

Worksheet 1: Party Basics

Grade 5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson 1. Use with the CIVIX video "Parliamentary Democracy in British Columbia" and Slide Deck 2.

Part A: Match the word to its meaning

Write the letter on the line.

Word	Letter	Meaning
1. political party		A. the leader of the BC government
2. platform		B. a group of people who share ideas and run candidates
3. candidate		C. an area of BC that elects one MLA
4. electoral district		D. a party's list of goals and promises
5. MLA		E. a person running in an election
6. premier		F. the person elected to the legislature for a district

Part B: How does a party form the government?

BC has _____ electoral districts. Each one elects _____ MLA.

A party needs _____ seats to have a majority. The leader of the party with the most seats usually becomes the _____.

Election day in BC is _____, 2026. Voting is secret, so my choice is private.

Part C: How do parties reach voters?

Tick the methods you have seen. Star the one you think works best.

Method	Seen it?	Grade 6: paid, owned, or earned?
Lawn sign		
TV or online ad		
Party website		
Social media post		
News story about a leader		
Leaders' debate		
Door knocking		

Paid = the party buys it. Owned = the party controls it. Earned = others (like news) talk about it.

The method that works best on me is _____ because ...

Worksheet 2: Comparing the Parties

Grade 5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson 2. Research your party with your group, then compare the parties on one issue.

Part A: Our party research

Our party (circle): BC Conservatives BC Green Party BC NDP OneBC

Question	What we found
Party leader	
Local candidate (Kelowna Centre)	
Slogan	
Big idea (promise)	Who it helps
1.	
2.	
3.	

Part B: Party pitch notes (one big idea for each party)

Party	One big idea
BC Conservatives	
BC Green Party	
BC NDP	
OneBC	

Part C: My issue

The issue that matters most to me is _____ because ...

The party plan that fits my view best on this issue is _____ because ...

Grade 6 challenge: Where did your information come from? Is that source trying to persuade you? How do you know?

Reflection card

The first thing I will share with my family tonight is ...

Exit Ticket

Lesson 1: What Is a Political Party?

5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What is a political party?

2. What is a platform?

3. How does a party become the government in BC?

(Grade 6 / challenge: why might a campaign use social media instead of TV ads?)

Self-check: Today I can explain what a political party is and how a government forms.

☐ Yes, on my own ☐ Getting there ☐ I need more help

Exit Ticket

Lesson 2: Comparing the Parties

5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Name one party's leader and one of its big ideas.

2. Which issue matters most to you in this election? Why?

3. Why should voters check more than one source before deciding?

(Grade 6 / challenge: how can an ad change what voters think?)

Self-check: Today I can compare political parties and explain what matters to me.

☐ Yes, on my own ☐ Getting there ☐ I need more help

Worksheet 1: Party Basics - ANSWER KEY

Grade 5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Part A: 1-B 2-D 3-E 4-C 5-F 6-A

Part B: 93 electoral districts; 1 MLA each; 47 seats for a majority; premier; October 24, 2026.

Part C (Grade 6): Lawn sign - paid; TV or online ad - paid; party website - owned; social media post - owned (paid if boosted); news story - earned; leaders' debate - earned; door knocking - owned (the party's own volunteers). Accept reasoned answers.

Unit Rubric: Political Parties

Grade 5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Assessed on Worksheet 2, the End of Unit Concepts Check, and lesson evidence. Tied to the BC Social Studies curricular competencies.

Name: _____ Grade (circle): 5 6

Criteria	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Parties and government	Names a party only.	Explains what a party or platform is.	Explains parties, platforms, and how government forms.	Explains majority, premier, and why seats matter.
Inquiry (research)	Little information found.	Finds a leader or slogan.	Finds leader, candidate, slogan, and 3 ideas.	Explains who each idea helps, with detail.
Evidence and media	Uses one source without question.	Names where information came from.	Tells facts from persuasion in party sources.	Explains how media shapes views (Gr 6).
Perspective and judgment	Gives no reason.	Gives an opinion with a simple reason.	Compares plans on an issue and justifies a choice.	Weights who is helped or left out by each plan.
Respectful discussion	Rarely shares or listens.	Shares or listens with reminders.	Shares and listens respectfully in Two Cents.	Builds on others' ideas and invites quiet voices.

Teacher comment:

Student I Can Tracker

Grade 5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Tick a box for each goal at the end of each lesson.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson	I can ...	Not yet	Getting there	Yes
Lesson 1	I can explain what a political party is and how a government forms.			
Lesson 1	I can name ways parties try to reach voters.			
Lesson 2	I can find a party's leader, slogan, and big ideas.			
Lesson 2	I can compare parties on an issue and share my view respectfully.			

