

Canada's Government

A Constitutional Monarchy,
Parliamentary Democracy, &
Federation

Standards

SS6CG3 The student will explain the structure of the national government of Canada.

a. Describe the structure of the Canadian government as a constitutional monarchy, a parliamentary democracy, and a federation, distinguishing the role of the citizen in terms of voting and personal freedoms.

Canada's Government

Canada's Federal System

**Canada's Parliamentary
Democracy**

**Canada's Constitutional
Monarchy**

Canada's Leaders

**Canada's Legislature –
Parliament**

Role of the Citizen

Canada's Government

A Constitutional Monarchy,
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Federation

Let's Review

Government Systems - Who has the power?

- **Unitary**--power is held by one central authority
- **Confederation**--association of independent states that agree to certain limitations on their freedoms by joining together
- **Federal**--power is divided between central authority & several regional authorities

Which system does Canada have?

Let's Review

Government Types - how do citizens participate?

- **Autocracy**-- 1 person possesses unlimited power & citizens have limited role in government
- **Oligarchy**-- small group exercises control & citizens have limited role in government
- **Democracy**--supreme power is vested in the people & exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation involving free elections

Which type does Canada have?

Let's Review

Two Types of Democratic Governments:

- **Parliamentary**— citizens elect members of Parliament, and then the members select the leader
 - Leader works with or through the legislature
- **Presidential**--system of government in which the leader is constitutionally independent of the legislature; citizens directly elect leader
 - Leader works separate from legislature

Which type does Canada have?

Canada's Government

- Federation (federal system)
- Parliamentary Democracy
- Constitutional Monarchy

Parliament Hill, in Ottawa, Ontario, is home to Canada's government.



Federal System

- Canada has a federal system, which means that the national government and the provincial & territorial governments SHARE power.
- There are 10 provinces and 3 territories in Canada.



Alaska
(USA)

Greenland
(Denmark)

Yukon

Northwest
Territories

Nunavut

British
Columbia

Alberta

Edmonton

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Calgary

Winnipeg

Ontario

Quebec

New Foundland
and Labrador

Vancouver

Quebec

New Brunswick

Ottawa

Montreal

U S A

Toronto

Nova Scotia

Constitutional Monarchy

- Constitutional Monarchy- A monarch inherits the right to rule but is limited by laws and a law-making body elected by the people.
- Canada's constitution lists the powers of the government.
- The British monarchy, a king or queen, is the head of state. However, since the monarchy does not live in Canada, he or she chooses a governor-general to act in his or her place...

Leadership

1. **Head of State: Monarch of the United Kingdom** (presently, Queen Elizabeth II); little political power
2. **Governor General:** stands in for the monarch
3. **Prime Minister:** holds the most political power; works closely with the legislature

Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II



**His Excellency
The Right Honorable
David Johnston**



Governor General

The Right Honorable Stephen Harper



Prime Minister

How Leaders are Chosen

- **Governor General:** appointed by the monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister; serves a 5-year term
- **Prime Minister:** is the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons; indirectly elected by the people

Legislature

Legislature = the central authority of a government

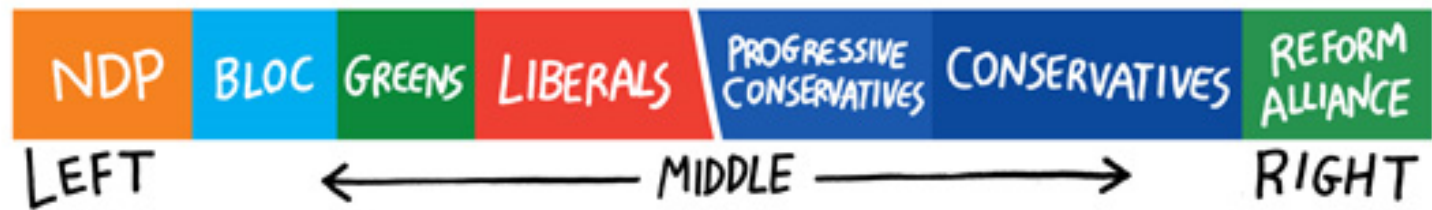
- Canada's legislature is called Parliament.
- The Citizens of Canada vote for members of Parliament.
 - Members of Parliament belong to many different Political Parties.

