GET READY FOR THE QUIZ...
Questions
For questions 1-4, list ways citizens can influence government:
1. One method is…
2. A second method is…
3. A third method is…
4. A fourth method is…
5. On average, how many people does a riding represent?
6. Politicians have to report donations over what amount?
7. To call an election, what does the PM ask the Governor General to do?
8. How old do you have to be to vote in a federal election?
9. Where do you go to vote?
10. In our current system of “First Past the Post”, how many votes are needed to win?
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

LESSON OUTLINE & OBJECTIVES (don’t copy)
• In today’s lesson we will learn about two of the three main branches of the government. They are responsible for making the laws, providing the direction in government policy, and doing the work of government. They are the legislative branch and the executive branch.
• you will learn:
  – The components of the Legislative & Executive Branch
  – How a law is made
  – the role each component plays

Big Questions:
1. What is the structure and responsibilities of the Legislative and Executive branches of government?
2. How does a Bill become a Law?
3. What are the powers of the Prime Minister?
4. What is the purpose of the Cabinet?
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

Components of the Legislative Branch

1. Queen  
   a. Governor General
2. Senate
3. House of Commons  
   b. Government Party  
      i. Prime Minister  
      ii. Cabinet  
      iii. Backbenchers
   c. Opposition  
      i. Shadow Cabinet
   d. Third party, Independents
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

The Queen
• the Queen appoints the Governor General (on the advice of the PM) to carry out her duties in Canada

The Governor General-
• Gives the **Speech from the Throne**. This is a speech, prepared by the Prime Minister’s office, outlining the goals of the gov’t in the next session of Parliament. This starts a session of Parliament.
• **Royal Assent**- the G.G. approves a bill to make it law.
• **Prorogue**- Ending a session of parliament, (on the advice of the PM), without dissolving the legislature. (no election is required)
• **Dissolution**- Ending a session of parliament, (on the advice of the PM). It also ends the term of a government and requires an election to determine a new legislature. (this is also a power we attribute to the PM. It is done by the G.G., but only on the advice of the PM.)
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

The Senate  This is the Upper House (called the House of Lords in England).

• The purpose of the Upper house is:
  – to provide **regional representation** (equal # from each region)
  – to provide “**sober second thought**” to legislation. (check on HofC).

• The senate cannot introduce bills requiring the spending of money. Since most legislation does, bills almost never come from the Senate.

• 105 senators **appointed by the PM**, & serve until 75, resignation, or death.

• When the PM appoints a friend or supporter, it is called “Patronage”.

• **Senate Reform**: Many think the Senate is ineffective, not democratic, and a “rubber stamp” that always approves bills from the House of Commons.
  – **Triple “E” Senate**- “Elected, Effective & Equal.” Each province elects the same number of senators. (changes the constitution)
  – **(no name yet)**- A suggestion that each province elect a panel of candidates, allowing the PM to choose one. **(no constitutional change)**.
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

The SENATE

- Big chandelier
- The Gallery
- Paintings of WW1
- The Throne
- The Speaker
- The Senators
- The Mace

*Note the red carpet!*
Lesson #7: The Legislative Branch

The House of Commons - the Lower House (from the term “commoners”)

• This House is filled with 308 elected representatives called MP’s (Members of Parliament).
• It provides representation by population. Most bills originate in the House of Commons.
• The Speaker, a respected member elected by the house, acts as a chairperson and referee during debate, can break voting ties.
• The Government sits to the right of the Speaker. The PM and his cabinet sit in the front row. The other members are called backbenchers.
• The Opposition sits opposite the Government and has a Shadow Cabinet, to offer specialized scrutiny of cabinet policy and actions.
• Third/fourth parties and independents sit at the end, on the left.
Lesson #7: The Legislative Branch

H of C
Gallery
Cabinet
Gov’t Party

Speaker
Shadow Cabinet
Opposition Party

Canadian Government
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

Committees

• Committees cannot change the purpose of legislation, but do much work refining and polishing the language of the bill.

