

□ Activity 2: The Government of the United Kingdom

The Parliament of the United Kingdom has an excellent educational website with resources for students that explain how the government of the U.K. works. For this activity, you'll either read a document about Parliament or watch a video made for kids in the United Kingdom about how their government works. Talk to a parent about which option you would like to complete.

Option 1: Get to Know the UK Parliament

In this option, you will view a PDF file called "Get to Know Your UK Parliament" and take notes on the reading using the activity page "The UK Parliament."

Get to Know Your UK Parliament
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8903/
You can either read this PDF file on your computer or print it out to read it on paper.

Option 2: Online Explorations of the UK Parliament

In this option, you'll watch a short animated video about how the government of the United Kingdom works. While you view the video, take notes on the "Online Explorations of the UK Parliament" activity page. Feel free to pause the video as needed while you take notes.

Introduction to Parliament
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9026/



THE UK PARLIAMENT

Instructions: As you read the online document, take notes using this activity page.

What is an MP? _____

How many constituencies elect MPs in the United Kingdom? _____

Who is the leader of government in the U.K.? _____

What are members of the House of Lords called? _____

What are the three parts of Parliament?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How many members are there in the House of the Lords? _____

How are people selected for the House of Lords? _____

What are select committees? _____

How does a bill become law in the United Kingdom? _____



Online Explorations of the UK Parliament

1. Who leads the government? _____

2. What are the three parts of Parliament? _____

3. How many MPs are there in the House of Commons? _____

4. How are MPs in the House of Commons chosen? _____

5. How are members of the House of Lords chosen? _____

6. Does the Queen have any actual say in the government? _____

7. Where does a bill originate? _____

8. What is Parliamentary ping pong? _____

9. How often is a general election held? _____

10. How do candidates campaign? _____

11. At what age can you register to vote? _____

12. What are some ways you can contact your local member of Parliament? _____



Activity 2: The Government of the United Kingdom

In this activity, your child will use resources from the Education Service of the United Kingdom's Parliament to learn more about the government of the United Kingdom. The first option involves reading a brochure available online as a PDF file that can either be read on a screen or printed for reading away from the computer. The second option involves watching a short video made for students about the government of the United Kingdom. Choose the option that you think will appeal to your child. The activity page is a note-taking page that your child will use to record important information about the government of the United Kingdom.

Learning Activities
<p>www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8934/</p> <p>If your child is particularly interested in exploring additional online resources, you can find more from the Parliament Education Service, including videos and booklets.</p>
Parliament Explained
<p>www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/6223/</p> <p>The items on this page are particularly related to Parliament.</p>
ParliQuiz
<p>www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8131/</p> <p>There is even a ParliQuiz app for iPhone, iPad, or iTouch devices available here.</p>

The questions for discussion at the end of the lesson involve some comparison to the government of the United States, so be prepared to review the workings of the U.S. government with your child if necessary.

Option 1: Get to Know the UK Parliament

In this option, your child will read a PDF file about Parliament, either on screen or printed on paper. As with any online activity, please be sure to supervise your child's use of the Internet. An answer key has been provided.

Answer Key:

- What is an MP? (A Member of Parliament)
- How many constituencies elect MPs in the United Kingdom? (650)
- Who is the leader of government in the U.K.? (The Prime Minister)
- What are the members of the House of Lords called: (Peers)
- What are the three parts of Parliament? (1. The House of Commons 2. The House of Lords 3. The Monarch)
- How many members are there in the House of Lords? (About 800)
- How are people selected for the House of Lords? (They are selected for the job by the Prime Minister or Appointments Commission and are officially appointed by the Queen.)
- What are select committees? (Small groups of either MPs or members of the House of Lords who are chosen to look closely into important issues.)
- How does a bill become law in the United Kingdom? (A bill is proposed in the House of Commons or the House of Lords. Usually the government has suggested the bill. The bill is announced and discussed. The MPs review the bill line by line to make sure it is likely to work, and changes are made to the bill if necessary. The bill is voted on and, if it passes, it goes through a similar process in the House of Lords. If it passes in the House of Lords, the bill is sent to the Queen for Royal Assent and becomes law.)

Option 2: Online Explorations of the UK Parliament

In this option, your child will watch a short video and take notes using his activity page while viewing. As with any online activity, please be sure to supervise your child's use of the Internet.

Answer Key:

1. Who leads the government? (The prime minister and about 100 advisors)
2. What are the three parts of Parliament? (1. House of Commons 2. House of Lords 3. Monarch)
3. How many MPs are there in the House of Commons? (650)
4. How are MPs in the House of Commons chosen? (They are elected by voters.)
5. How are members of the House of Lords chosen? (They are chosen because they are experts in fields like law, business, science, or the arts.)
6. Does the Queen have any actual say in the government? (No.)
7. Where does a bill originate? (It is suggested by various groups of people such as political parties and campaign groups. It is then presented to Parliament.)
8. What is Parliamentary ping pong? (When a bill is debated back and forth between the MPs and the House of Lords.)
9. How often is a general election held? (Every 5 years).
10. How do candidates campaign? (They hand out leaflets, speak in public discussions, go door to door, and participate in public broadcasts.)
11. At what age can you register to vote? (16)
12. What are some ways you can contact your local member of Parliament? (Write a letter, call, email, join a campaign group, etc.)