

Leader Paths

Compare how democratic governments choose executive leaders.

SS7CG3.b "Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements that explain how an executive leader is chosen. Circle statements that explain how that leader stays in office or can be replaced, because these details distinguish the two democratic forms.

Two Ways to Lead

- ① In a presidential democracy, voters elect a president who leads the executive branch. The president is separate from the legislature, the lawmaking branch. Citizens also elect legislators, who debate and pass laws. This separation can create checks because each branch has powers the other does not control. In Türkiye, voters elect a president and members of the Grand National Assembly. The president serves as both head of state and head of government. A president usually remains in office for a fixed term.
- ② In a parliamentary democracy, voters elect representatives to a parliament or similar legislature. The legislature chooses the prime minister, who leads the government. The prime minister and cabinet must keep the support, or confidence, of a majority in parliament. If they lose that support, parliament may replace them without waiting for a fixed election date. Israel is a parliamentary democracy. Its elected Knesset is the legislature, and the Knesset's support helps determine who can lead the government. A separate president has mainly ceremonial duties.
- ③ Both forms are democratic when citizens can choose representatives in fair elections and when laws protect political participation. The main difference is how the executive leader takes office and stays there. In a presidential system, voters elect the president separately from the legislature. In a parliamentary system, the legislature selects a prime minister who needs parliamentary confidence. Southwest Asia includes governments with different political systems, so country names alone do not reveal how leaders are chosen. Looking at elections, legislatures, and executive power helps classify a democratic government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is the executive leader chosen in a presidential democracy, and how is the executive leader chosen in a parliamentary democracy?

2 What does it mean for a president to be separate from the legislature?

3 Why can a prime minister be replaced before a fixed election date?

4 Use one detail from the passage to identify Türkiye's democratic form and one detail to identify Israel's democratic form.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a country called Cedar. Write four sentences describing either a presidential or parliamentary democracy in Cedar. Explain how its executive leader is chosen and how that leader stays in office or can be replaced.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline statements that explain how an executive leader is chosen. Circle statements that explain how that leader stays in office or can be replaced, because these details distinguish the two democratic forms. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is the executive leader chosen in a presidential democracy, and how is the executive leader chosen in a parliamentary democracy?	In a presidential democracy, voters elect the president. In a parliamentary democracy, the legislature chooses the prime minister.
2	What does it mean for a president to be separate from the legislature?	The president leads the executive branch, while elected legislators make laws in a separate branch.
3	Why can a prime minister be replaced before a fixed election date?	A prime minister can be replaced if the prime minister and cabinet lose the support, or confidence, of a majority in parliament.
4	Use one detail from the passage to identify Türkiye's democratic form and one detail to identify Israel's democratic form.	Türkiye has a presidential system because voters elect a president and the president leads the government. Israel has a parliamentary system because the elected Knesset helps determine who can lead the government.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cedar uses a parliamentary democracy. Citizens elect representatives to Cedar Parliament. Parliament chooses a prime minister to lead the government. The prime minister must keep support from a majority in Parliament, or the representatives can replace the leader.

Accept either form if the student accurately explains how the executive leader is selected and how the leader remains in office or may be replaced. Cedar may use invented names and details, as long as they fit the chosen democratic form.