



TEACHER GUIDE

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Suffrage: The Voting Process, Compulsory Voting, and Voter Turnout

1. Write each word from the list next to the correct meaning. Use a dictionary to help you.

suffrage	compulsory	fluctuating
denied	enforce	eligible

- a) Qualified _____
- b) To carry out _____
- c) The right to vote _____
- d) Turned down _____
- e) Changing _____
- f) Under command _____

2. Every country has its own requirements for voters. Using the resources in your classroom, find two of the requirements for voters in your country. List those requirements below.

- a) _____
- b) _____

3. Many countries have compulsory voting. Identify three countries. You may use the resources in your classroom to help you.

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____



Suffrage: The Voting Process, Compulsory Voting, and Voter Turnout

Suffrage is a citizen's right to vote. In different countries throughout history, many groups have been denied suffrage. This could be because of religion, race, age, gender, or social class.



In order to vote, a citizen must meet the requirements of the country. Every country has different requirements for voting. Most countries, including Canada and the United States, require voters to be at least 18 years old. The minimum voting age throughout the world falls between 15 and 21 years old. Currently, Iran is the only country with a minimum voting age of 15.

In most countries with a democratic government, citizens have the right to decide if they are going to vote. In these countries, there are no laws that require citizens to vote. If they meet the voting requirements and are registered to vote, they are free to choose if they want to vote.

This is not the case in every country. Some countries have compulsory voting. In these countries, citizens are required by the law to vote. Other countries that have compulsory voting do not force citizens to vote, but the citizen must still come to a polling place during the election so that their name can be checked from a list.

There are laws in these countries to enforce compulsory voting. Every eligible citizen must register to vote. If people do not follow the law, they can be fined, made to complete community service hours, or even placed in jail. The consequence of breaking the law is different in each country.



Suffrage: The Voting Process, Compulsory Voting, and Voter Turnout

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

- a) Voter turnout is not high in countries with compulsory voting.
TRUE FALSE
- b) Iran is the only country with a minimum voting age of 15.
TRUE FALSE
- c) People who do not vote in countries with compulsory voting can be put in jail.
TRUE FALSE
- d) Voting requirements are the same throughout the world.
TRUE FALSE
- e) Voters do not need to register in the United States.
TRUE FALSE

2. What is the minimum age to vote in the United States and Canada?

3. In your own words, explain how war and media coverage can impact voter turnout. Your answer should be one to two sentences.

4. Explain why voter turnout is decreasing in Canada. Your answer should be two to three sentences.

Hands-on Activities

1. **Basketball Review Game:** At the end of the unit, you can use this game to help you prepare students for a unit quiz or test. Affix a basketball hoop to a wall in your classroom. On the floor in front of the basket, adhere three lines to the floor using tape. Assign each of these lines a point value. The closest line to the basket should be one point, the middle line should be two points, and the farthest line should be three points. Students will be divided into two teams, and one player will be at the hoop at a time. When the player answers the question correctly, they will throw a soft ball at the hoop in order to get points. If they miss the hoop or do not answer the question correctly, they will not be awarded points.

Before starting the activity, you will need to prepare three categories of questions: easy (1 point), medium (2 points), and challenging (3 points). You can even involve the students in writing the questions. The day before the basketball game, ask each student to write one of each type of question. You can then go through those questions and select the best questions for the game.

2. **Hold an Election:** Select a policy or rule that would be relevant to the running of your classroom. This could include how chores are divided or whether or not homework will be assigned on weekends for one month. Students will have to work together to decide when the election will be held, design a ballot for the election, create a voting system that allows for voting privacy and security, and decide how votes will be counted.

3. **Roleplay:** In the parliamentary system, the House of Representatives allows members to deliver 90 second statements about issues that are important to them. Allow students to select their own issues and speak as a member of Parliament for those 90 seconds. Each student should have the opportunity to roleplay, so you will need to set aside ample time. You may decide to act as the Speaker, the moderator of the statements, or you may decide to select a student to be the moderator. If you do decide to allow a student to be the Speaker, make sure that student can keep track of the time limitations before you begin the statements.



Crossword Puzzle!

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
- To make certain
- Qualified
- The people of a country

Down

- Out of date
- Under command
- The right to vote
- Trickery
- To set up
- Very old
- Qualified
- The people of a country

WORD LIST

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

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 | |

Comprehension Quiz

Part C

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

- Explain the purpose of the cabinet. 3
- Explain how technology can cause electoral reform. 3
- How long is a prime minister's term of office? 3
- Identify three reasons why people have been denied the right to vote. 3
- How does compulsory voting affect voter turnout? 3

SUBTOTAL: /15

The Parliamentary System of Government