Political Parties in Canada's Government



CON	167	0		39.62
NDP	102	0		30.62
LIB	34	0		18.91
BQ	4	0		6.05
GRN	1	0		3.91
IND	0	0		0.43

- Liberal
- Bloc Québécois
- Other
- Conservative
- Green
- NDP
- Independent



Canada's Parliament

- **Senate (105 seats):** members are appointed by the governor general with advice from the Prime Minister
 - not elected by the people; can serve until they are 75 years old
- **House of Commons (308 seats):** members are directly elected by the people
 - serve 5-year terms
 - largest political party in the House elects the Prime Minister



Canadian Senate



Canadian House of Commons

Parliamentary Democracy

- Whichever political party has the most members in the legislature selects the Prime Minister.
- **This is the major difference between a Presidential Democracy and a Parliamentary Democracy!**
 - Parliamentary Democracy – legislature (Parliament) chooses Head of Government (Executive Leader)
- Citizens vote for members of Parliament, members choose the Prime Minister.

Role of the Citizen

- Citizens must be 18 to vote, but voting is not required by law.
- As a democracy, its citizens must participate in voting and elections:
 - They elect members of Parliament.
 - They elect regional government officials (provincial governors).
 - They also vote on issues like whether or not Quebec should be an independent country.
 - Separatists are people who want Quebec to be its own country.

Branches of Government

- Canada has 3 Branches of Government just like any other Democratic Country.
 - Executive Branch – this is the Prime Minister
 - Legislative Branch – this is Parliament. Parliament is made up of two groups: the House of Commons and the Senate
 - Judicial Branch – made up of all the courts in Canada

