

Governments Compared

Compare democratic principles in three countries.

3.7a "The United States government is based on democratic principles. The fundamental principles of other governments may be similar to or different from those of the United States government."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two facts that show citizens can help choose leaders in the United States or Canada. Circle two facts that show how Saudi Arabia's system is different.

Three Ways to Govern

- ① In the United States, democratic principles guide the government. Eligible citizens age 18 and older can vote for leaders. People elect representatives to make many laws. The Constitution protects rights, such as speaking freely and practicing a religion. Courts can decide whether laws follow the Constitution. Government leaders must obey the law, too. Police and courts help enforce laws that keep communities safe.
- ② Canada also has democratic principles. Canadian citizens elect members of Parliament, who make laws. The political party with the most support in Parliament usually forms the government. Canada has a king as head of state, but elected leaders run the national government. Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects important rights. Like the United States, Canada uses courts and police to help enforce laws.
- ③ Saudi Arabia has a different system. It is an absolute monarchy, so the king holds most national government power. Citizens do not elect national lawmakers. The country's Basic Law says that the Qur'an and the Sunnah are its constitution. Laws may come from Islamic law and royal orders. Courts enforce laws, but citizens have less power to choose national leaders than citizens in the United States or Canada do.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two democratic principles described in the United States paragraph.

2 How is Canada similar to the United States in the way citizens choose lawmakers?

3 What is one important difference between Saudi Arabia and the United States government?

4 What helps enforce laws in all three countries?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose Canada or Saudi Arabia. Write three sentences comparing that country's government with the United States government. Tell one similarity or difference in how leaders are chosen, use a fact from the passage, and explain what it means for citizens.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two facts that show citizens can help choose leaders in the United States or Canada. Circle two facts that show how Saudi Arabia's system is different. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two democratic principles described in the United States paragraph.	Citizens can vote for leaders, and people elect representatives to make many laws. Accept other passage-based principles, such as protected rights or leaders obeying the law.
2	How is Canada similar to the United States in the way citizens choose lawmakers?	Citizens elect lawmakers. Canadians elect members of Parliament, and people in the United States elect representatives.
3	What is one important difference between Saudi Arabia and the United States government?	Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy in which the king holds most national power, and citizens do not elect national lawmakers. The United States has elected representatives.
4	What helps enforce laws in all three countries?	Courts help enforce laws in all three countries.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Canada is similar to the United States because citizens elect lawmakers. In Canada, citizens elect members of Parliament, and in the United States people elect representatives. This means citizens in both countries can help choose national leaders.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For Part 3, the response should name Canada or Saudi Arabia, state a valid similarity or difference, include a passage fact, and explain its effect on citizens.