

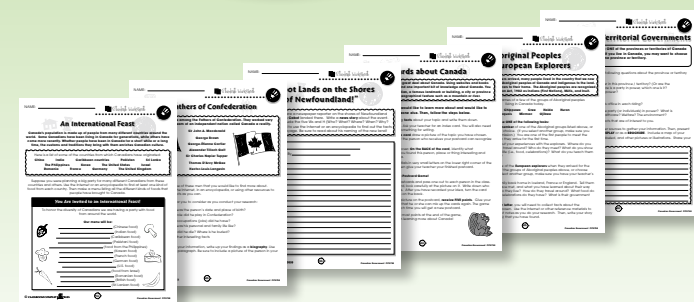
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The Canadian Constitution

1. Complete each sentence with a word from the list. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------|
| Constitution | liberty | democracy | supreme law | citizen |
| Head of State | representative | ratify | Fathers of Confederation | |

- A person who has rights within a government is called a _____.
- The writers of the Canadian Constitution of 1867 are called the _____.
- The King or Queen of Great Britain is the _____ of Canada.
- A set of written rules which set up a government is called a _____.
- A person who is chosen to state the beliefs of and to make laws for others is called a _____.
- Another word for freedom is _____.
- The highest or most powerful law in the country is called the _____.
- A _____ is a form of government in which the people choose who governs them.
- _____ also means to approve something.

2. Fill in the blanks below with one of these words:

- press religion assembly

Every Canadian citizen has the following fundamental freedoms:

- freedom of conscience and _____;
- freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression, including freedom of the _____ and other media of communication;
- freedom of peaceful _____; and
- freedom of association.

The Constitution Act, 1982



The Canadian Constitution

Canada is a **democracy** and a **constitutional monarchy**. The **head of state** of Canada is the Monarch (king or queen) of Canada, who is also Monarch of Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. Although there is no single constitution in Canadian law, the **Constitution Act** – a part of the **Canada Act of 1982** – declares the Constitution of Canada to be the **supreme law** of Canada and includes some 30 acts and orders that are part of it.

The **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** is a very important part of the Canadian Constitution. It explains the rights of each Canadian citizen. These rights are:

- the freedom of choice of religion
- the freedom of speech, expression, and thought
- the freedom to meet peacefully with other people
- the right to vote
- the right to be treated equally by the government regardless of age, sex, race, ethnic origin, or mental or physical disability.

Responsibilities of the Federal Government

The Canadian Constitution explains which things are the jobs of the federal government and which are the jobs of the provincial governments. The federal government's jobs are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. National defense | 5. Regulating foreign trade |
| 2. Operating a post office system | 6. Supervising Indian affairs |
| 3. Making criminal laws | 7. Supervising all national parks |
| 4. Making immigration laws | 8. Regulating employment |

Parts of the Federal Government

The federal government of Canada is divided into the **executive**, **legislative**, and **judicial branches**. It is set up as a **democracy**, or a government in which the people choose who governs them. The belief that the people hold the highest power in a government is called **popular sovereignty**.



The Canadian Constitution

1. Number the events from 1 to 5 in the order they happened.

- John Cabot, an English explorer, landed on the east coast in 1497.
- The Fathers of Confederation wrote the Constitution Act, 1867.
- Aboriginal peoples lived in various groups or tribes and had their own types of government.
- In 1763, all French claims to Canada were transferred to the British.
- The Vikings came to Canada.

2. Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false. If it is false, rewrite the statement to make it correct.

- Aboriginal peoples were first to live in what is now called Canada.
True False _____
- Canada's head of state is the prime minister.
True False _____
- Canadians cannot choose their own religions.
True False _____
- The men who wrote the Constitution Act of 1867 are called the Fathers of Confederation.
True False _____
- The federal government of Canada is divided into two parts.
True False _____



The Canadian Constitution

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

- The **Charter of Rights and Freedoms** explains the rights of each Canadian citizen. Explain at least four of these rights.

- Describe a democracy.

- Canada is a **constitutional monarchy**. Who is the monarch of Great Britain at this time? Explain what a constitutional monarchy is.

- A **saga** is a spoken or sung tale of adventure and achievement. In your notebook, write a short saga about John Cabot landing on the coast of Canada for the first time.
- What are the **three branches** of the federal government?

- What document was the first written plan of government for the new nation of Canada? Who wrote it?

- Use the Internet or an encyclopedia to find ten important dates in Canadian history. Be sure to include the dates when European explorers came to the new country, and the writing of the Constitution Act of 1867. Record the events on the timeline on the next page.

