

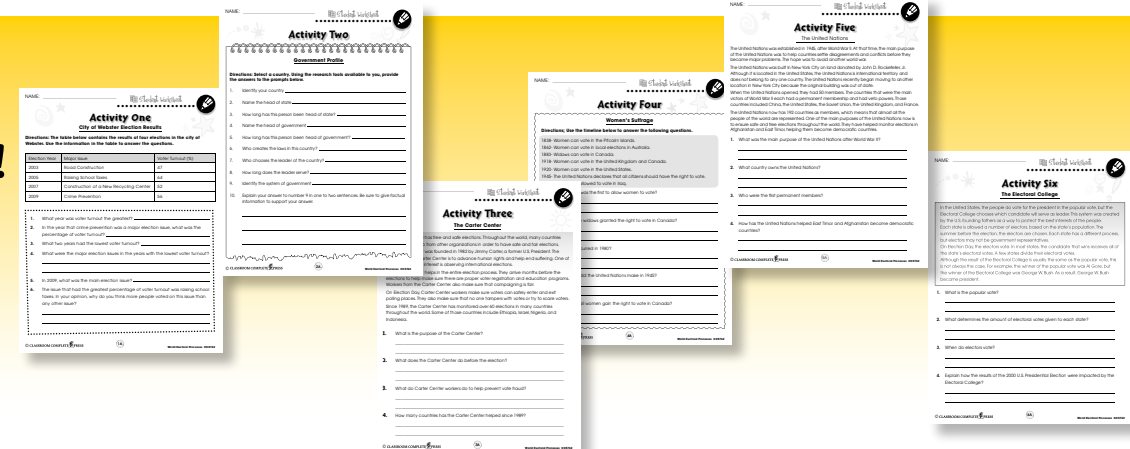
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# History of the Voting System

1. Match each of the words below with the correct meaning. You may use a dictionary to help you.

a	option	_____	A	A government by the people
b	ancient	_____	B	From the Middle Ages
c	cast	_____	C	To choose by voting
d	election	_____	D	Very old
e	democratic	_____	E	To place a vote
f	medieval	_____	F	A choice

2. Voting is an important part of being a citizen. List three reasons why it is important to vote.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

3. There are several countries in the world where people are not allowed to vote. This could be because of their race, religion, or gender. Do you believe this is fair? Answer in two to three complete sentences.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# History of the Voting System

**V**oting is an important part of a democratic government. It is a way for the people to choose between a number of different options. Voting can be used in everyday life in order to make decisions. Voting is used in elections because it allows the people to select the leaders they believe in most.

Voting has been used by governments for thousands of years. It is believed that voting was first created by the ancient Greeks in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. There are no exact records, but most experts believe voting started around 508 B.C.

In ancient Greece, only male landowners could vote. This means that there were very few votes. These votes were written on broken pots and then counted. This way of voting was also used to choose leaders in ancient India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

How did ancient Greeks vote?



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In medieval Venice, a new form of voting was created in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. This new type of voting is called "approval voting". In this system, voters cast a vote for every choice they feel is acceptable. They do not vote for people they do not like.

Medieval Venetians elected representatives to the Great Council. This group had forty members. This was one of the models for the parliamentary system of government.



# History of the Voting System

1. Circle the word **TRUE** if the statement is TRUE or Circle the word **FALSE** if it is FALSE.

- a) Voting was created by the ancient Romans.  
**TRUE**                      **FALSE**
- b) Voting allows the people to choose their leaders.  
**TRUE**                      **FALSE**
- c) Switzerland was the first country to let women vote.  
**TRUE**                      **FALSE**
- d) Every country allows all their citizens to vote.  
**TRUE**                      **FALSE**
- e) Medieval Venetians elected members to the Great Council.  
**TRUE**                      **FALSE**
- f) The Carter Center helps elections around the world.  
**TRUE**                      **FALSE**

2. Circle the event that happened first.

- a) Greeks voted using broken pieces of pots. Venetians used approval voting.
- b) Women had the right to vote in Saudi Arabia. Women had the right to vote in Canada.

