

Ballots and Leaders

Compare how citizens choose national leaders in three African democracies.

SS7CG1.c "Explain the role of citizens in choosing the leaders of South Africa (parliamentary democracy), Nigeria (presidential democracy), and Kenya (presidential democracy)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that tells whether citizens choose a president directly or indirectly, then number the voting steps in each country's explanation.

Three Ways Votes Matter

- ① South Africa uses a parliamentary democracy. On national election day, eligible citizens vote for political parties, not for one presidential candidate. Each party receives seats in the National Assembly based on its share of the vote. The people's votes therefore shape which parties fill the Assembly. After the election, members of the National Assembly choose the president from among themselves. Citizens choose national leaders indirectly when their votes help decide who sits in the Assembly and which party or coalition has enough support to govern.
- ② Nigeria uses a presidential democracy. Eligible citizens vote directly for a president and vice president on one ticket, and they also elect members of the National Assembly. A presidential candidate needs more than votes from a few places to win. The candidate must receive the most votes nationwide and meet a constitutional support requirement across states. This rule connects citizens in many parts of Nigeria to the choice of president. By voting, citizens directly select the executive leader and separately choose lawmakers who represent them in the legislature.
- ③ Kenya also uses a presidential democracy. Eligible citizens cast separate votes for president and for representatives, including members of the National Assembly. Kenyan voters choose the president directly rather than having lawmakers make that choice. To win in the first round, a presidential candidate needs more than half of valid votes and at least one quarter of the votes in more than half of Kenya's counties. If no candidate meets both rules, a second election is held between the leading candidates. Citizens' ballots decide both executive and legislative representation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Trace how a South African citizen's vote can affect who becomes president.

2 Which two countries let citizens choose the president directly? How is this different in South Africa?

3 What two kinds of support must a winning Nigerian presidential candidate have, according to the passage?

4 Why might Kenya hold a second presidential election?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence voter guide comparing the three countries. Explain South Africa's indirect presidential choice, Nigeria's direct choice, Kenya's direct choice and first-round rule, and one way citizens choose lawmakers. Use the words *direct*, *indirect*, and *Assembly*.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that tells whether citizens choose a president directly or indirectly, then number the voting steps in each country's explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Trace how a South African citizen's vote can affect who becomes president.	The citizen votes for a political party. The vote helps determine seats in the National Assembly, and Assembly members choose the president.
2	Which two countries let citizens choose the president directly? How is this different in South Africa?	Nigeria and Kenya let citizens choose the president directly. In South Africa, citizens vote for parties, and National Assembly members choose the president.
3	What two kinds of support must a winning Nigerian presidential candidate have, according to the passage?	The candidate must receive the most votes nationwide and meet a constitutional support requirement across states.
4	Why might Kenya hold a second presidential election?	A second election is held if no candidate receives more than half of valid votes and at least one quarter of the votes in more than half of Kenya's counties.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

South African citizens vote for political parties in national elections. Their votes determine party seats in the National Assembly. Assembly members then choose the president, so the citizens' presidential choice is indirect. Nigerian citizens directly elect a president and vice president on one ticket. Kenyan citizens also directly elect a president, who needs more than half of valid votes and at least one quarter of votes in more than half of the counties to win in the first round. In Nigeria and Kenya, citizens also elect lawmakers for the National Assembly.

Accept equivalent explanations that distinguish South Africa's indirect presidential selection from the direct presidential elections in Nigeria and Kenya. For the open response, accept accurate wording and a clear comparison that includes all required ideas.