10. **Become a Research Detective!** Use the Internet or encyclopedia to find the names of three of Canada's Fathers of Confederation.

Here are five writing tasks about the Canadian government. Be sure to think about all that you have learned about the Canadian government as you write. Write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

Task #1 Every country on Earth has some kind of government even though all governments are not alike. Organize your thoughts and knowledge about government and discuss the purpose(s) of government. In Canada's system of government, who or what are most important?

Task #2 On July 1, 1867, Canada became a new nation. The Fathers of Confederation wrote the Constitution Act of 1867 to describe the kind of government the new country would have. They also wrote about the rights that Canadian citizens would have. Suppose you had the responsibility of writing a constitution for a new country. What items would you make sure to include? Describe how you would address the rights of the citizens; the manner in which laws would be made; and how the leaders of government would be selected.

Task #3 Canadians share common responsibilities, too. Why do you think that it's important that Canadians should:

- understand and obey Canadian laws?
- participate in Canada's democratic political system?
- vote in elections?
- allow other Canadians to enjoy their rights and freedoms?

Task #4 The federal government has many important jobs. It is in charge of employment for all Canadian citizens, national defense (the military), the post office system, and other important departments. Your task is to choose one of these departments and do some research about it. Collect as many facts about it as you can. Present your information as a Bulletin board display or a PowerPoint presentation. Then share your project with your classmates.

Task #5 All countries have problems which must be solved. Some of these problems are so serious that they are present in most governments; for example, child poverty. If you were the Prime Minister of Canada which three problems would you try to solve and what would you do to solve them?

Crossword Puzzle!

Word List		election	leader
saga	legislative	Parliament	judicial
assent	government	executive	senate
Ottawa	monarchy	candidate	prime
MP	democracy	cabinet	confederation
		law	enforce
		liberty	queen
		committee	debate

Across

- the capital city of Canada
- This branch enforces the laws
- another word for freedom
- a story of brave deeds that is sung or told
- the prime minister's advisors
- one of the houses of Parliament
- a guide or director
- A campaign ends on _____ Day
- a form of government led by a queen or king
- the branch of government that makes laws
- Fathers of _____

Down

- a person who seeks elected office
- a group of people who discuss the bills in Parliament
- command obedience to a law
- to discuss a subject such as a bill
- approval of a bill to become law, or Royal _____
- female monarch
- a form of government in which the people have supreme power
- the branch of government that makes sure the laws are constitutional
- the group of people who make the laws for everyone else
- the head of the government is called the _____ Minister
- the abbreviation for Member of Parliament
- a rule that must be obeyed
- the legislative body of Canadian government

Comprehension Quiz

Part A

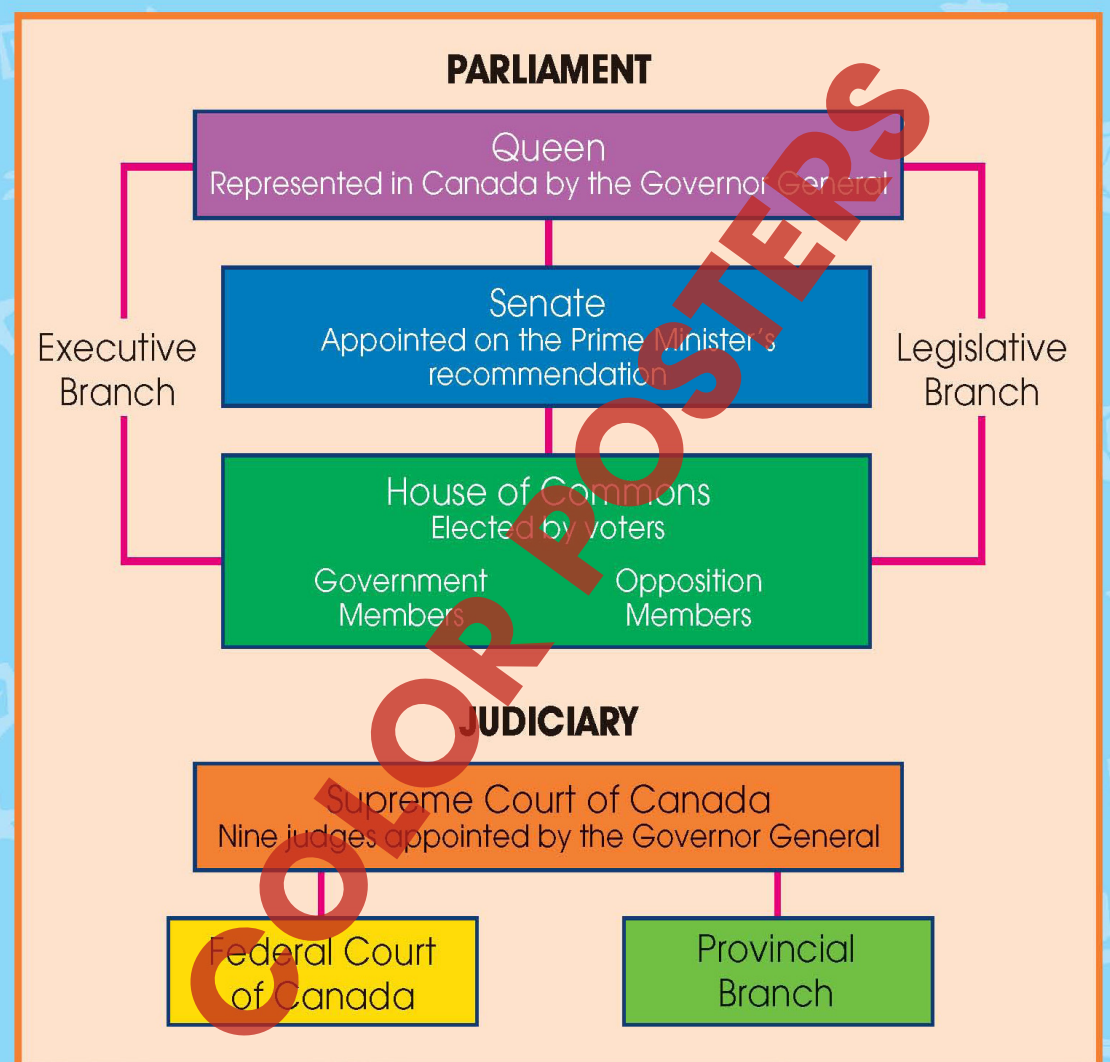
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Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false. If the statement is false, rewrite it to make it true.