3. The medieval Venetians created approval voting. In your own words, summarize how approval voting works. Your answer should be two to three sentences.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Writing Tasks

1. Imagine that you could be the next leader of your country. What issues would be important to your voters. Write a speech, describing what you would do if you were given the power to lead your country.
2. Is your country's government a dictatorship, or does it follow either the presidential or parliamentary system of government? Use specific examples from the text you have read to support your answer.
3. Which form of government do you think best represents the citizens? Provide three examples that substantiate your opinion.
4. Complete the "Dictator vs. Elected Leader" graphic organizer. In your essay, compare and contrast the two different types of leadership. Be sure to give examples from your reading and research in order to support your answer.
5. Voter turnout is becoming a very large problem in the electoral process. What can be done to improve voter turnout? Create a plan that would help improve voter turnout in your area. Suggest three ideas to improve voter turnout and describe how these ideas can become reality.
6. Select a prime minister, president, or dictator from the 20th century. Complete the "Biography Timeline" graphic organizer. Write a biography of this leader, including how the leader came into power and how their leadership was impacted by world events.





# Crossword Puzzle!

**WORD LIST**

ancient	citizens	compulsory
democracy	denied	dictator
eligible	ensure	fluctuating
fraud	install	obsolete
reform	suffrage	veto

**Across**

- A government by the people
- Out of date
- The power of a president to stop a law
- Under command
- To change
- The right to vote
- Turned down
- Trickery
- Changing
- To set up
- A leader with absolute power
- Very old
- Qualified
- The people of a country

**Down**

# Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words are written horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and some are even written backwards.

- |             |           |           |          |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| option      | select    | obsolete  | bill     |
| monarch     | component | democracy | suffrage |
| fluctuating | election  | install   | veto     |
| cast        | dictator  | fraud     | denied   |
| parliament  | ensure    | term      | cabinet  |
| reform      | citizens  | funding   | enforce  |
| medieval    | military  | execute   |          |

T	C	E	L	E	S	R	S	E	T	U	C	E	X	E	G	H	F
U	W	E	O	L	T	K	O	B	S	O	L	E	T	E	N	J	L
F	Y	T	P	U	O	T	D	I	N	E	T	E	T	P	T	Z	U
H	O	P	T	I	O	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	E	N	A	C	C
M	T	E	S	U	F	F	R	A	G	E	N	T	R	F	M	U	T
Q	A	W	A	N	H	E	S	R	H	T	I	P	M	J	P	L	U
U	E	F	C	K	C	A	B	I	N	E	T	R	R	T	E	G	A
V	D	E	R	U	S	N	E	S	R	H	O	E	R	O	R	E	T
F	E	R	T	H	Y	S	E	K	T	W	F	O	Y	E	L	I	
I	X	T	C	Y	F	L	L	J	A	B	J	O	T	U	D	E	N
N	W	E	O	A	S	A	U	T	T	O	J	R	K	F	J	E	G
S	E	F	A	M	V	N	C	D	V	H	I	M	A	D	Q	D	S
T	O	E	C	E	S	I	Q	A	C	E	R	C	U	V	A	C	X
A	S	W	I	C	D	E	U	R	V	O	M	A	T	K	P	O	O
L	T	D	T	J	K	D	A	C	R	Y	R	L	U	D	Z	M	A
L	E	N	I	A	B	N	S	H	U	F	C	T	W	E	N	P	P
M	E	R	Z	F	O	T	A	P	T	H	J	C	A	N	P	O	G
P	S	D	E	M	O	C	R	A	C	Y	R	E	N	I	T	N	L
O	I	R	N	E	Y	E	N	F	O	R	C	E	G	E	I	E	U
I	A	W	S	N	P	R	J	W	S	E	T	S	K	D	B	N	L
R	M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y	G	S	I	Q	N	P	R	T	E
A	Q	L	U	T	K	E	T	A	K	H	R	U	O	L	U	T	J
P	A	R	L	I	A	M	E	N	T	P	F	L	R	B	I	L	L



# Comprehension Quiz

## Part A

25

Circle the word **TRUE** if the statement is TRUE or Circle the word **FALSE** if it is FALSE.

