



TEACHER GUIDE

• Assessment Rubric	4
• How Is Our Resource Organized?	5
• Bloom's Taxonomy for Reading Comprehension	6
• Vocabulary	6



STUDENT HANDOUTS

• Reading Comprehension	
1. What Is Government?	
2. Kinds of Governments	
3. The Constitution of Mexico	
4. Three Branches of the Mexican Government	
5. System of Checks and Balances	
6. Departments of the Executive Branch of Government	
7. How a Bill Becomes a Law	7
8. Elections & Political Parties	
• Writing Tasks	11
• Crossword	12
• Word Search	13
• Comprehension Quiz	14



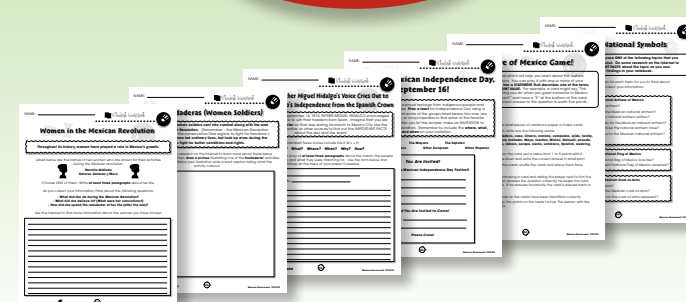
EASY MARKING™ ANSWER KEY	16
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MINI POSTERS	18
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How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. Put the correct term in each blank. Use the information in each sentence or a dictionary to help you.

decree	committee	bill	chambers	publish
10 business days	rejected	amendments	ratify	

- _____ is another name for a law.
- The two sections of the Congress are also called its two _____.
- A _____ is a suggestion for a law.
- The word _____ means the same as the word "approve".
- When a bill is approved, the president will announce it to the public or _____ it.
- After they are introduced, all bills go to a _____, or smaller group of legislators to be studied and discussed.
- When a bill is not approved we can say that it was _____.
- The president must return a bill to the Congress within _____ or it is considered approved.
- Additions to a bill are called _____.

2. Use a straight line to match each word to its definition.

sponsor	to suggest	A
veto	discussion	B
propose	a draft of a proposed law	C
debate	one who proposes a law	D
bill	to say no, or forbid the passage of a law	E



How a Bill Becomes a Law

You may have heard someone say, "There ought to be a law..." Thoughts like these are the beginning of the law-making process. Anyone in Mexico may have ideas about the kinds of laws that need to be made, but only certain people can suggest them. In Mexico, the right to introduce laws or decrees belongs to: 1) the President of the Republic, 2) the deputies and senators of the Congress, and 3) the legislatures of the States.

As soon as one of these people proposes a bill (a law that has yet to be approved) it is sent directly to a committee for study. This committee is usually made up of a smaller group of legislators and the President's representatives.

STOP What do you think? Suppose you have a great idea for a new Mexican law. How would you try to make sure that it was presented to the right people in government?

After the committee has read and discussed the bill, it is presented for a vote in one of the two **chambers**, or sections, of the Congress. If a majority of the members of that chamber approve the bill, it then goes to the other chamber. There it is discussed and voted on. Finally, if the bill is approved in both chambers, it is sent to the president for approval.

The president has the right to approve, or **veto** (disapprove), the bill. He can sign the bill which makes it a law. Or he can do nothing for ten business days and the bill will automatically become a law.

When a bill is approved, the president **publishes**, or announces it to the public. The president can veto or disapprove entire bills or parts of them. He then makes notes about the sections he is vetoing and sends the bill back to the chamber for changes.

If a two-thirds majority of the legislators agree with the changes, the bill is then sent to the other chamber for the same process. If two-thirds of that chamber's members approve the bill, it becomes a law without the president's signature.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. 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.

- Mayors of large Mexican cities can propose bills to the Congress.
True False _____
- The committee that studies proposed laws is made up of legislators and the president's representatives.
True False _____
- The Congress of the Union is made up of the Chamber of Deputies and Chamber of the Senate.
True False _____
- The president does not have the right to veto any bill placed before him.
True False _____
- When the president publishes a new law, he prints it in a large book and sells it to the citizens.
True False _____
- The members of state legislatures can propose bills in the Congress of the Union.
True False _____
- If a bill stays on the president's desk for five days without his signature, it automatically becomes a law.
True False _____

2. Does the president have more power in the law-making process than the Congress? Why or why not?

3. Do you think that the law-making process is a very quick one? Why or why not?



Here are six writing tasks about the government of Mexico. Be sure to think about all that you have learned about the Mexican 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. All governments have leaders. What is the title of the person who leads the Mexican government? How is he or she selected?

Task #2 Being the leader of a large country like Mexico is a very big task for anyone. What kind of qualities do you think the leader of the Mexican government should have? What kind of qualities do you think the leader of your country should have? Compare the qualities you have given for each leader. Give good reasons for your opinion.

Task #3 Article 3 of the Mexican Constitution of 1917 states, "Every individual has the right to receive education." Why do you think the writers of the Constitution thought an education was so important?

Task #4 All countries have problems which must be solved. Some of these problems are so serious that they are present in most countries (for example, homelessness). If you were president of the United Mexican States which three problems would you try to solve? What would you do to solve them?

Task #5 The Mexican president has many powers. Think about what you have learned about the Mexican government and describe three of the powers the Mexican president has. What document gives him these powers?

Task #6 The Constitution of 1917 states that slavery is forbidden in Mexico. What is slavery? What basic rights are taken away from a person who is a slave to another person or group of people?



Crossword Puzzle!

