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Canadian Governments Curriculum Map

Here is everything you need to teach your students about Canada's governments. Introduce the unit with a fable that provides insight into the need for good and fair government, and progress through a comprehensive study of government in Canada. Twenty-two lesson plans and more than 75 reproducible worksheets and information pages may be used in any order to suit the unique needs of your classroom.

Topics include: Federal, provincial and territorial governments, How the three levels of government function and interact, The electoral process, How a bill becomes a law, Constitution and charter of rights and freedoms, Immigration and becoming a Canadian citizen.

Introduction:

- At A Glance – List of Skills and Learning Expectations
- About the Resource
- List of Resources
- List of Vocabulary
- Teacher Planning Suggestions
- Topic Introduction Lesson

Lesson Plans:

The twenty-two lessons include learning expectations, discussion ideas where applicable, answers, reading passages and follow-up worksheets.

Lesson One: What is a Government?

- Students will understand the common elements found in any type of government.

Lesson Two: Kinds of Governments

- Students will become more familiar with the different forms of government found in countries around the world.

Lesson Three: Canada's Government

Students will:

- become more aware of the style of government that governs Canada.
- have a better understanding of the many terms pertaining to our government.

Lesson Four: Our Parliamentary Government

- The students will become more aware of the different components of Canada's Federal Government and how each one functions.

- a) The Governor General
- b) The Prime Minister
- c) The Cabinet
- d) Our Parliament
- e) The Senate
- f) The House of Commons
- g) Speakers of the House
- h) Sergeant-at-Arms
- i) The Usher of the Black Rod
- j) Parliamentary Pages

Lesson Five: The Opening of Parliament

- Students will understand the traditions and the order of events that take place during the Opening of Parliament.

Lesson Six: A Working Day in the House of Commons

Students will:

- become more aware of the daily organization and functions of the Federal Government in the House of Commons.
- become more familiar with the responsibilities and duties of a Member of Parliament.

Lesson Seven: What Does a Member of Parliament Do?

- Students will learn the tasks and jobs performed by a member of parliament.

Lesson Eight: National Political Parties

- Students will learn about the four main political parties in Canada.

Lesson Nine: How Are Political Parties Formed?

- Students will learn how political parties are organized and formed, how they raise money, the important characteristics of a good leader and more!

Lesson Ten: Who Are the Backbenchers?

- Students will learn what the parties who are the backbenchers. ***Lesson Ten and Lesson Eleven need to be completed together.***

Lesson Eleven: What Role Does the Opposition Play in our Government?

- Students will learn the role the opposition plays. ***Lesson Ten and Lesson Eleven need to be completed together.***

Lesson Twelve: What is the Civil Service?

- Students will learn why the civil service is important to government, who are civil servants, and how they help cabinet members.

Lesson Thirteen: What is the Rule of Law?

Students will:

- have a better understanding of the meaning of the word “law.”
- have a better understanding of the process used by the Government to establish laws.

Lesson Fourteen: How Does a Bill Become a Law?

- Students will learn how laws are made.

Lesson Fifteen: How Does Canada's Environment Shape Its Government?

Students will

- become more aware that Canada's geographical features, historical events, varied cultures, natural resources, values, and beliefs affect government policies and responses to peoples' demands.
- have a better understanding that Canada's extreme diversity is often difficult to govern.

Lesson Sixteen: How Do We Get the Government to Listen to Our Demands?

Students will

- learn about the various ways people communicate their feelings with the government about its decisions or actions.
- know that Canada is a democratic country.

Lesson Seventeen: What is an Election?

Students will:

- be able to identify and describe the electoral process in Canada.
- understand the procedures and organization completed during a Canadian election

Lesson Eighteen: Confederation

Students will:

- understand the history of the birth of Canada and its Government.
- have a better understanding of the problems that had to be overcome to form Canada's Government.

Lesson Nineteen: Canada's Constitution and Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedom 1982

Students will be:

- more aware of Canada's Constitution and what it means.
- more knowledgeable of their rights and freedoms as stated in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1982.