- A government is the person or group of people who make the rules for everyone else in a country.
True False _____
- For some countries, anarchy is a good type of government to have.
True False _____
- Canada is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy.
True False _____
- Each provincial government is in charge of healthcare, education, welfare and transportation for its citizens.
True False _____
- The Constitution of Canada is the supreme law of the country.
True False _____
- In Canada, federal elections are held every three years.
True False _____
- In a country with popular sovereignty the citizens do not hold the highest power in the government.
True False _____
- The Supreme Court is the only branch of the federal government in which the people cannot directly vote for its members.
True False _____
- A person who wishes to hold public office should have a good sense of right and wrong.
True False _____
- Territorial governments get their power from the federal government of Canada while provincial governments get their power from the Crown.
True False _____

SUBTOTAL: /10

Three Branches of the Federal Government





Three Branches of the Federal Government

Fill in each blank with the correct term. You may use a dictionary to help. Some terms will be used more than once. Some terms will be left over.

Speaker of the House	Parliament	Governor General	Senate
House of Commons	executive	MP	judicial
Supreme Court	Cabinet	Prime Minister	legislative

- The three branches of the federal government are the _____ branch, the _____ branch, and the _____ branch.
- The House of Commons and the Senate are divisions of _____.
- The leader of the governing party of Parliament is called the _____.
- The _____ is the representative of the British Crown in Canada.
- The people chosen by the Prime Minister to lead the major governing departments are called the _____.
- The _____ is the most important part of the federal government.
- Members of Parliament are also known as _____s.
- The _____ decides who may speak in Parliament.
- The _____ is made up of nine judges selected by the Governor General.
- The _____ is also called the "Upper Chamber" of Parliament.

1. legislative, executive, judiciary	1. <input type="checkbox"/> False	3. Accept any reasonable response	1. <input type="checkbox"/> three
2. Parliament	b) False	4. Governor General	b) divisions
3. Prime Minister	c) True	5. Elected by voters	c) executive
4. Governor General	d) False	6. Nine	d) propose laws
5. Cabinet	e) True	7. Federal Court of Canada and the Provincial Courts	e) pass laws
6. House of Commons	f) False	8. Appointed by the Prime Minister	f) cabinet
7. MPs	g) True	9. Executive, legislative	g) House of Commons / Senate
8. Speaker of the House	h) True	10. Appointed by the Governor General with the Prime Minister's help	h) Senate / House of Commons
9. Supreme Court	i) True		i) judicial
10. Senate	j) False		

EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

Ottawa. Branches: executive, legislative, judicial.

Accept any reasonable response

Accept any answers that can be verified

Accept any reasonable answer