

Ways We Decide

Compare how groups choose leaders and make decisions.

3.7b “The process of selecting leaders, solving problems, and making decisions differs across governments in nations and communities around the world.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, circle one sentence that tells how the group makes a decision. Number your circles 1, 2, and 3 to help you compare the three processes.

Three Ways to Govern

- ① In the United States, citizens vote to choose the president and members of Congress. Congress members listen to people, talk about problems, and write plans for laws. The House of Representatives and the Senate vote on a plan. If both agree, the president can sign it into a law or veto it. Different leaders have different jobs in this process.
- ② In Japan, citizens vote for members of the national group that makes laws, called the Diet. The Diet selects the prime minister, who leads the government. Diet members discuss plans for laws and vote. For many plans, both houses of the Diet must agree before the plan can move forward. This process differs from the United States process.
- ③ In some New England towns, local voters meet at a town meeting. The voters may choose town officials in an election. At the meeting, people can ask questions and share ideas about a town problem, such as fixing a park. Then the voters vote on spending or town rules. Here, many citizens make the decision together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How do citizens in the United States choose the president and members of Congress?

2 How is the prime minister selected in Japan?

3 What can people do at a town meeting before they vote on a problem?

4 How is a town meeting decision different from making a national law in the United States?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Make a plan for an imaginary club that must choose which book to buy. Write 3 sentences that tell how the club chooses a leader, talks about choices, and makes its final decision. Make your plan different from at least one system in the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, circle one sentence that tells how the group makes a decision. Number your circles 1, 2, and 3 to help you compare the three processes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do citizens in the United States choose the president and members of Congress?	Citizens vote to choose them.
2	How is the prime minister selected in Japan?	Citizens vote for Diet members, and the Diet selects the prime minister.
3	What can people do at a town meeting before they vote on a problem?	They can ask questions and share ideas about the town problem.
4	How is a town meeting decision different from making a national law in the United States?	At a town meeting, many local voters vote together. In the United States, the House and Senate vote on a plan, and the president can sign or veto it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Unlike the United States system in the passage, our club members take turns being leader instead of voting for one. Each member says which book he or she wants and gives one reason. After listening, members vote, and the book with the most votes is chosen.

For the marking job, accept any one sentence in each paragraph that explains how decisions are made. Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately describe local voters deciding together versus national leaders following several steps.