Lesson Twenty: Canadian Citizenship

Students will:

- be aware of the rights and responsibilities that accompany their Canadian Citizenship.
- have a better understanding of the process and steps an immigrant must take in order to become a Canadian Citizen.

Lesson Twenty-One: Provincial/Territorial Governments

Students will:

- understand different aspects of Provincial and Territorial Governments.
- become aware of the responsibilities of Provincial and Territorial Governments

Lesson Twenty-Two: Local or Municipal Governments

Students will:

- have the opportunity to explore their own local government and municipality.
- be exposed to the various leaders of their local government.

Learning About Our Community (Booklet) may be used by students to complete an independent study of their community. The pages may be reproduced and collated to make individual student booklets.

**Expectations:**

Students will:

- become more aware of the style of government that governs Canada.
- have a better understanding of the many terms pertaining to our government.

Discussion Time:

Explain to the students that any government has three main components that carry out tasks and functions. Write the words: legislative, executive, and judicial in a list on the chalkboard. Explain to your students how each area functions in a government.

Discuss how the Canadian government is a democracy, a monarchy, a parliamentary system, federal system, a representative government, and a responsible government. List the words on the chalkboard. Beside each write the students' responses.

Follow-Up:

Complete the worksheet entitled "Canada's Government" page 26. Write the missing words on the chalkboard in random order. The students are to write each word on the correct line. Review the sheet with the students. Have them complete the Tree Diagram entitled "Canada's Federal Government." Make an overhead of the same diagram or display it on a Smart Board. Fill in each space and have the students follow along by filling in their diagram as well. Discuss the importance of each position and its responsibilities.

✓Answers

Canada's Government: (page 26)

Paragraph 1: three; legislative; executive; judicial; laws; effect; broken; punish

Paragraph 2: democracy; monarchy; parliamentary; cabinet; federal

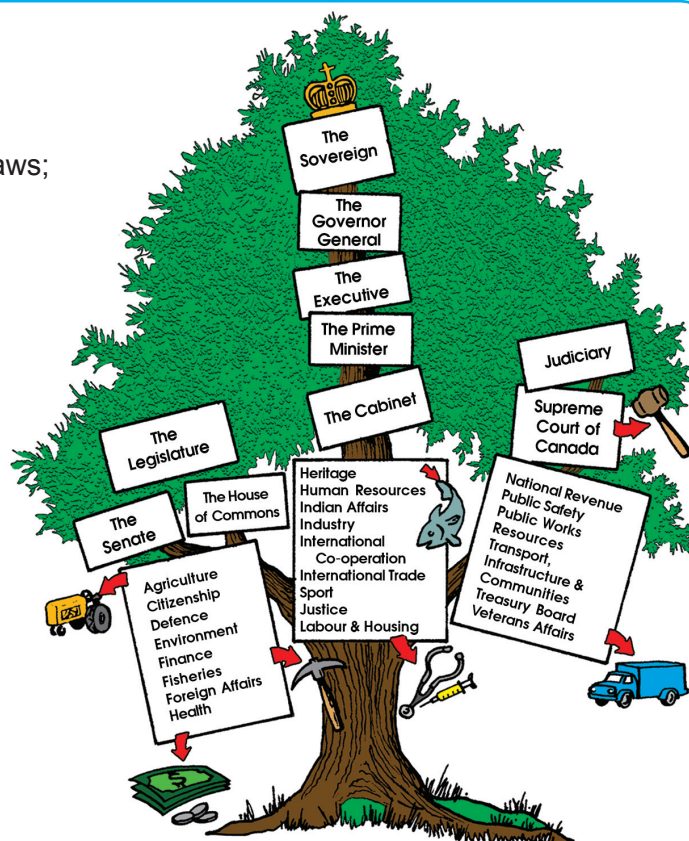
Paragraph 3: elect; govern; representative

Paragraph 4: monarchy, Queen Elizabeth II; Governor General

Paragraph 5: parliamentary; British Parliament

Paragraph 6: Cabinet; Prime Minister; House of Commons; people; responsible

Paragraph 7: federal; national; provincial; territorial; federation; power; laws

Canada's Federal Government: (page 27)



There are many things that people cannot do on their own such as act as a police force or an army in the face of criminals or invaders. It takes many people to provide all the services necessary to run a country, a province or a territory.



