

Citizens and Choices

Compare how citizens take part in different political systems.

3.7d “The definition of citizenship and the role of the citizen vary across different types of political systems, and citizens play a greater role in the political process in some countries than in others.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways citizens can take part in the United States. Circle two details that show why citizens have less choice in North Korea.

Different Roles, Different Systems

- ① Citizenship is a legal membership in a country. Citizens may have rights, such as protection by laws, and responsibilities, such as obeying laws. Each country sets its own rules for who can become a citizen. Countries also have different systems for choosing leaders and making laws. These differences affect how much citizens can take part in political decisions.
- ② In the United States, eligible citizens who are 18 or older can vote in elections. They can choose among candidates, contact leaders, join groups, and speak about public problems. People may also run for many offices if they meet the rules. These actions give citizens several ways to help choose leaders and influence what leaders do in office.
- ③ In North Korea, the government is led by the Workers' Party of Korea, and political power is tightly controlled. Citizens vote in elections, but there is usually only one approved candidate for each seat. Citizens do not have the same chance to choose among candidates or openly oppose the government. This political system gives citizens a smaller role in choosing national leaders.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does citizenship mean?

2 Name two ways citizens in the United States can take part in political decisions.

3 What detail about elections in North Korea shows that citizens have less choice?

4 How is the role of a citizen in choosing leaders different in the United States and North Korea?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create two made-up countries. In 3 or 4 sentences, explain how leaders are chosen in each country and how citizens have more political power in one country than in the other.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two ways citizens can take part in the United States. Circle two details that show why citizens have less choice in North Korea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does citizenship mean?	Citizenship is a legal membership in a country.
2	Name two ways citizens in the United States can take part in political decisions.	Any two: vote in elections, choose among candidates, contact leaders, join groups, speak about public problems, or run for many offices.
3	What detail about elections in North Korea shows that citizens have less choice?	There is usually only one approved candidate for each seat.
4	How is the role of a citizen in choosing leaders different in the United States and North Korea?	In the United States, citizens can choose among candidates and have several ways to influence leaders. In North Korea, citizens have less choice and a smaller role in choosing national leaders.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Lake Country, adult citizens choose between two candidates and vote for one to be mayor. They can also write to the mayor about new laws. In Stone Country, a royal family chooses the mayor, and citizens cannot vote for mayor. Citizens have a greater role in Lake Country because they can help choose the mayor.

Accept answers that accurately contrast a system with more citizen choice in political decisions and a system with less citizen choice. For the open response, accept reasonable made-up countries if the student explains how the citizens' roles differ.