

Name _____

Date _____

Governing Canada

Canada and the United States are strong allies, or good friends. They have shared many ideas over the years, such as a similar form of federal government. Although Canada modeled its government after the United States, the Canadian government also has its own unique qualities.



Directions: Read the passage about Canada's federal government below. Then use the information in the passage to help you complete the chart.

Canada's central, or federal, government is in Ottawa. Queen Elizabeth II of England serves as Canada's queen, although she doesn't govern the land because Canada is an independent nation. The queen is represented by the governor general, who performs certain formal and symbolic duties. The government is actually directed by the prime minister, whose job is similar to that of the United States president.

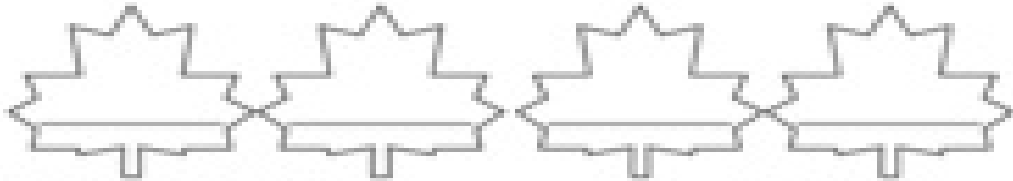
In addition to the queen, the governor general, and the prime minister, the executive branch also consists of the Cabinet. The Cabinet has about 25 members, each chosen by the prime minister. Each Cabinet minister usually leads government departments.

The legislative branch is also known as Parliament. Parliament has two parts. The first and most powerful part is called the House of Commons. The House of Commons members are elected by the people. The second part is the Senate, which has 105 members. Senators are not elected but are appointed by the governor general under the direction of the prime minister.

The highest courts of the judicial branch are the Supreme Court and the Federal Court. The courts make sure that the laws of the nation are obeyed. The judges of these two courts are appointed by the governor general, who works in agreement with the Cabinet.

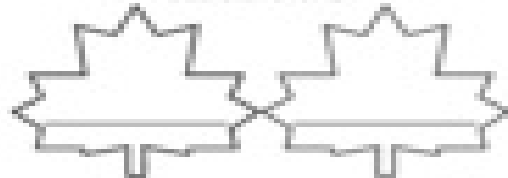
Keeping all the parts of the government working together may not be easy, but it is important. Each branch and section of government help make sure Canada remains the great nation that it is today!

National Government of Canada Executive Branch



Legislative Branch (Parliament)

Judicial Branch



Bonus: Read: Compare the structure of the Canadian government to the government of the United States.