Word List

balances	dictator
government	conflicts
pardon	candidate
executive	Hidalgo
Deputies	Senate
democracy	sexenio
good	federation
rights	titles

Down

- Chamber of the _____
- to forgive
- Another word for "might"
- The common _____
- An army should _____ the citizens
- A group of independent states
- Checks and _____
- One who has all the power and rules by force
- The Chamber of _____

Across

- Presidential term in Mexico
- Person or group of people who make the rules for everyone else
- Privileges due to a person because he lives in a particular place
- Sections of the Mexican Constitution
- Another word for disagreements or battles
- One division of government
- Miguel _____, Mexican patriot
- A form of government in which the people select the ones who govern them
- In a democracy, a citizen casts his _____ for president
- The branch of the Mexican government which makes sure that the laws are constitutional
- Having no government at all
- Judicial, Legislative and _____

Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| leader | democracy | titles | chambers |
| citizens | independence | branches | publishes |
| rights | hidalgo | sexenio | democracy |
| enforce | sovereign | checks | elected |
| anarchy | mexico city | veto | political |
| monarchy | federation | pardon | parties |
| constitution | president | authority | vote |

c	h	e	c	k	s	a	b	s	r	e	b	n	a	h	a	c	d
m	i	l	k	j	t	i	h	g	f	e	r	d	c	b	u	z	y
n	d	o	p	q	h	i	n	o	a	r	a	p	r	s	t	u	v
d	a	c	b	a	g	z	t	y	w	h	v	u	t	h	r	q	
e	l	f	g	h	i	i	j	k	l	c	m	n	b	o	p	q	
r	g	s	p	o	r	n	m	l	a	k	h	j	i	h	r	e	a
a	o	e	d	f	g	t	e	w	a	s	e	n	m	u	i	i	n
e	v	i	i	b	o	i	n	e	x	e	s	e	n	e	t	l	s
m	n	t	s	y	t	u	b	v	e	j	q	k	b	e	y	l	i
h	o	r	n	o	e	l	k	r	y	c	a	r	c	o	m	e	d
t	r	a	e	r	v	o	t	e	p	o	r	y	k	r	j	a	w
w	i	p	z	l	m	e	x	i	c	o	c	i	t	y	y	d	c
s	n	v	i	p	e	y	r	d	s	a	q	w	e	h	r	e	o
b	d	e	t	y	q	c	u	e	j	w	b	e	e	c	o	r	n
w	e	g	i	h	k	t	s	i	z	x	p	a	r	t	e	s	
i	p	e	c	w	q	a	r	e	s	g	d	o	f	a	h	j	t
j	e	c	r	v	b	e	m	y	d	e	n	l	w	n	e	r	i
y	n	f	g	n	b	l	h	x	c	n	m	i	q	o	w	e	t
p	d	q	u	m	r	c	e	r	w	q	m	t	n	m	b	v	u
l	e	w	a	o	r	y	o	t	n	e	d	i	s	e	r	p	t
a	n	h	b	a	j	f	g	d	s	d	s	c	a	q	w	q	i
l	c	a	n	m	n	o	f	e	d	e	r	a	t	i	o	n	o
h	e	a	f	e	f	y	s	e	h	s	i	l	b	u	p	h	n



Comprehension Quiz

Part A

25

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.

- A government is the person or group who makes the rules for all the other citizens in a country.
True False _____
- Governments are not necessary in all countries.
True False _____
- Most governments in the Western Hemisphere are monarchies.
True False _____
- The Constitution of 1917 was written in order to set up a government for Mexico.
True False _____
- In a country with popular sovereignty the citizens hold the highest power in the government.
True False _____
- The Institutional Revolutionary Party and the National Action Party are the two most popular political parties in Mexico.
True False _____
- The government of the United Mexican States is a representative monarchy.
True False _____
- The government of Mexico is divided into four branches.
True False _____
- The Mexican president's advisors are called Secretaries of Senate.
True False _____
- In Mexico, the right to introduce laws or decrees belongs to the deputies and senators of the Congress only.
True False _____

SUBTOTAL: /10

Political Map of Mexico





How a Bill Becomes a Law



4. Number the events from **1** to **7** in the order they occur.

- _____ a) The president approves the bill or vetoes it (does not approve it).
- _____ b) The bill goes to a smaller group, called a committee, for discussion and debate.
- _____ c) A bill is introduced by a member of Congress, the president, or a member of a state legislature.
- _____ d) The entire chamber votes on the bill.
- _____ e) The committee approves the bill and returns it to the group for a vote.
- _____ f) If the entire group approves the bill, it goes to the other chamber of Congress.
- _____ g) Both sections of Congress approve the bill and send it to the President.

5. **Surfing the net!** On the Internet, find a website that has a picture of the Mexican flag. It looks like the picture below. What colors are the different parts of the flag? Color the flag below. Be sure to put the correct colors in the right places!



EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

3.

Answers will vary

- a) 7
- b) 2
- c) 1
- d) 4
- e) 3
- f) 5
- g) 6

Across:

- 1. sexenio
- 3. government
- 4. rights
- 5. Titles
- 6. conflicts
- 7. branch
- 8. Hidalgo
- 10. democracy
- 11. vote
- 12. judicial
- 13. anarchy
- 15. executive

Down:

- 1. Senate
- 2. pardon
- 4. power
- 5. good
- 6. protect
- 7. federation
- 8. balances
- 9. dictator
- 10. Deputies
- 12. candidate

4.

- Left panel - green
- Center panel - white
- Right panel - red
- Coat-of-arms - various colors

10

11

12