

Quebec Chooses

Read how language, identity, and voting shaped an independence movement.

SS6H2 "Describe Quebec's independence movement."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that explain why some people supported Quebec independence. Circle the two referendum results that show what voters decided.

Quebec's Independence Debate

- ① Quebec is a province in Canada where French is the official language. Many Quebec residents identify strongly with French language, culture, and history. During the 1960s, a period called the Quiet Revolution changed Quebec society. The provincial government took a larger role in schools, health care, and the economy. Some people began to argue that Quebec should have more control over its own decisions. Others believed Quebec could protect its identity while remaining part of Canada.
- ② The Parti Québécois, a political party that supports Quebec independence, won provincial elections in 1976. Its government held a referendum in 1980, asking voters whether Quebec should seek a new agreement with Canada that could lead to sovereignty. In a referendum, citizens vote directly on an important issue. About 60 percent voted no. The result showed that many voters did not want Quebec to move toward independence at that time, although the movement continued in later years.
- ③ In 1995, Quebec held a second referendum. Voters were asked whether Quebec should become sovereign after offering Canada a new political and economic partnership. The no side won by a very narrow margin, with about 50.6 percent of voters choosing no. Quebec stayed in Canada. Independence supporters continue to seek a separate country, while opponents argue that Quebec gains benefits from Canada and can defend French culture within the federation. The referendums show a continuing debate about Quebec's future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two concerns led some Quebec residents to support greater control or independence?

2 What did the Parti Québécois support, and what action did its government take in 1980?

3 Compare the results of the 1980 and 1995 referendums.

4 Why does the passage say Quebec's future is still debated?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence summary of Quebec's independence movement. Include one cause of the movement, one action supporters took, the referendum outcomes, and the two different views about Quebec's future.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that explain why some people supported Quebec independence. Circle the two referendum results that show what voters decided. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two concerns led some Quebec residents to support greater control or independence?	They wanted to protect French language, culture, and history, and they wanted Quebec to have more control over its own decisions.
2	What did the Parti Québécois support, and what action did its government take in 1980?	It supported Quebec independence. Its government held a referendum about seeking an agreement with Canada that could lead to sovereignty.
3	Compare the results of the 1980 and 1995 referendums.	Voters chose no in both referendums. About 60 percent voted no in 1980, while about 50.6 percent voted no in 1995, making the 1995 result much closer.
4	Why does the passage say Quebec's future is still debated?	Supporters want Quebec to become a separate country, while opponents believe Quebec should remain in Canada and protect French culture within the federation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Quebec's independence movement grew because many residents wanted to protect French language and culture and have more control over provincial decisions. The Parti Québécois supported independence and held referendums to let voters decide. In 1980 and 1995, voters chose not to move Quebec out of Canada, with the second vote much closer. The debate continues because people disagree about whether Quebec's future is best as a separate country or as part of Canada.

Accept equivalent descriptions of language, culture, identity, self-government, the two referendums, and the continuing disagreement. In the open response, look for all four required ideas stated accurately.