CONSTITUTION



LEGISLATIVE

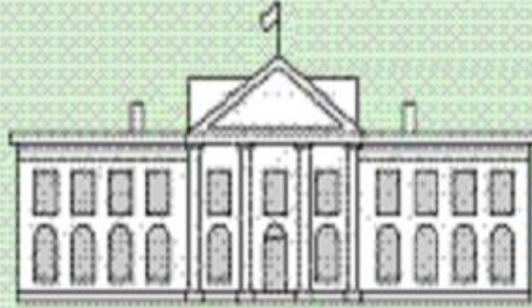
PARLIAMENT



HOUSE OF COMMONS



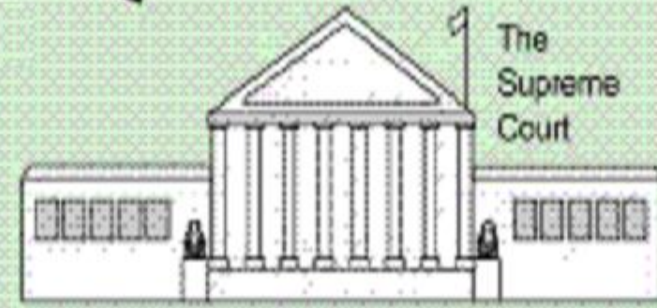
SENATE



EXECUTIVE



PRIME MINISTER



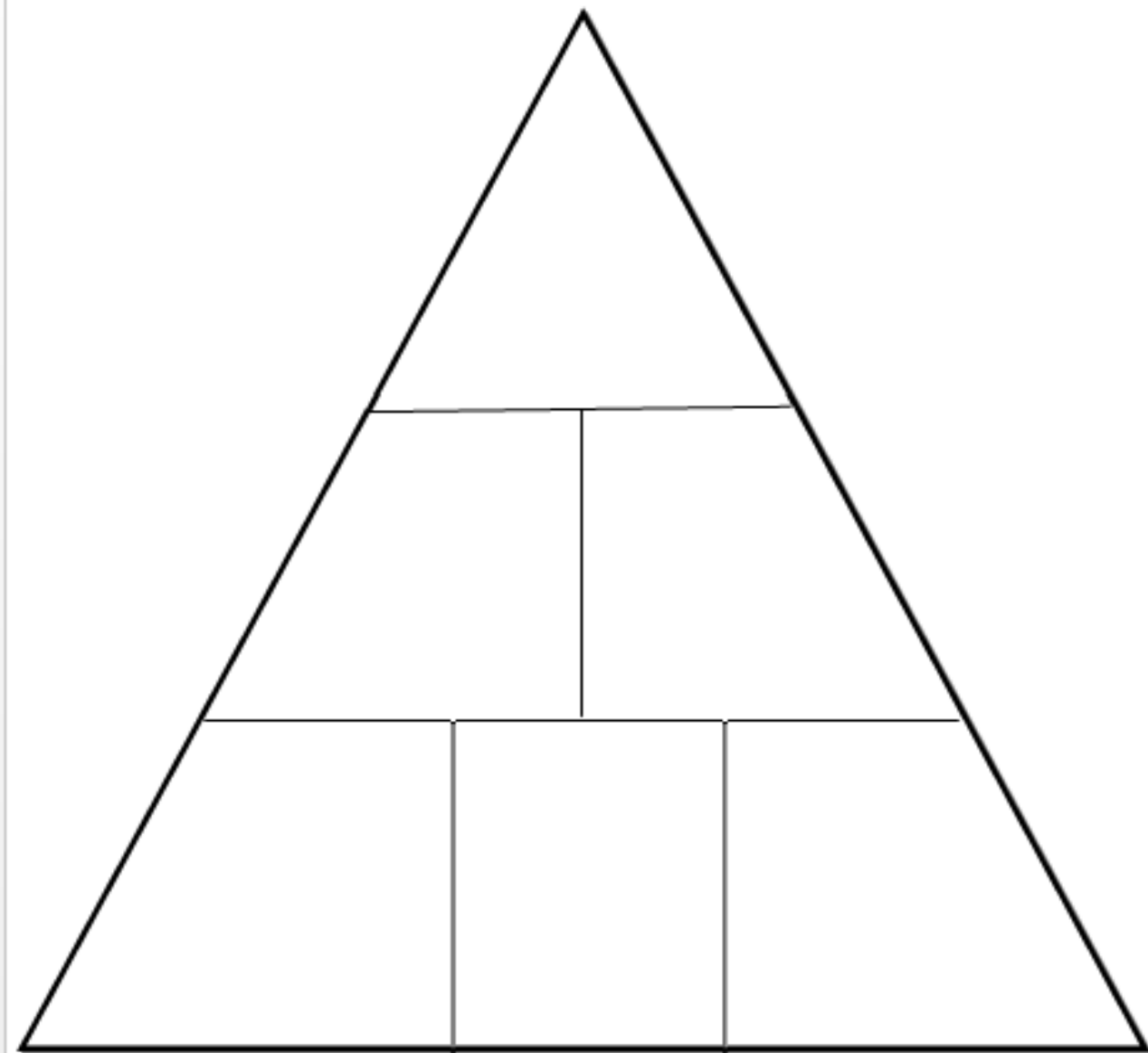
JUDICIAL



SUPREME COURT

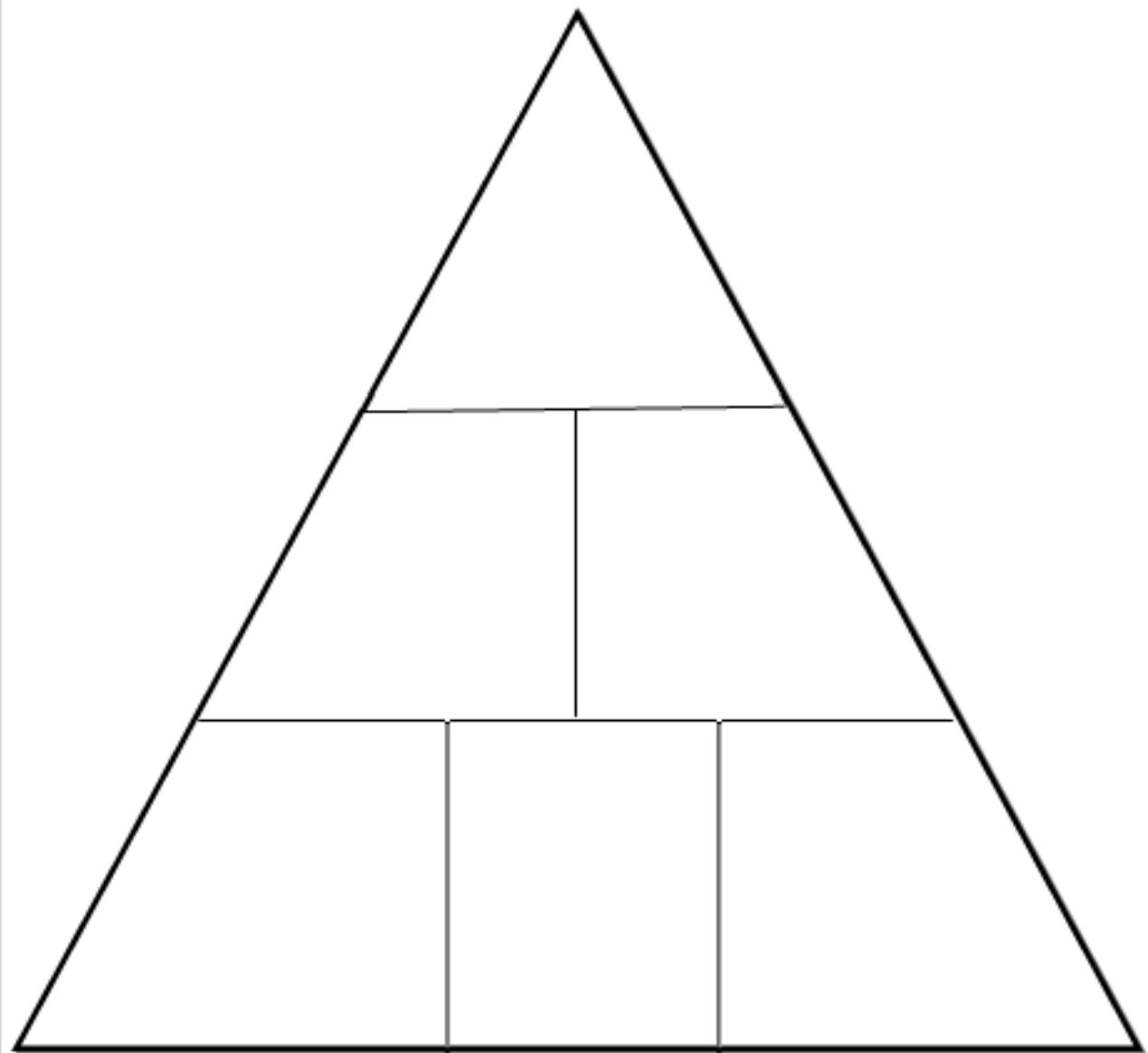
3-2-1 Pyramid

Directions: On the pyramid below, write down 3 interesting facts, 2 "because statements" (ex—Canada is a parliamentary democracy because...), and 1 question you still have about Canada's Government.



3-2-1 Pyramid

Directions: On the pyramid below, write down 3 interesting facts, 2 "because statements" (ex—Canada is a parliamentary democracy because...), and 1 question you still have about Canada's Government.





Canada's Government: The Basics...

Canada's government is a **constitutional monarchy**. Their constitution lists the powers of the government. The **British monarchy**, a king or queen, is the head of state. However, since the monarchy does not live in Canada, he or she chooses a **governor-general** to act in his or her place. The head of state and governor-general represent an important tradition in Canada's government.

Canada has a **federal government system**, which shares power between the national government and the ten provinces and three territories. Some of the responsibilities of the Canadian federal government are providing national defense, trading, banking, immigration, criminal law, and postal services. Provincial governments are responsible for education, property rights, local government, hospitals, and provincial taxes. Territorial governments have fewer responsibilities, but still practice self-government. The voting age in Canada is eighteen, but voting is not required by law.