- The people elect the prime minister.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- Technology can lead to electoral reform.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- There are free and open elections in a dictatorship.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- The ancient Romans were the first to vote.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**
- Women have not always been allowed to vote.  
**TRUE**      **FALSE**

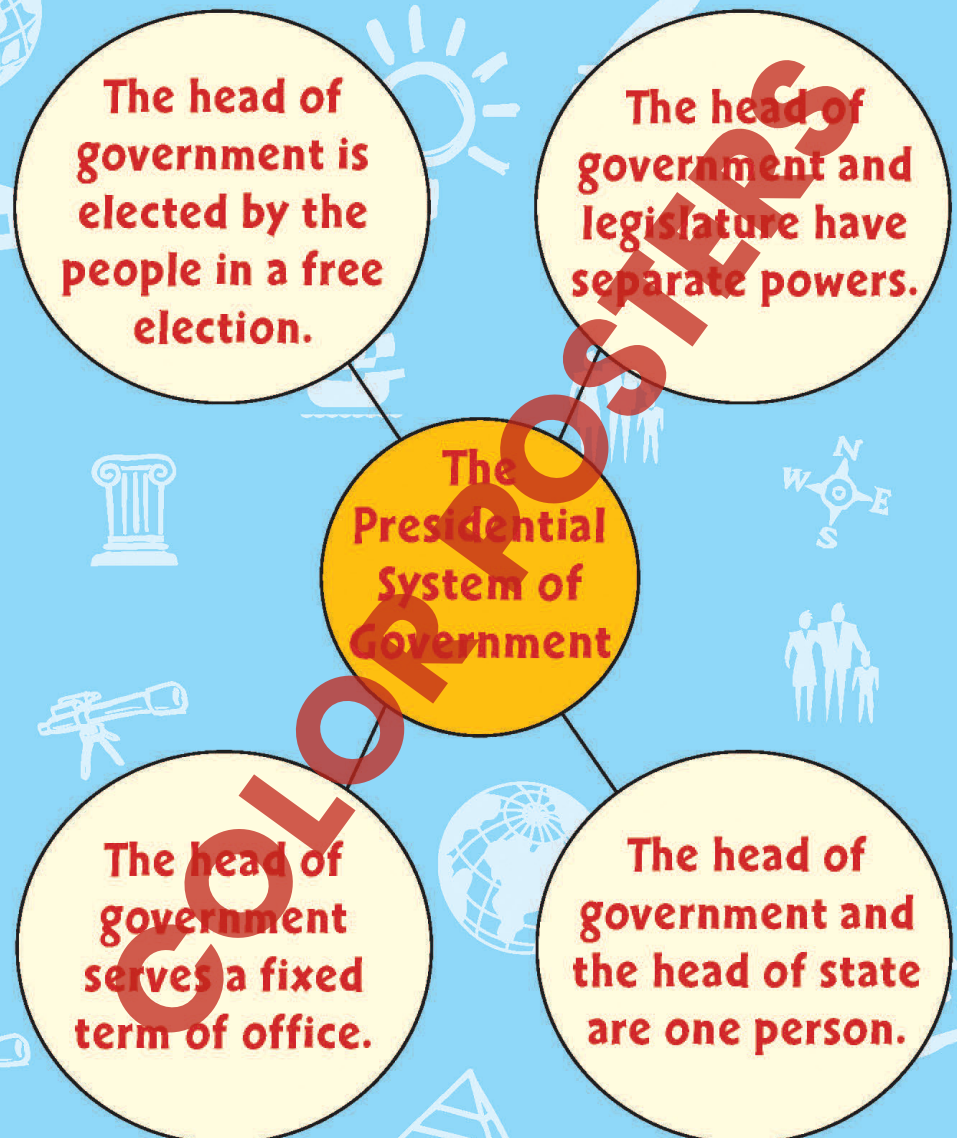
## Part B

Match the term on the left with the correct definition on the right.

