BRING PARLIAMENT TO YOUR CLASSROOM
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS
parl.gc.ca/education
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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### Classroom Publications

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### School Tours

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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).
Learning about Parliament and Canadian democracy is fun and easy with these dynamic activities. Most can be adapted to different grade levels. Explore the full range to find the best fit for your class.
Educational Resources, Activities and Programs

**Searching for Symbols**
parl.gc.ca/symbols

**Bill on the Hill**
parl.gc.ca/bill

**Parliamentary Committee Simulation**
parl.gc.ca/comsim

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**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

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**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

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**Did You Know?**

If your class is in Ottawa during the school year, you can take a special tour of Parliament based on Searching for Symbols or Bill on the Hill. See page 10 for details.

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**Tuning In**

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

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**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

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**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.
Bring Parliament to your classroom

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

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

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.

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

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

Who’s in charge?
Play *Touchpoints* to learn how Canada’s three levels of government influence your and your students’ lives.
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

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

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

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

Apply to the next Teachers Institute at parl.gc.ca/teachers

1 WEEK AT PARLIAMENT.

85 EDUCATORS.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.
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

“An amazing opportunity. I am leaving with multiple ideas to share and teach.”

- Participant from Saskatchewan

How Do I Apply?

To learn more and apply online, visit parl.gc.ca/teachers
You and your students will get to know Parliament with these booklets, guides and other publications. Free class sets can be ordered online at parl.gc.ca/order
Classroom Publications

FAQs about the Senate of Canada
Get to Know the House of Commons
Grades 4 to 6 / QC Primary cycles 2 + 3
Designed to appeal to young readers, these pamphlets provide a simple overview of the Senate and House of Commons in question-and-answer form.

At Work in the Senate
At Work in the House of Commons
Grades 7 to 12 / QC Secondary cycles 1 + 2 and CEGEP
These colourful brochures feature detailed photos of the two Chambers of Parliament, explaining who’s who and the work they do.

Pages and Pages about Parliament
Looking for even more information? Visit the Teacher Resources corner at parl.gc.ca/education for online publications, including fact sheets, articles and booklets.

Our Country, Our Parliament
Grades 5 to 8; ESL and FSL students grades 9 to 12
QC Primary cycle 3; Secondary cycles 1 + 2 and CEGEP
Our Country, Our Parliament offers in-depth information about Canada’s system of governance, with accessible content designed for younger readers. A complementary online resource is available. See page 4.

How Canadians Govern Themselves
Grades 8 to 12 / QC Secondary cycles 1 + 2 and CEGEP
This comprehensive publication gives older students a deeper understanding of democracy, government and the history and functions of Parliament. A complementary online resource is available. See page 4.

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 a guided tour of Centre Block!

Group tours are offered free of charge and must be reserved in advance. Please plan ahead, as demand is high and availability may be limited.

AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND:

General Tour
All grade levels

Students of all ages will discover the history, functions and art of Parliament on a guided tour. Content can be adapted to match the age and interests of your class.

AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER TO APRIL:

Searching for Symbols
Kindergarten to Grade 3
QC Primary cycles 1 and 2

Young students will play a game of “I Spy” on this interactive tour, which challenges them to identify and learn about Canadian symbols in Centre Block.

Follow That Bill
Grades 4 to 6
QC Primary cycles 2 and 3

This role-playing tour teaches students about the legislative process as they guide “Bill” on his journey through Parliament to become a law.

Complementary resources are available online. See page 3.

parl.gc.ca/schooltours

Contact Us:

Information Service
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A9

info@parl.gc.ca
613-992-4793
866-599-4999

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