

From Vote to Leader

Trace how citizens help choose Canada's prime minister.

SS6CG2.a "Explain the role of citizens in choosing the leader of Canada (parliamentary democracy)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentences that describe citizens' roles, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside the three steps that connect a local vote to a prime minister.

How Canadians Choose Leaders

- ① Canada is a parliamentary democracy. Canadian citizens who are at least 18 years old may vote in federal elections if they meet the legal voting requirements. Voters in each electoral district choose one person to represent them in the House of Commons. That representative is called a Member of Parliament, or MP. A ballot lists candidates from political parties and sometimes independent candidates. Citizens do not cast a national vote for prime minister. Instead, their local votes help decide which MPs will sit in Parliament.
- ② After an election, the party with the most elected MPs often forms the government. Its leader usually becomes prime minister, but the prime minister must be able to keep the confidence, or support, of most MPs in the House of Commons. Sometimes no party wins a majority of seats. Then a party may govern with support from other MPs, or parties may make agreements. The governor general formally appoints the prime minister, following the democratic result and the need for confidence in Parliament.
- ③ Citizens choose MPs, so their choices shape who can lead the national government. Before voting, citizens can learn about candidates, party plans, and issues that matter in their communities. They can also discuss ideas respectfully and vote by secret ballot. Between elections, people can contact their MP to share concerns. An MP represents district residents in Parliament, including people who could not vote. By choosing representatives and staying involved, citizens influence Canada's parliamentary democracy without directly selecting a prime minister.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What do voters choose in each electoral district during a federal election?

2 Do Canadian citizens directly elect the prime minister? Explain how their votes matter instead.

3 How can the leader of a political party become prime minister after an election?

4 Why might a party need support from other MPs after an election?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining to a new Canadian voter how voting for an MP can influence who becomes prime minister. Use the terms *electoral district*, *MP*, and *confidence*.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentences that describe citizens' roles, then number 1, 2, and 3 beside the three steps that connect a local vote to a prime minister. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do voters choose in each electoral district during a federal election?	They choose one person to represent the district in the House of Commons, an MP.
2	Do Canadian citizens directly elect the prime minister? Explain how their votes matter instead.	No. Citizens vote for local MPs, and the election results help decide which party can form the government.
3	How can the leader of a political party become prime minister after an election?	A party with the most elected MPs often forms the government. Its leader usually becomes prime minister if that leader has the confidence of most MPs. The governor general formally appoints the prime minister.
4	Why might a party need support from other MPs after an election?	If no party wins a majority of seats, a party may need support from other MPs to govern and keep the confidence of the House of Commons.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In your electoral district, you vote for a candidate who may become your MP. MPs elected across Canada affect which party can form the government. The party leader who has the confidence of most MPs usually becomes prime minister.

Accept clear explanations that citizens elect local MPs rather than directly electing the prime minister. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences and accurate use of all three required terms.