• MPs from all parties make up the members of the committees

• Types of Committees:
  – Committees of the Whole- when the whole HofC examines a bill.
  – Standing Committees- Committees that meet separately. They consist of MPs from all parties.
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

The Lawmaking Process
1. A bill is proposed legislation that is usually introduced by a cabinet member in the House of Commons.
2. The bill is put on the Order Paper.
3. The Bill goes through first reading. In the first reading it is simply introduced.
4. In the second reading, it is debated and voted on.
5. If it is approved, the bill goes to committee. There it is refined and polished.
6. At third reading the House votes on it. If approved, it is sent to the Senate.
7. In the Senate, it goes through first reading, second reading, committee and a third reading.
8. If both the House and the Senate pass the bill, it is sent to the Governor General who then approves it (Royal Assent) and it becomes law.
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

Components of the Executive Branch
This branch carries out the business and laws of Canada

1. **Queen**
   a. Governor General

2. **The Prime Minister**
   a. Prime Minister’s Office (PMO)

3. **Cabinet**

4. **The Public Service** (Bureaucracy)
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

The Queen & The Governor General

• The Role of the Queen and the Governor General in the executive branch is purely ceremonial.

• They serve as the “source” or power and authority, giving legitimacy to the Executive Branch.

• See the Governor General section in your Legislative Branch notes to review the role of the GG in relation to the Prime Minister.
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

The Prime Minister

• The PM is the undisputed head of decision making in the federal government and provides overall direction for the government.

• The PM is associated with four powers

  **The Power of Appointment**: The PM appoints Senators, Cabinet members, and other senior positions.

  **Power of Government Organization**: chooses the composition & organization of government departments

  **Power of Party Leadership**: is the leader of the party and has the power to make all policy decisions

  **Power of Government Dissolution**: has the power to end a session of parliament
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

The PM (continued)

- To help the Prime Minister carry out these duties is the **PMO** (Prime Ministers Office)
- **The PMO** carries out routine duties such as correspondence and scheduling but also contains the PM’s top advisors.
- The **Principle Secretary** is the most important post in the PMO.
- The PM is often criticized for appointing friends or supporters to important posts.
- This is “**Patronage**”, or a “Patronage Appointment”
- Although questionable, it is within his power.
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

The Cabinet

- The Cabinet is a collection of MP’s (can include senators) chosen by the Prime Minister.
- The Prime Minister considers ability, regional representation, ethnic diversity, gender balance, etc, to have a balanced and effective Cabinet.
- Members appointed to the Cabinet are called Ministers.
- They are often given responsibility for a government department or an area of policy.
- There are three types of ministers:
  - Ministers
  - Ministers of State
  - Ministers w/o Portfolio
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

The Cabinet Continued

• Cabinet Ministers meet with the PM in closed door sessions to debate policy.
• Cabinet meetings are held with an understanding of two traditional conditions- Cabinet Secrecy and Cabinet Solidarity.
• Anything said in these meetings is expected to be said in confidence. This is known as “Cabinet Secrecy”.
• Debate can be heated, but once policy is decided, all are expected to all support that policy. This is known as “Cabinet Solidarity”.
• Some policy can become law in these meetings. Policies that do not go beyond existing law, or work within existing laws, can automatically become law. These are called “Orders in Council”.
• Below each minister is a Deputy Minister. These are not elected officials, but are public servants, the top public servant in their department.
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

Bureaucracy

• This component that does the work of the government, the Public Service.
• There are four types:
  1. Government Departments
     Department of Justice
     Department of Defence
  2. Crown Corporations
     Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
     VIA Rail
  3. Regulatory Agencies
     Canadian Food Inspection Agency
     Environment Canada
  4. Advisory Bodies
     The National Recreational Boating Advisory Council
     The National Advisory Board on Forest Research
Lesson #4: The Legislative & Executive Branches

Questions

1. What is the final step in a bill becoming a law?
2. MP’s sit in which “chamber” or “house”?
3. If a tie occurs in the House of Commons, who casts the tie breaking vote?
4. After which reading does a bill go to committee?
5. What is the purpose of the Senate? (two specific phrases)
6. How many MP’s are there?
7. How many Senators are there?
8. List two of the four powers of the Prime Minister.
9. The Cabinet operates on the basis of two conditions. Name one.
10. Who is the top non-elected person in a government department?