BRING PARLIAMENT TO YOUR CLASSROOM
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

learn.parl.ca
Looking for inspiration for teaching civics, history or another subject? Need activities and lesson plans to help your students understand governance?

The Parliament of Canada can help, with free tools for teachers and students of all ages.

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* Bill on the Hill may be adapted to older learners, in grades 7 to 11 (QC Secondary I to V).

* Our Country, Our Parliament and the associated web resource can be adapted to ESL and FSL students in grades 9 to 12 (QC Secondary III to CEGEP).
Bringing Parliament to Your Classroom Activities

Parliament: The Classroom Experience

Grades 8 to 12
QC Secondary Cycles 1 + 2 and CEGEP

Travel to the heart of democracy in virtual reality.

This one-of-a-kind learning program gives students the chance to experience Parliament in VR. Register for a Classroom Kit and receive:

- VR gear for up to 23 students
- Access to the immersive experience of Parliament
- Four complementary lesson plans

Set Up and Go

The VR Classroom Kit contains everything you need to run the experience – no internet connection or devices required!
K to Grade 3
QC Primary cycles 1 + 2

Introduce young learners to Parliament with simple games.

Using games and storytelling, this resource familiarizes students with:
• Parliament and the Canadian government
• Icons like the maple leaf, fleur-de-lis and thunderbird
• Concepts of symbolism and identity

Did You Know?
If your class is in Ottawa during the school year, you can visit Canada’s Parliament at two unique locations. See page 10 for details.

Grades 4 to 6
QC Primary cycles 2 + 3

Guide Bill on his interactive journey from creation to Royal Assent!

How are laws made in Canada? Working individually or in groups, students are challenged to:
• Create a bill of their own choosing
• Move it through all stages of the legislative process
• Debate, think critically and make complex decisions

Tuning In
Looking for videos about Parliament? Visit us at youtube.com/parlyouth

Role Play
The activity includes role cards for up to 30 people. Depending on their interests, students can be Senators, MPs, witnesses, clerks or journalists.

Grades 4 to 6 and 9 to 11
QC Primary cycles 2 + 3 and Secondary cycles 1 + 2

Discover the important work done by parliamentary committees.

In this simulation, you and your students stage a committee meeting to study a mock bill. Participants:
• Learn about a key step in the legislative process
• Improve their oral presentation skills
• Work collaboratively

Parliamentary Committee Simulation
parl.gc.ca/comsim

Bill on the Hill
parl.gc.ca/bill

Searching for Symbols
parl.gc.ca/symbols
Explore Our Country, Our Parliament
parl.gc.ca/explore

Teachers’ Tip
Use the Word Builder to boost your students’ vocabulary. It may be especially helpful for those learning English as a second language.

Encourage your students to understand Canada’s parliamentary democracy and how it impacts them.

With games, videos and activities, this comprehensive resource makes learning about governance easy. Choose from the following themes for your class:
• Confederation and the Constitution
• The federal, provincial and municipal levels of government
• Elections and voting
• The roles of the Crown, Senate and House of Commons
• The national capital and the Parliament Buildings
• How to get involved

Grades 5 to 8; ESL and FSL students Grades 9 to 12
QC Primary cycle 3; Secondary cycles 1 + 2 and CEGEP

Discover How Canadians Govern Themselves
parl.gc.ca/discover

Grades 8 to 12
QC Secondary cycles 1 + 2 and CEGEP

Help your students understand Canada’s system of government through puzzles, games and more.

Based on the popular publication How Canadians Govern Themselves, this in-depth resource highlights three main themes:
• Canada’s democratic system, from 1608 to the present
• How government affects our daily lives
• How Parliament works: its structure, process and key players

Who’s in charge?
Play Touchpoints to learn how Canada’s three levels of government influence your and your students’ lives.
**EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS**

**Grades 6 to 10**  
QC Primary cycle 3 to Secondary cycle 2

Make tough choices to plan a day in the life of a parliamentarian.

What’s it really like to be a Senator or an MP? This dynamic activity requires students to juggle professional and personal commitments in real time. Participants:

- Learn what parliamentarians do, in and outside of the Chamber
- Establish goals and priorities
- Develop their organizational skills

**Parliament in the News**  
parl.gc.ca/news

Grades 7 to 12  
QC Secondary cycles 1 + 2 and CEGEP

Find out what the news communicates about Parliament and its impact on citizens.

In this activity, students research news stories (either online or in print) and consider what they have to say about Parliament. A range of activities encourages learners to:

- Better understand the parliamentary system
- Connect to and interact with their representatives
- Become informed and conscientious readers

**Model Parliament Unit**  
parl.gc.ca/mpu

Grades 10 to 12  
QC Secondary cycle 2 + CEGEP

Transform your classroom into a mock parliament!

This immersive simulation can be adapted to different grade levels and class time. With a range of options available, it is designed to meet your class’s needs and interests. Participants:

- Learn how democracy works
- Develop research and presentation skills
- Learn how to negotiate and debate

**Pop Quiz**

You can also use this resource to put your students’ knowledge to the test. Look out for parliamentary trivia questions throughout the activity.

**Keep It Going**

Try using this resource as a basis for further assignments, like writing an article about Parliament or keeping a news diary.

**True to Life**

To make sure that students’ experience is as realistic as possible, the unit includes scripts with the actual wording used in Parliament.
TEACHERS INSTITUTE ON CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

1 WEEK AT PARLIAMENT.

85 EDUCATORS.

= AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.

Are you looking for a unique and memorable professional development opportunity?

Apply to the next Teachers Institute at parl.gc.ca/teachers
What Is It?

The Teachers Institute is an intensive professional development program. Participants spend a week at Parliament, gaining an insider’s perspective on civic life in Canada and exchanging ideas with fellow educators from across the country.

You will

- Learn from political, procedural and pedagogical experts
- Discuss key issues in citizenship and parliamentary democracy
- Develop strategies for teaching Parliament, democracy, governance and citizenship
- Take what you learn back to your classroom

Highlights

- Meet parliamentarians, including the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons
- Hear from parliamentary experts, senior parliamentary officials, journalists and lobbyists
- See Parliament in action

“This is a one-of-a-kind experience. I can’t wait to go back to my classroom and inspire my students with a passion for democracy.”
- Teacher from Alberta

“How Do I Apply?”

To learn more and apply online, visit parl.gc.ca/teachers

“An amazing opportunity. I am leaving with multiple ideas to share and teach.”
- Participant from Saskatchewan
Visit learn.parl.ca to access, download and order a variety of free bilingual educational publications about Parliament.
Did You Know?
The Parliamentary Boutique also offers products and resources of interest to teachers. Go to parl.gc.ca/boutique to browse the selection and learn about ordering.
Are you planning a class trip to the National Capital Region? Make sure to include free guided tours of Parliament!

Centre Block is currently closed for a multi-year renovation. During this time, the Senate is located in the Senate of Canada Building and the House of Commons is in West Block.

Guided Tours
All grade levels

Senate of Canada
Explore the Senate at the newly renovated Senate of Canada Building – Ottawa’s historic train station – to learn about the unique role and history of Canada’s Upper Chamber.

House of Commons
Discover the history, functions, art and architecture of the House of Commons on a tour of the newly restored West Block - one of Parliament’s oldest buildings.

Take a video tour of the Senate of Canada and the House of Commons at youtube.com/PARLyouth.

Group tours must be reserved in advance at visit.parl.ca.

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