

Leadership Paths

Compare how democratic systems choose executive leaders.

SS7CG4.b "Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that explain how a parliamentary democracy chooses its executive leader, and circle the words that explain how a presidential democracy chooses its executive leader. Number one detail that shows how both forms are democratic.

Two Ways to Lead

- ① Democratic governments give citizens a role in choosing leaders, usually through elections. Two common forms are parliamentary and presidential democracies. In a parliamentary democracy, voters elect members of a legislature, often called a parliament. The legislature chooses, or supports, a prime minister to lead the government. If most legislators no longer support the prime minister, they can replace that leader. Japan, in Eastern Asia, is a parliamentary democracy. Its elected National Diet designates the prime minister, while the emperor has mainly ceremonial duties.
- ② In a presidential democracy, voters separately elect the legislature and the president. The president serves as both head of state, representing the country, and head of government, leading the executive branch. The legislature does not choose the president in a regular election. South Korea is a presidential democracy in Eastern Asia. Citizens elect a president, and they also elect members of the National Assembly. The president and legislature have separate election paths, even though both must work within the country's constitutional system.
- ③ Both forms are democratic because citizens elect representatives and laws limit government power. However, the route to executive leadership differs. In a parliamentary system, the prime minister depends on continued support from the legislature. In a presidential system, the president receives a separate electoral mandate from voters for a set term. These descriptions show broad patterns, not every detail of every country. For example, parliamentary countries can have ceremonial presidents or monarchs, and presidential systems may give legislatures different powers. Comparing who selects the executive leader helps identify each form.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How does the legislature help choose and keep a prime minister in a parliamentary democracy?

2 How are the president and legislature elected in a presidential democracy?

3 What is the main difference between the route to executive leadership in parliamentary and presidential democracies?

4 Name the form of democracy used in Japan and in South Korea. Give one passage detail that supports each choice.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about two imaginary democratic countries. Describe one country with a parliamentary system and one with a presidential system, include one similarity, and explain one difference in how each country chooses its executive leader.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the words that explain how a parliamentary democracy chooses its executive leader, and circle the words that explain how a presidential democracy chooses its executive leader. Number one detail that shows how both forms are democratic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the legislature help choose and keep a prime minister in a parliamentary democracy?	The legislature chooses or supports the prime minister. If most legislators no longer support the prime minister, they can replace that leader.
2	How are the president and legislature elected in a presidential democracy?	Voters separately elect the president and the legislature.
3	What is the main difference between the route to executive leadership in parliamentary and presidential democracies?	In a parliamentary democracy, the legislature chooses or supports the prime minister. In a presidential democracy, voters separately elect the president.
4	Name the form of democracy used in Japan and in South Korea. Give one passage detail that supports each choice.	Japan is parliamentary because its elected National Diet designates the prime minister. South Korea is presidential because citizens elect a president and also elect members of the National Assembly.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Coastland, voters elect lawmakers, and those lawmakers choose a prime minister. In Riverland, voters elect lawmakers and separately elect a president. Both countries are democratic because citizens elect representatives. The difference is that Coastland's executive leader depends on legislative support, while Riverland's president has a separate election path.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately distinguish legislative selection or support of a prime minister from the separate popular election of a president. For the open response, require exactly four sentences, a correct similarity, and a correct difference.