

Critical Thinking Skills

Governments of North America

American Government

Canadian Government

Mexican Government

Governments of North America - Big Book

Skills For Critical Thinking		Reading Comprehension								
		Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Writing Tasks
LEVEL 1 Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List facts / details Recall information Match Sequence Recognize validity (T/F) 	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
LEVEL 2 Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare & contrast Summarize State main idea Describe 	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓ ✓ ✓
LEVEL 3 Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply what is learned Infer outcomes 	✓ ✓			✓	✓		✓ ✓	✓	
LEVEL 4 Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw conclusions Make inferences Identify cause & effect 	✓	✓ ✓	✓		✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓ ✓ ✓
LEVEL 5 Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predict Design Create Compile research 		✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓ ✓	✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
LEVEL 6 Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defend an opinion Make judgements 	✓ ✓				✓		✓ ✓		✓ ✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



What Is Government?



Each nation in the world has some form of government. The person or group of people who makes the rules or laws for everyone else is called a **government**. This person or group has the power or **authority** to do this. The **leader** or leaders of a government are the ones who take charge and make plans. Leaders can be chosen by the people or they can use force to take charge. There are many kinds of governments in the world.

**Governments are
instituted among Men,
deriving their just
Powers from the Consent
of the Governed....**

Thomas Jefferson,
*The Declaration of
Independence, 1776*

Why Do We Need Governments?

Imagine what life would be like if there were no rules. People could do or say anything they wanted. They could take your things or hurt you and no one would punish them. Now think what a country full of people would be like with no rules or laws. This isn't a pleasant thought, is it? A government is **necessary** to protect our **rights**.

A government should **defend** or keep its citizens safe. Doing this is called looking out for the **common good** of the people. Governments **legislate** or make and **enforce** laws to make sure all the people are treated fairly and with dignity. Sometimes two or more countries have **conflicts** or disagreements with each other that may even lead to a war.



**Why do you think people need some kind of government?
Give at least three reasons.**



The Canadian Constitution



1. Complete each sentence with a word from the list. Use a dictionary to help you.

Constitution	liberty	democracy	supreme law	citizen
Head of State	representative	ratify	Fathers of Confederation	

- a) A person who has rights within a government is called a _____.
- b) The writers of the Canadian Constitution of 1867 are called the _____.
- c) The King or Queen of Great Britain is the _____ of Canada.
- d) A set of written rules which set up a government is called a _____.
- e) A person who is chosen to state the beliefs of and to make laws for others is called a _____.
- f) Another word for freedom is _____.
- g) The highest or most powerful law in the country is called the _____.
- h) A _____ is a form of government in which the people choose who governs them.
- i) _____ also means to approve something.

2. Fill in the blanks below with one of these words:

press

religion

assembly

Every Canadian citizen has the following fundamental freedoms:

- a) freedom of conscience and _____;
- b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression, including freedom of the _____ and other media of communication;
- c) freedom of peaceful _____; and
- d) freedom of association.

The Constitution Act, 1982



Electing a Government

The **Institutional Revolutionary Party** was the largest party during most of the Twentieth Century. All Mexican presidents elected from 1911 to 1996 were members of this party. The election of Vicente Fox as president in 2000 finally changed the trend. Vicente Fox belonged to the **National Action Party**, the second most popular political party. The six remaining parties have different numbers of followers.



The president of Mexico is elected by **popular vote**. This means that whoever gets the most votes cast by the people is the winner of the election. Members of the Congress of the Union and the governors of the states are elected in the same way.



Why was the election of Vicente Fox important in Mexico's history? How was he elected?

Getting Elected

Getting elected President of the United Mexican States is very hard to do. It takes lots of money and many supporters to run a campaign for the presidency. Today, running for any office can be costly and time-consuming. People who want to serve in public office must be dedicated and prepared for hard work.



Be In the Know: Use a reference book or the internet to do the following work.

Make a chart of all the presidents of the United Mexican States. Begin with Benito Juarez and end with the present President. Be sure to include the date the person was elected, the dates he or she held office, and the political party of the president.