

Leaders and Parties

Identify national leaders, their jobs, and their political parties.

5.18.A “identify past and present leaders in the national government, including the president and various members of Congress, and their political parties; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every national leader's name, circle each party name, and write P beside presidents or C beside members of Congress.

Who Leads the Nation?

- ① National leaders make decisions for the United States. In 2025, Donald Trump began serving as president. He is the current president and a Republican. A president leads the executive branch and signs or vetoes bills passed by Congress. In a presidential election, voters in each state choose electors. The Electoral College, made up of those electors, formally elects the president.
- ② Presidents can be past leaders as well as present leaders. Barack Obama served as president from 2009 to 2017, and he was a Democrat. Congress is the legislative branch. It has the Senate and the House of Representatives. Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, served as Speaker of the House from 2007 to 2011 and from 2019 to 2023.
- ③ Congressional leaders may lead a chamber or represent their states or districts. Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, is Speaker of the House. John Thune, a Republican from South Dakota, is Senate majority leader. Hakeem Jeffries, a Democrat from New York, is House minority leader. Knowing each person's job and political party helps citizens understand who is helping lead the national government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which present leader in the passage is president, and what political party does he belong to?

2 Name the past president in the passage and his political party.

3 Which chamber did Nancy Pelosi lead as Speaker, and what political party was she in?

4 Name one current House leader and one current Senate leader from the passage. Give each leader's political party.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two leaders named in the passage who have different jobs. In three sentences, identify each leader's job and political party, then explain one way their jobs differ.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every national leader's name, circle each party name, and write P beside presidents or C beside members of Congress. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which present leader in the passage is president, and what political party does he belong to?	Donald Trump is president, and he is a Republican.
2	Name the past president in the passage and his political party.	Barack Obama was president, and he was a Democrat.
3	Which chamber did Nancy Pelosi lead as Speaker, and what political party was she in?	She led the House of Representatives as Speaker of the House, and she was a Democrat.
4	Name one current House leader and one current Senate leader from the passage. Give each leader's political party.	House: Mike Johnson, Republican, or Hakeem Jeffries, Democrat. Senate: John Thune, Republican.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Donald Trump is the president and a Republican. Mike Johnson is Speaker of the House and a Republican. The president leads the executive branch, while the Speaker leads the House of Representatives.

Accept accurate comparisons of any two named leaders with different jobs. Each response should identify both jobs and parties and state a correct difference between the jobs.