Marches and Votes

Compare rights, limits on power, and elections in three countries

6.C.5.2 "Compare common features of the Constitution of the United States of America to other representative governments of the Western Hemisphere, focusing on the principles of limited government, individual rights and liberties..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one protection for a peaceful march in each country, circle one way each country limits government power, and number the three different paths from a citizen's vote to a national leader.

A March in Three Countries

1. Imagine neighbors planning a peaceful march outside city hall. In the United States, the Constitution protects freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, so officials cannot ban a march just because they dislike its message. Laws may still set fair rules about where and when a crowd gathers. The Constitution also divides power among Congress, the president, and the courts, which helps limit government. Eligible citizens choose members of Congress by voting. In presidential elections, voters choose electors pledged to candidates, and those electors formally select the president.

2. Across the border in Mexico, neighbors may also speak out and gather peacefully. Mexico's Constitution protects expression and peaceful assembly, though laws can limit how gatherings take place. Like the United States, Mexico divides power among a president, a legislature, and courts. This structure keeps any one part from holding all national power. Eligible citizens vote directly for the president and for members of the national legislature. Unlike the United States, Mexico does not use presidential electors. If officials break constitutional rules, courts can step in to protect people's rights.

3. In Canada, people can likewise gather for a peaceful march. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects expression and peaceful assembly, but rights may face reasonable limits set by law. Canada also limits power: Parliament makes laws, and courts can review whether laws follow the Constitution. Eligible citizens vote for local members of Parliament, not directly for the prime minister. Usually, the leader who can win the support of the elected House of Commons becomes prime minister. The three countries protect participation, but citizens select national leaders in different ways.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are peaceful marches protected and limited in both the United States and Canada?

2. What is similar about how the United States and Mexico limit national government power?

3. How does choosing a president differ for voters in Mexico and the United States?

4. How do citizens' votes help select national leaders differently in Canada and Mexico?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your class is choosing a country to study for a project on marches and elections. Write 5 to 6 sentences recommending whether to study one country or compare all three. Support your choice with a shared protection, a way government power is limited, and two differences in how voters help select leaders.

ANSWER KEY

Marches and Votes

GRADE 6 · 6.C.5.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one protection for a peaceful march in each country, circle one way each country limits government power, and number the three different paths from a citizen's vote to a national leader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are peaceful marches protected and limited in both the United States and Canada?	**Both protect peaceful assembly. U.S. laws may set fair rules about where and when crowds gather, while Canadian rights may face reasonable limits set by law.**
2	What is similar about how the United States and Mexico limit national government power?	**Both divide national power among a president, a legislature, and courts.**
3	How does choosing a president differ for voters in Mexico and the United States?	**Mexican voters choose the president directly. U.S. voters choose electors, who formally select the president.**
4	How do citizens' votes help select national leaders differently in Canada and Mexico?	**Canadians vote for members of Parliament, and a leader who can win the support of the elected House of Commons usually becomes prime minister. Mexicans vote directly for the president.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend comparing all three countries because their marches and elections show both shared rules and important differences. All three protect peaceful assembly, although laws can place limits on gatherings. The United States and Mexico divide national power among branches, while Canadian courts can check laws passed by Parliament. In Mexico, voters choose the president directly. In the United States, voters choose electors who select the president, while Canadians choose members of Parliament instead of voting directly for the prime minister. Comparing all three would show our class different ways citizens can have a voice.

Accept accurate comparisons in students' own words. For the open task, accept a recommendation to study one country if the response still compares all three and includes the requested evidence.