1	Term	A	The power to stop a law
2	Veto	B	To change
3	Democracy	C	A period of time
4	Compulsory	D	A government by the people
5	Reform	E	Under command

SUBTOTAL: /10

# The Presidential System of Government



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

After You Read 



# History of the Voting System

4. Imagine you could interview a woman in Saudi Arabia who is not allowed to vote in her country's elections. List three questions you would ask her about this topic.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you were a leader in a country like Saudi Arabia that did not allow women to vote, would you change this? Your explanation should be at least two to three sentences.

# EASY MARKING

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

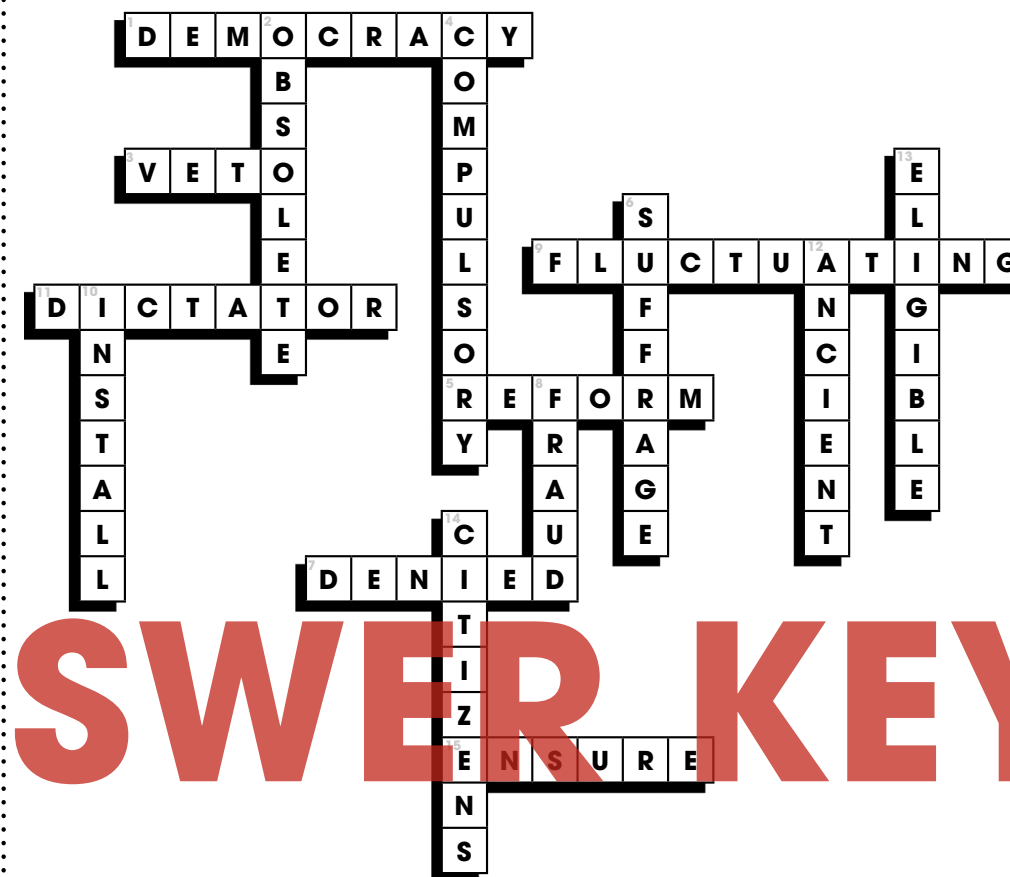
4.

Answers will vary.

5.

Answers will vary.

# Crossword Puzzle!



# ANSWER KEY