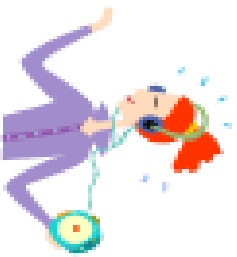
The Canadian government is divided into legislative and judicial branches. **Parliament is the legislative branch of government**. The **House of Commons**, the **Senate**, and the governor-general make up Parliament. Canadian citizens elect representatives to the House of Commons. The leader of the party with the most elected members of Parliament acts as the **prime minister**, or head of government. The prime minister and cabinet make up the executive branch of government, which is part of the legislative branch. The prime minister chooses people from the ten provinces and three territories to sit in the senate. Both the House of Commons and the Senate make Canadian laws and policies.



Canada has both a federal and provincial court system. The **federal Supreme Court** is the highest court in the country. Nine judges serve on this court. The prime minister chooses the judges and the governor-general appoints them.

Directions: Fill in the chart below with facts about each topic about Canada. You will find all the necessary information in the above *Canada's Government* reading.

CANADA			
Constitutional Monarchy	Federal Government System	Parliament	Prime Minister



Canadian Compilations

Creating a CD about Canada's Government



Directions: After discussing the *Canada's Government* PowerPoint, use your foldable to create a CD cover about the different aspects of Canada's government. You will be designing a CD cover and creating a soundtrack (playlist) about this topic. Please use the following steps to complete your project:

1. Make up the name of the group or artist for your CD. You may NOT use any people that already exist! Next, make up the name of the CD. This MUST relate to Canada's government! Write both of these things on the cover of your CD "case".

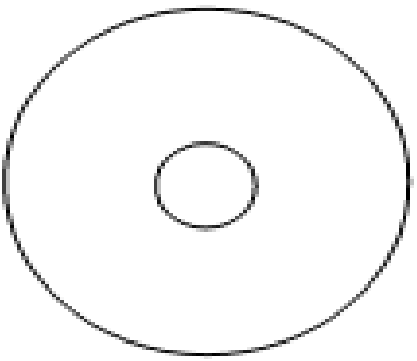
2. On the inside-left of your CD case, create a playlist of SIX titles of songs that describe Canada's government. You will need to have at least one song title for each of the following topics:

- a. Canada's Federal System
- b. Canada's Parliamentary Democracy
- c. Canada's Constitutional Monarchy
- d. Canada's Leaders
- e. Canada's Legislature (Parliament)
- f. Role of Canada's Citizens

