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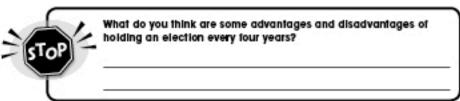
## **Electing a Government**

🔰 Reading Passage

anada is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. This means that the citizens of Canada have the opportunity to vote for people to speak for them in the government. The Constitution of 1867 and other laws state the requirements a person must have to serve in any government office. The government systems for the country and the provinces is similar.

Since the Prime Minister is selected from the House of Commons the requirements are the same for both offices. To serve in the House of Commons a person must be able to vote (age 18) and be a Canadian citizen. Senators are chosen by the Governor General, not elected. But there are requirements for them as well. A senator must: 1) be at least 30 years old, 2) be a Canadian citizen, 3) own land worth at least \$4 000 in the province for which he or she is appointed, and 4) own real and personal property worth at least \$4 000 above his or her debts and liabilities.

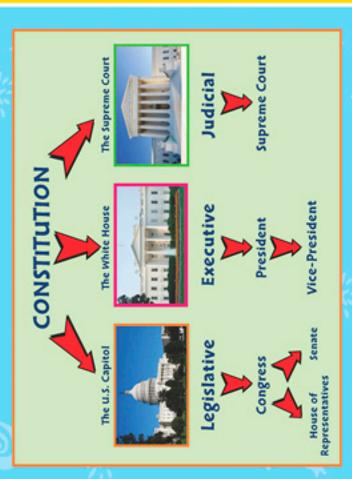
The Canadian Constitution states that a federal election must be held at least every five years. The Prime Minister may ask the Governor General to call an election at any



The Canada Elections Act says that campaigns, or activities designed to get elected to a political office, must last at least 36 days. Most of the time, a prime minister will try to keep the campaigns as short as possible. This is done to keep the amount of money spent under the limit set by the Elections Act.

