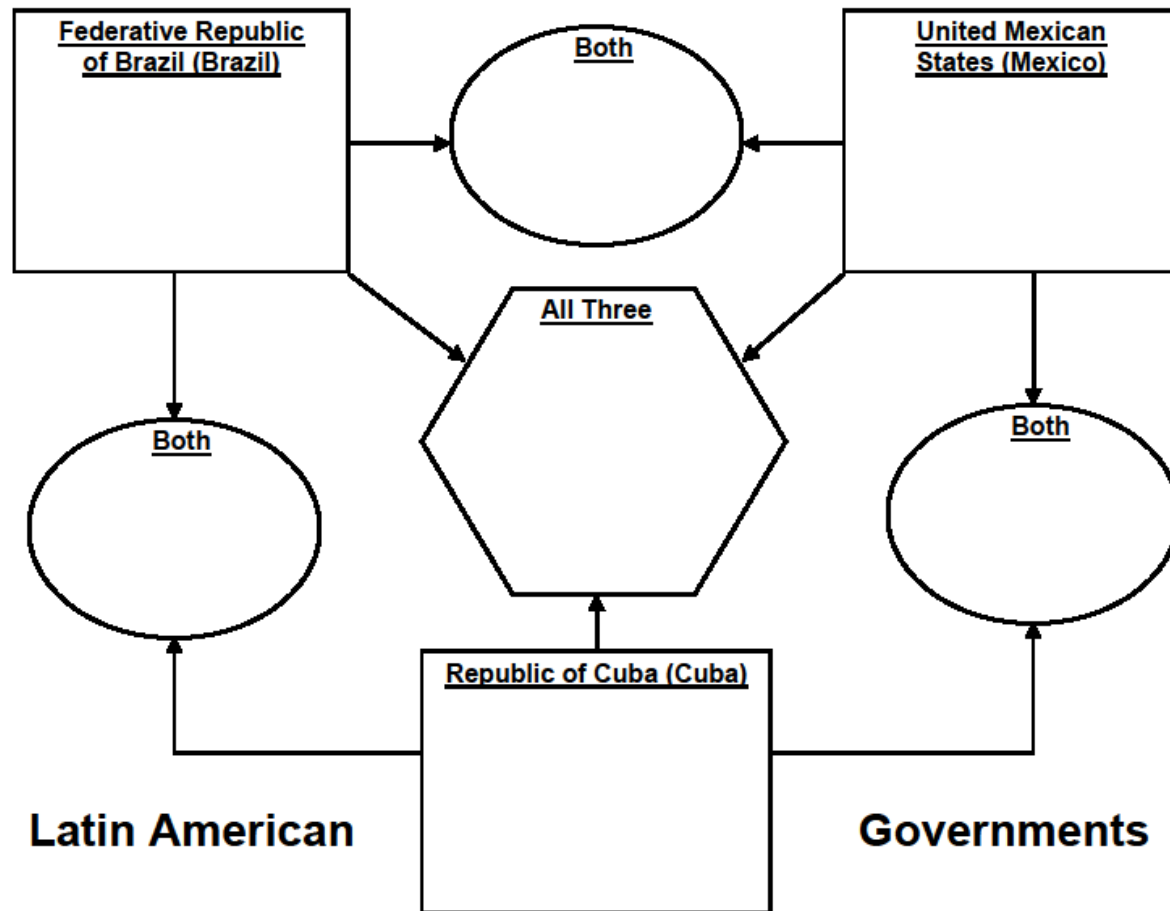
✂ However, citizens can only vote for candidates selected by the Communist Party.

# Personal Freedoms in Cuba

- ✎ Cuba's citizens do not have personal freedoms like freedom of speech.
- ✎ They can be put in jail for criticizing the Communist Party or the president.
- ✎ People cannot just work where they want to work or open their

**Turn to a partner and discuss  
how Cuba's current  
government contradicts the  
purpose of the Cuban  
Revolution.**

# Use your Government Chart to Complete the Comparison Graphic Organizer



# Latin American Government Summarizer

Governments of Latin America Summarizer

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Based on my knowledge of the governments of Brazil, Mexico, and Cuba, I would MOST prefer to live in \_\_\_\_\_ because [include forms of leadership and the role of the citizen in your explanation] \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Based on my knowledge of the governments of Brazil, Mexico, and Cuba, I would LEAST prefer to live in \_\_\_\_\_ because [include forms of leadership and the role of the citizen in your explanation] \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In which country would you prefer to be a leader? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In which country is it worse to be citizen? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_