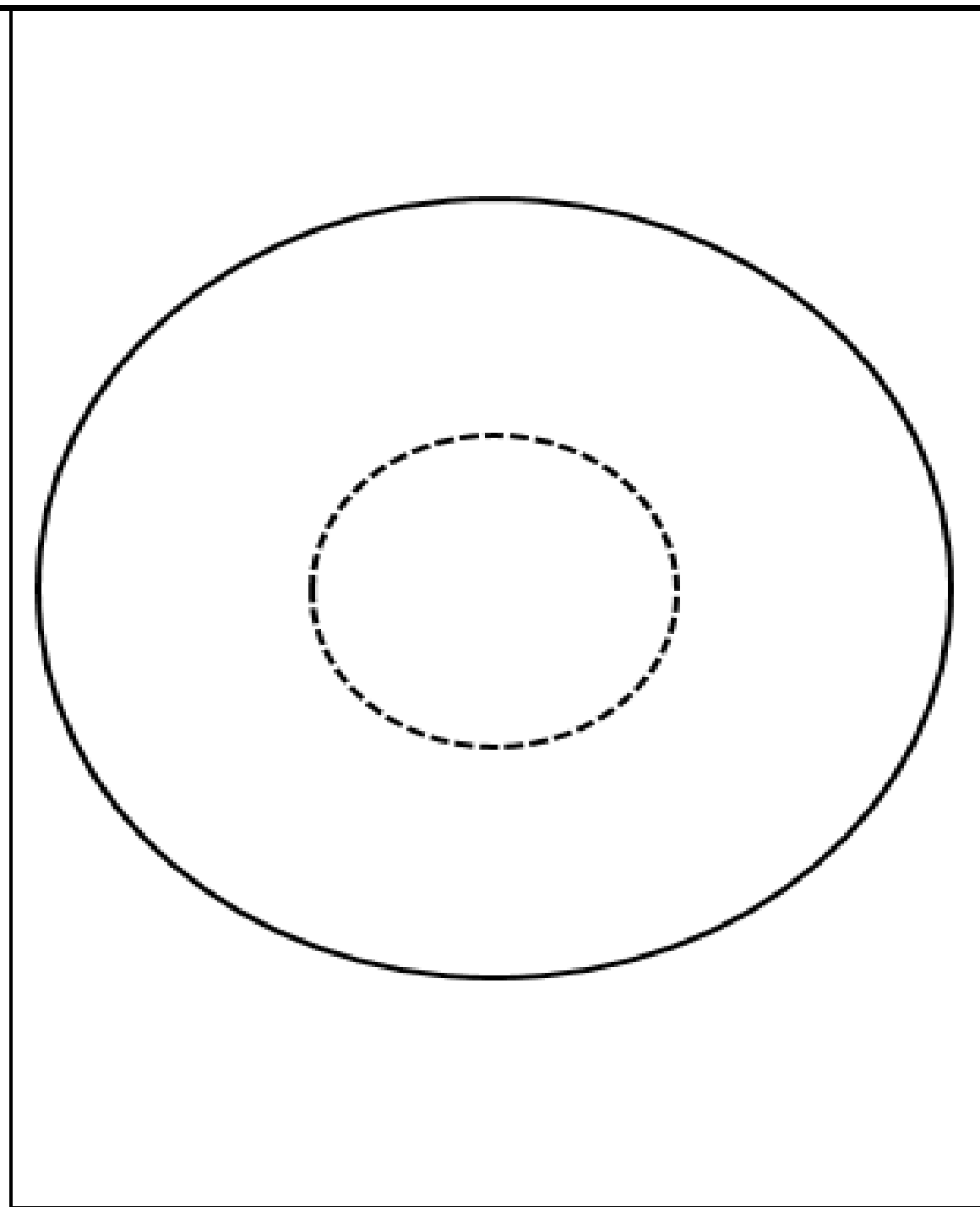
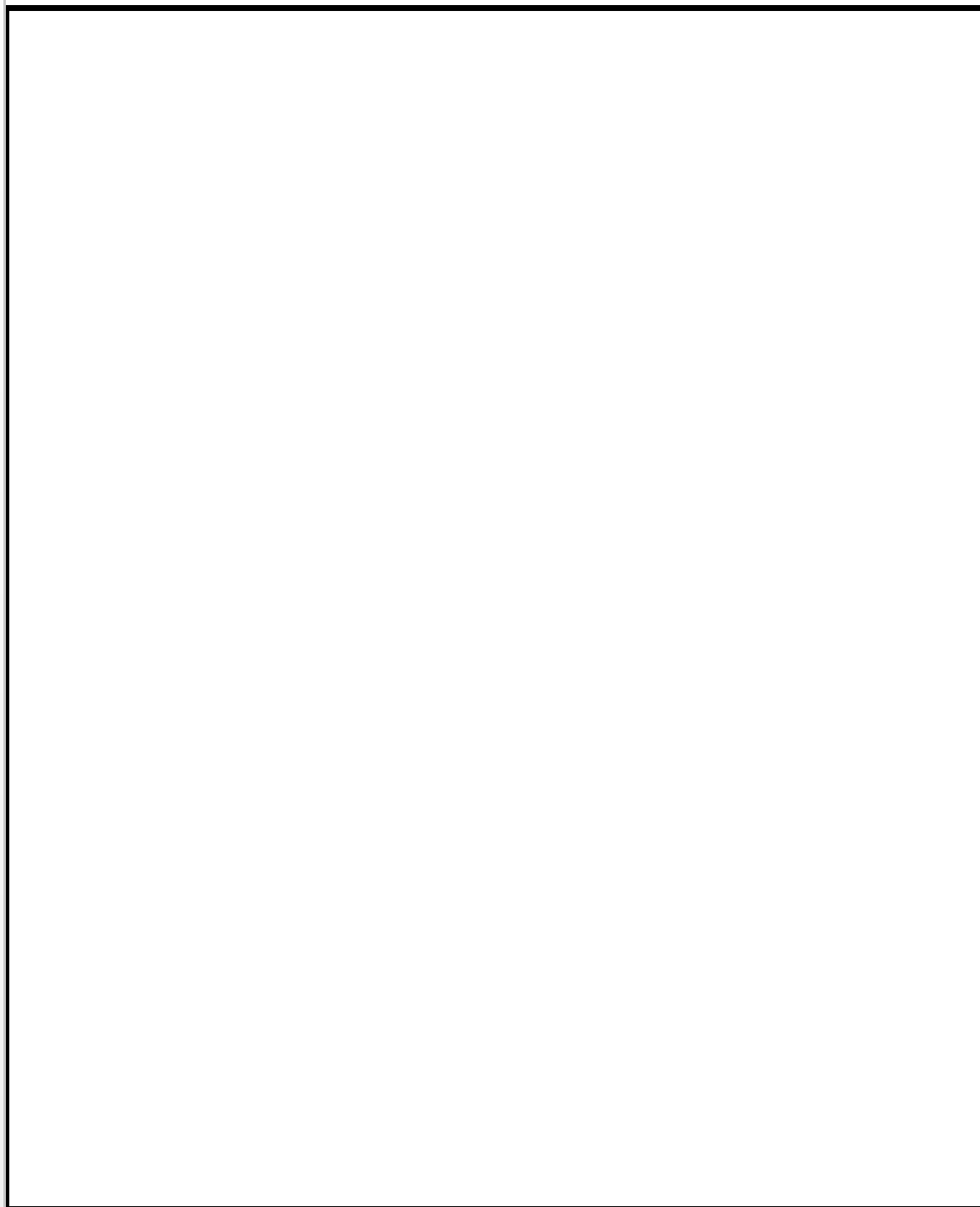
*You can find information about these topics in your notes. The titles of the songs should accurately describe the information.