A government is the machinery set up by individuals to enable them to do what others cannot do on their own. Without some form of government there would be no order or protection for people and their property. A government's basic task is to make a set of laws to allow people in a society to live together in peace and security. A government also makes sure laws are obeyed and sets up punishments or penalties that protect the interests of the people as a whole against the greed or ambition of any one person or any one group.

There are many different kinds of governments but they all carry out three main tasks or functions. They are legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislative function is the making of laws or the passing of legislation. The executive function is putting the laws into effect on a daily basis. The judicial function is to decide if an individual has broken society's laws and to punish the guilty.

The government of Canada has been described as a democracy, a monarchy, a parliamentary system, a cabinet government, and a federal government with a written constitution called the Canada Act and Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms 1982.

The word democracy comes from a Greek word. This word is a combination of two Greek words *demos*, which means people and *kratos* which means power. A democracy is a system of government in which the people rule or have the power.

Canada is considered a democracy because of the way that we choose our government or rulers. In a modern country, democracy means a system in which the citizens of the country freely choose the people who will govern them. In Canada we elect others to represent us in governing the country and we sometimes describe this system as a representative government.

Canada's government has also been described as a monarchy. In a monarchy, the monarch is the source of all authority. Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of Canada. She is represented by the Governor General. Neither the Queen nor the Governor General plays a major role in the actual government of Canada.

Canada's government has also been described as a parliamentary government. Canada's parliament consists of the Queen represented by the Governor General, the Senate, whose members are appointed and the House of Commons, made up of representatives elected by the Canadian voters. Parliamentary government in Canada means government by Queen, Senate, and the House of Commons.

Our system of government has also been referred to as a cabinet government. The Cabinet ministers carry out the executive functions of the government. Cabinet ministers must be elected to the House of Commons or have seats in the Senate. In order to stay in office they must have the support of a majority of the members of the House of Commons. The Cabinet ministers - the executive branch of government - are responsible to the House of Commons - the legislative branch and the Prime Minister. The House of Commons is in turn elected by the people and responsible to them. Our government has a line of responsibility running from the bottom to the top and because of this responsibility Canadians sometimes use the term responsible government to describe our system.