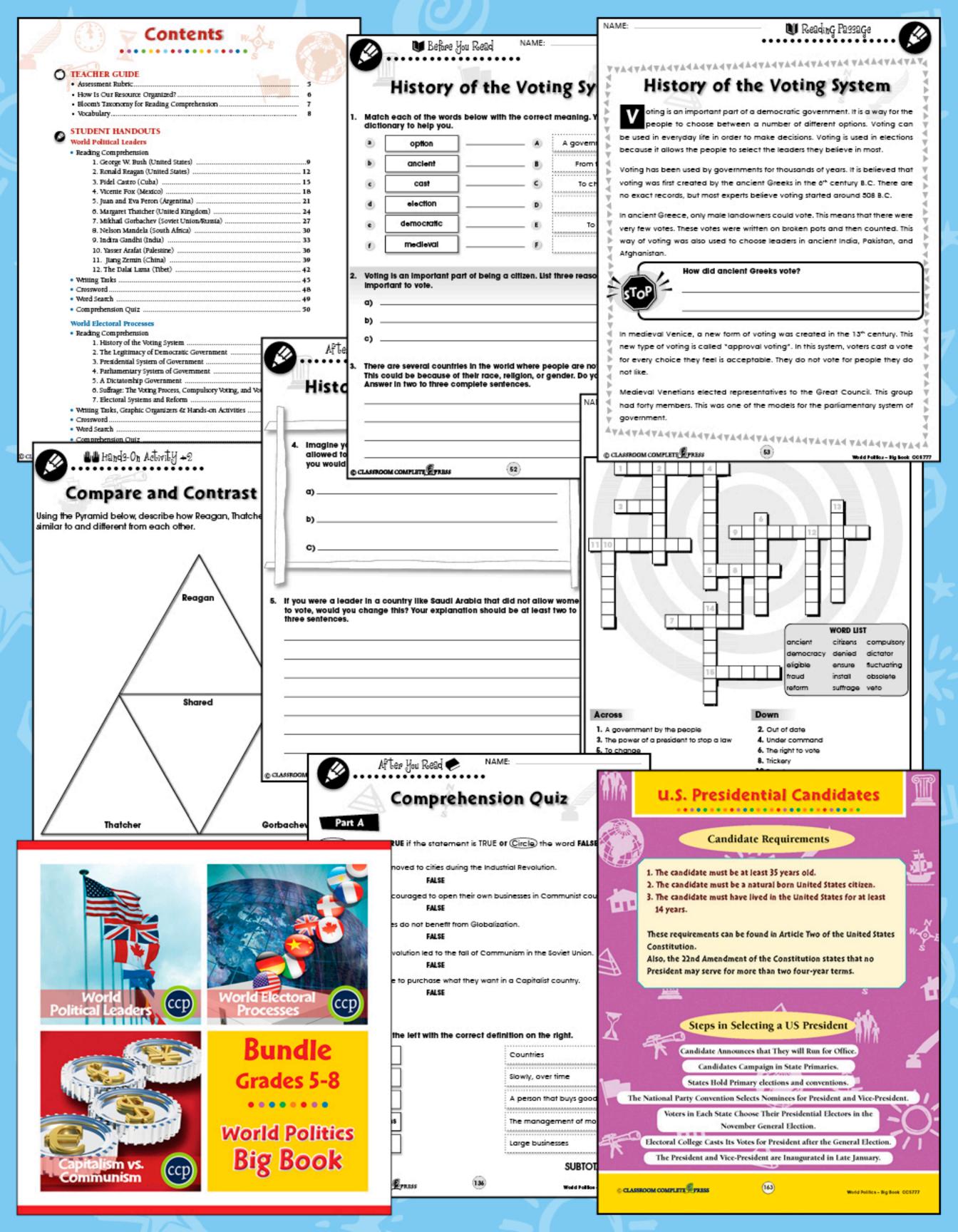


## The Federal Government



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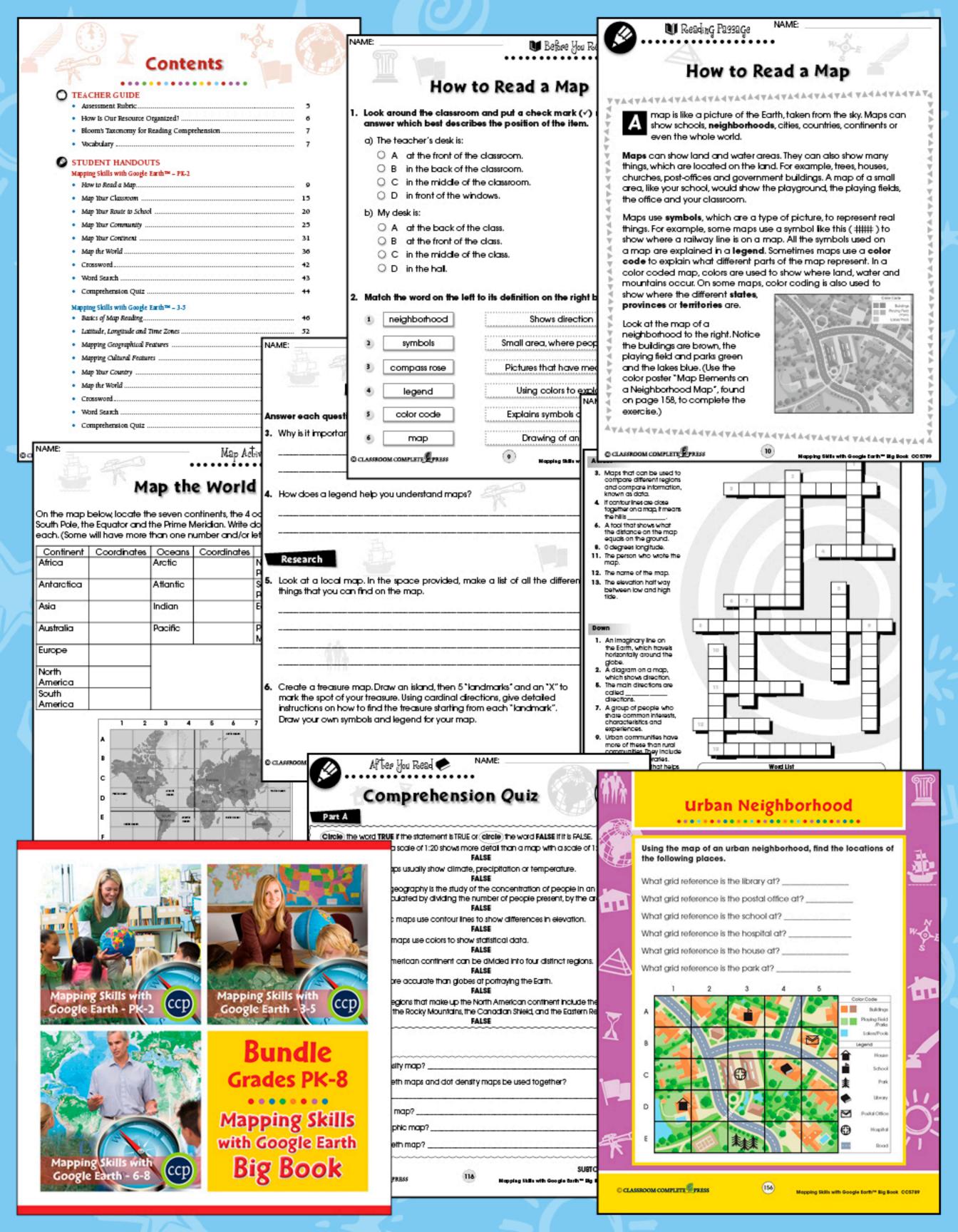
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