Canada’s Government
A Constitutional Monarchy, Parliamentary Democracy, & Federation
SS6CG3 The student will explain the structure of the national government of Canada.

a. Describe the structure of the Canadian government as a constitutional monarchy, a parliamentary democracy, and a federation, distinguishing the role of the citizen in terms of voting and personal freedoms.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role of the Citizen</th>
<th>Canada’s Legislature - Parliament</th>
<th>Canada’s Leaders</th>
<th>Canada’s Constitutional Monarchy</th>
<th>Canada’s Parliamentary Democracy</th>
<th>Canada’s Federal System</th>
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</table>
Canada’s Government
A Constitutional Monarchy, Parliamentary Democracy, & Federation
Government Systems - Who has the power?

• **Unitary**—power is held by one central authority

• **Confederation**—association of independent states that agree to certain limitations on their freedoms by joining together

• **Federal**—power is divided between central authority & several regional authorities

Which system does Canada have?
Let’s Review

Government Types - how do citizens participate?

• **Autocracy**-- 1 person possesses unlimited power & citizens have limited role in government

• **Oligarchy**-- small group exercises control & citizens have limited role in government

• **Democracy**--supreme power is vested in the people & exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation involving free elections

Which type does Canada have?
Let’s Review

Two Types of Democratic Governments:

- **Parliamentary**— citizens elect members of Parliament, and then the members select the leader
  - Leader works with or through the legislature

- **Presidential**— system of government in which the leader is constitutionally independent of the legislature; citizens directly elect leader
  - Leader works separate from legislature

Which type does Canada have?
Canada’s Government

- Federation (federal system)
- Parliamentary Democracy
- Constitutional Monarchy
Parliament Hill, in Ottawa, Ontario, is home to Canada’s government.
Federal System

• Canada has a federal system, which means that the national government and the provincial & territorial governments SHARE power.

• There are 10 provinces and 3 territories in Canada.
Constitutional Monarchy

- Constitutional Monarchy - A monarch inherits the right to rule but is limited by laws and a law-making body elected by the people.
- Canada’s constitution lists the powers of the government.
- The British monarchy, a king or queen, is the head of state. However, since the monarchy does not live in Canada, he or she chooses a governor-general to act in his or her place...
Leadership

1. **Head of State**: Monarch of the United Kingdom (presently, Queen Elizabeth II); little political power

2. **Governor General**: stands in for the monarch

3. **Prime Minister**: holds the most political power; works closely with the legislature
Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II
His Excellency
The Right Honorable
David Johnston

Governor General
The Right Honorable
Stephen Harper

Prime Minister
How Leaders are Chosen

• **Governor General**: appointed by the monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister; serves a 5-year term

• **Prime Minister**: is the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons; indirectly elected by the people
Legislature

Legislature = the central authority of a government

- Canada’s legislature is called Parliament.
- The Citizens of Canada vote for members of Parliament.
  - Members of Parliament belong to many different Political Parties.
Political Parties in Canada’s Government
Canada’s Parliament

- **Senate** (105 seats): members are appointed by the governor general with advice from the Prime Minister
  - not elected by the people; can serve until they are 75 years old

- **House of Commons** (308 seats): members are directly elected by the people
  - serve 5-year terms
  - largest political party in the House elects the Prime Minister
Canadian Senate
Canadian House of Commons
Parliamentary Democracy

• Whichever political party has the most members in the legislature selects the Prime Minister.

• This is the major difference between a Presidential Democracy and a Parliamentary Democracy!
  ○ Parliamentary Democracy – legislature (Parliament) chooses Head of Government (Executive Leader)

• Citizens vote for members of Parliament, members choose the Prime Minister.
Role of the Citizen

- Citizens must be 18 to vote, but voting is not required by law.
- As a democracy, its citizens must participate in voting and elections:
  - They elect members of Parliament.
  - They elect regional government officials (provincial governors).
  - They also vote on issues like whether or not Quebec should be an independent country.
- Separatists are people who want Quebec to be its own country.
Branches of Government

- Canada has 3 Branches of Government just like any other Democratic Country.

  - Executive Branch – this is the Prime Minister
  
  - Legislative Branch – this is Parliament. Parliament is made up of two groups: the House of Commons and the Senate
  
  - Judicial Branch – made up of all the courts in Canada
Directions: On the pyramid below, write down 3 interesting facts, 2 "because statements" (ex—Canada is a parliamentary democracy because...), and 1 question you still have about Canada's Government.
Canada has a federal and provincial court system. The Federal Supreme Court is the highest court in the country. Judges serve on this court. The prime minister chooses the judges.

Canada has both a federal and provincial court system. The Federal Supreme Court is the highest court in the country. Judges serve on this court. The prime minister chooses the judges.

The Canadian government is divided into legislative and judicial branches. Parliament is the legislative branch of government. The House of Commons, the Senate, and the Governor-General make up Parliament. The Prime Minister and Cabinet make up the executive branch of government. The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party or coalition in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister is the head of government.

Canada is a federal system of government. The provinces and territories have their own responsibilities, such as education, health care, and policing. The federal government has responsibilities for national defence, foreign affairs, and some other matters.

Canada is a constitutional monarchy. The Governor-General is the head of state and the Governor-General is usually appointed by the prime minister of Canada.
3. On the inside-right of your CD case, illustrate the CD. Use at least one of your songs to describe the information. You can find information about these topics in your notes. The titles of the songs should accurately describe the information:

- Role of Canada’s Citizens
- Canada’s Legislative (Parliament)
- Canada’s Leaders
- Canada’s Constitutional Monarchy
- Canada’s Parliamentary Democracy
- Canada’s Federal System

Each of the following topics: describe Canada’s government. You will need to have at least one song title for each of these topics:

1. Make up the name of the group or artist for your CD. You may NOT use any "case." to Canada’s government. Write both of these things on the cover of your CD.

Next, make up the name of the CD. This MUST relate to Canada’s government. The following steps to complete your project:

- Creating a CD about Canada’s Government
- Compilations

Directions: After discussing the Canada’s Government Powerpoint, use your foldable designing a CD cover and creating a soundtrack (playlist) about this topic. Please use
A Children’s Book: Canada’s Government

Procedure:
You will be creating a mini-children’s book on Canada’s government. You can find all of the information that you will need for your book in the “Canada’s Government” PowerPoint. As you are working on your book, keep in mind that you will be writing for a younger audience so make sure that you present the information in a simple way that children will understand. Be sure to use clear and simple language, and to keep you ideas focused and brief. Remember, most children really enjoy the pictures in books, so be sure to include colorful artwork on each page.

Use the chart below to record the main ideas and details that you will use on each page of your book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cover</th>
<th>Title?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 1</td>
<td>What does the word “Canada” mean to you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 2</td>
<td>What does the word “government” mean to you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 3</td>
<td>What is Canada’s government system? Describe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 4</td>
<td>What is Canada’s type of government? Describe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 5</td>
<td>Describe Canada’s parliamentary democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 6</td>
<td>Describe Canada’s constitutional monarchy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 7</td>
<td>Describe Canada’s leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 8</td>
<td>Describe Canada’s legislature (Parliament).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 9</td>
<td>Describe the role of Canada’s citizens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 10</td>
<td>Write 3 Questions for readers to answer about your book.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>