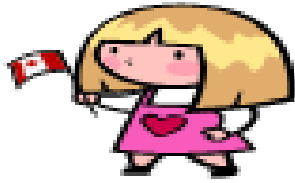
3. On the inside-right of your CD case, illustrate the CD. Use at least one of your songs from the playlist as inspiration! Please be creative and color your CD! ☺

CD SET-UP:

<p>(Title of CD) Playlist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.5.6.	
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↑ Illustrate the CD
to match your
songs!





Name: _____

A Children's Book: Canada's Government

Procedure:

You will be creating a mini-children's book on Canada's government. You can find all of the information that you will need for your book in the "Canada's Government" PowerPoint. As you are working on your book, keep in mind that you will be writing for a younger audience so make sure that you present the information in a simple way that children will understand. Be sure to use clear and simple language, and to keep your ideas focused and brief. Remember, most children really enjoy the pictures in books, so be sure to include colorful artwork on each page.

Use the chart below to record the main ideas and details that you will use on each page of your book.

Cover	Title?	
Page 1	What does the word "Canada" mean to you?	
Page 2	What does the word "government" mean to you?	
Page 3	What is Canada's government system? Describe.	
Page 4	What is Canada's type of government? Describe.	
Page 5	Describe Canada's parliamentary democracy.	
Page 6	Describe Canada's constitutional monarchy.	
Page 7	Describe Canada's leaders.	
Page 8	Describe Canada's legislature (Parliament).	
Page 9	Describe the role of Canada's citizens.	
Page 10	Write 3 Questions for readers to answer about your book.	