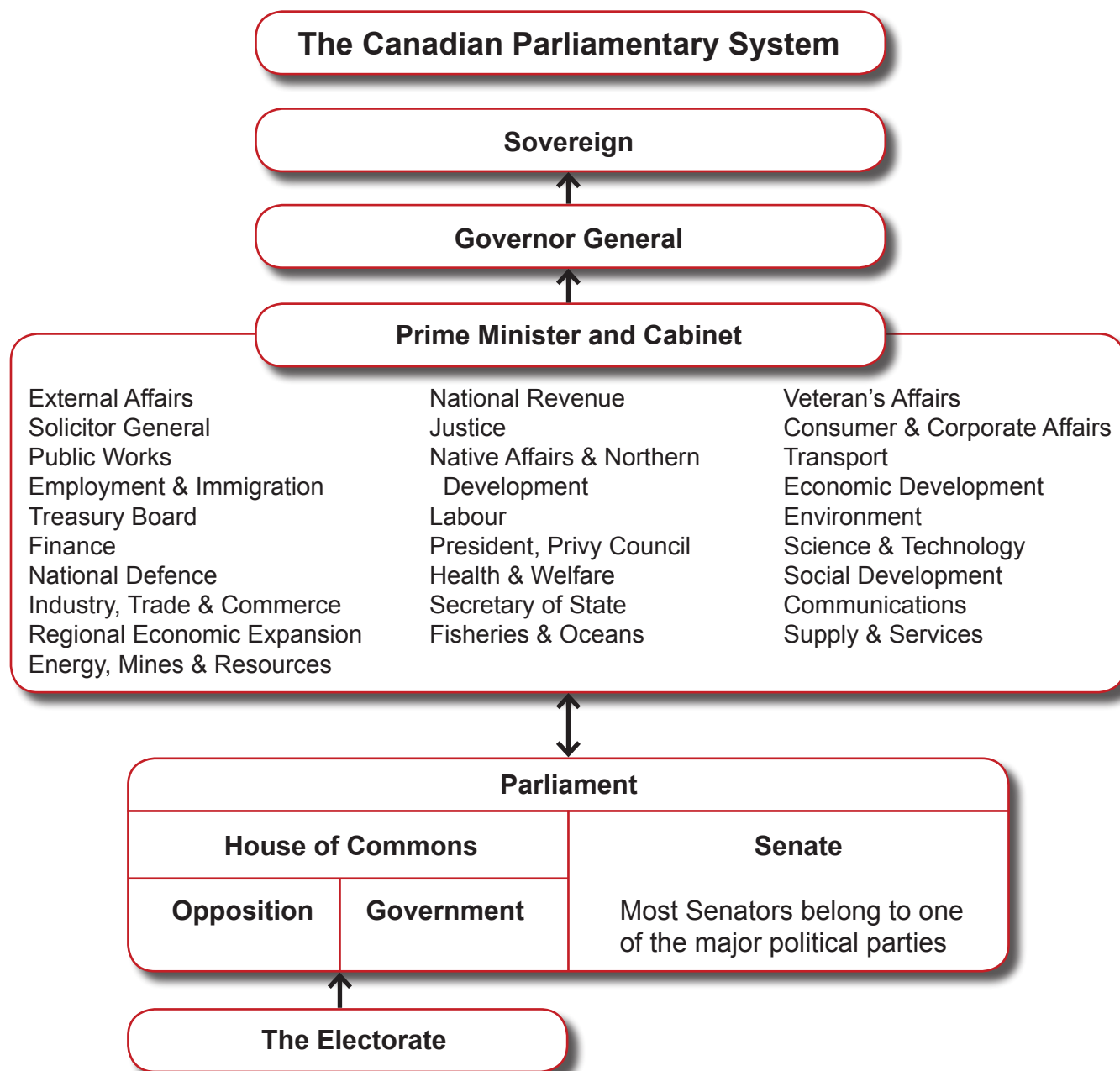
People often refer to our government as a federal system of government. This means our government has a system in which the power to make laws is shared between two levels of government - a national government and provincial and territorial governments. Canada is a federation of provinces and territories or has a federal government because both levels of government have the power to make laws.





Follow-up Activity

People often refer to our government as a federal system of government. This means our government has a system in which the power to make laws is shared between two levels of government - a national or central government and provincial governments. Canada is a federation of provinces and territories or has a federal government because both levels of government have the power to make laws.





Follow-up Activity



Our government carries out _____ main tasks or functions. They are _____, _____ and _____. The legislative function is to make new _____ and to pass them. The executive function is to make sure the laws are put into _____. The judicial function is to decide if a person has _____ society's laws and to _____ the guilty.

Canada's government has been described as a _____, a _____, a _____ system, a _____ government and a _____ system with a written constitution.

It is a democracy because we _____ the people who _____ us. Sometimes this system is also called a _____ government.

Our government has also been described as a _____ because _____ is the Queen of Canada and is represented by the _____. Neither the Queen nor the Governor General is involved in our government.

Some people refer to our government as a _____ government because Canada's parliament consists of the Queen, represented by the Governor General, the Senate and the House of Commons.

Canada's government has often been referred to as a _____ government because the Cabinet Ministers carry out the executive functions of the government. The Cabinet Ministers are responsible to the _____ and the _____. The House of Commons is responsible to the _____ who elected its members. This line of responsibility running from the top of the government to the people makes our government a _____ one.

People often call our government a _____ system because it has a _____ government and _____ and _____ governments. Provincial/Territorial governments and the federal government have the _____ to make _____.





*Follow-up
Activity*