One thing I learned about elections:

One question I still have about political parties:

Teacher Observation Checklist

Grade 5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Formative evidence across the unit. Code: E = emerging, D = developing, P = proficient, X = extending.

Class: _____ Dates: TBD

Student	Parties and platforms	How government forms	Research skills	Media and sources	Issue judgment	Two Cents talk

Anecdotal notes:

End of Unit Concepts Check

Grade 5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Name: _____ Grade (circle): 5 6

Grade 5: complete Parts A and B. Grade 6: complete Parts A, B, and C. About 10 to 15 minutes. Questions may be read aloud on request.

Part A: Multiple choice (circle one)

1. A political party is ...

a. a celebration after an election b. a group with shared ideas that runs candidates c. a school club d. the BC legislature building

2. A platform is ...

a. a party's goals and promises b. a place to stand and vote c. a ballot box d. a TV channel

3. BC is divided into 93 electoral districts. Each one elects ...

a. a mayor b. one MLA c. three trustees d. the premier

4. How many seats does a party need for a majority in BC?

a. 10 b. 33 c. 47 d. 93

5. The premier is usually ...

a. the oldest MLA b. chosen by the Prime Minister c. the leader of the party with the most seats d. picked by students

6. Which is an example of PAID media?

a. a TV ad the party buys b. a news story c. a friend's opinion d. a school assembly

7. When is the 2026 BC provincial election day?

a. July 1 b. October 17 c. October 24 d. December 1

8. Why is voting done by secret ballot?

a. so no one can vote b. so each person can choose freely and privately c. so results are faster d. so only adults know

Part B: Short answer

9. What is one way political parties try to reach voters?

10. Name one BC party and its leader.

11. Why do voters compare more than one party before deciding?

12. Pick an election issue. Why might people disagree about it?

Part C: Grade 6 (media and systems of government)

13. How can media (ads, social media, news) change what voters think? Give an example.

14. BC voters choose parties and MLAs. Why is having a choice of parties important for people's rights?

End of Unit Concepts Check - ANSWER KEY

Grade 5/6 Social Studies - Political Parties

Grade 5: complete Parts A and B. Grade 6: complete Parts A, B, and C. About 10 to 15 minutes. Questions may be read aloud on request.

Part A: Multiple choice (circle one)

1. A political party is ...

a. a celebration after an election b. a group with shared ideas that runs candidates c. a school club d. the BC legislature building

Answer: b

2. A platform is ...

a. a party's goals and promises b. a place to stand and vote c. a ballot box d. a TV channel

Answer: a

3. BC is divided into 93 electoral districts. Each one elects ...

a. a mayor b. one MLA c. three trustees d. the premier

Answer: b

4. How many seats does a party need for a majority in BC?

a. 10 b. 33 c. 47 d. 93

Answer: c

5. The premier is usually ...

a. the oldest MLA b. chosen by the Prime Minister c. the leader of the party with the most seats d. picked by students

Answer: c

6. Which is an example of PAID media?

a. a TV ad the party buys b. a news story c. a friend's opinion d. a school assembly

Answer: a

7. When is the 2026 BC provincial election day?

a. July 1 b. October 17 c. October 24 d. December 1

Answer: c

8. Why is voting done by secret ballot?

a. so no one can vote b. so each person can choose freely and privately c. so results are faster d. so only adults know

Answer: b

Part B: Short answer

9. What is one way political parties try to reach voters?

Any one: lawn signs, ads (TV, online, radio), websites, social media, debates, door knocking, mail, news interviews.

10. Name one BC party and its leader.

Any one (as of Oct 2026): BC NDP - David Eby; BC Conservatives - Lorne Doerksen (interim); BC Green Party - Emily Lowan; OneBC - Dallas Brodie (interim); CentreBC - Elenore Sturko.

11. Why do voters compare more than one party before deciding?

To learn each party's plans, see which ideas match their own values and issues, and make an informed choice instead of following one ad or one opinion.

12. Pick an election issue. Why might people disagree about it?

Any reasonable issue (cost of living, health care, housing, jobs, environment). People have different needs, values, and experiences, so they want different solutions.

Part C: Grade 6 (media and systems of government)

13. How can media (ads, social media, news) change what voters think? Give an example.

Ads and posts show only one side and use slogans or images to persuade; news can inform or focus on some issues more than others. Example of a persuasive ad or post.

14. BC voters choose parties and MLAs. Why is having a choice of parties important for people's rights?

Choice lets people pick leaders who represent their views and replace them if they do a poor job; in systems with one party, people may have no say and rights are less protected.

Scoring guide: Part A 1 mark each (8). Part B 2 marks each (8). Part C 3 marks each (6). Grade 5 out of 16; Grade 6 out of 22. Use with the unit rubric, not as a sole grade.