

Chapter 7: Republic of Turkey

Internet Activity

In this lesson, you will use a video, websites, and other online resources to learn about how the government of Turkey works. You'll discover how citizens in Turkey participate in government and have the opportunity to suggest ideas to improve democracy in Turkey.

Facts About Turkey's Government

Navigate to the CIA World Factbook website section on Turkey (<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/turkey-turkiye/>). Click on Government (question 1), then scroll to Suffrage (question 2), Executive, Legislative, Judicial (question 3), and Political Parties (question 4). Read those sections and use the information to answer the questions below.



- 1) What is the name of Turkey's type of government? _____

- 2) *Suffrage* is another word for "the right to vote". Which of the following statements about voting in Turkey is true?
 - a. Only landowning people can vote.
 - b. Only men can vote when they turn 18.
 - c. Every citizen can vote when they turn 18.
 - d. Citizens vote for both members of parliament and the president.

- 3) What is one similarity between democracy in the United States and democracy in Turkey?
 - a. Their Supreme Courts have 9 members.
 - b. They both have three branches of government – legislative, executive, and judicial.
 - c. There are only 2 major political parties in both countries.
 - d. Their Constitutions were ratified in 1787.

- 4) Read the section labeled "Political parties and leaders". What differences do you notice about political parties in Turkey and political parties in the United States? _____

Elections in Turkey

Before the most recent election, Turkish President Erdogan's AKP (Justice and Development) party had a majority of the seats in the Turkish parliament. Watch this PBS News Hour video (<http://bit.ly/turk15>) to learn what happened in the 2015 elections, then answer the questions below.

- 1) What happened to the AKP in this parliamentary election? _____

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2) How does this election outcome reflect on the leadership of President Erdogan? _____

3) Voter turnout for this election was 86 percent, a much higher than normal rate for elections in Turkey. What does this tell you about citizen participation in the government of Turkey?

Improving Democracy in Turkey

The Sustainable Government Index ranks the quality of democracy each year in 41 different countries. Turkey finished 40th out of 41 countries, with an overall score of 4.2 out of 10. Read the report at <http://bit.ly/turkeysgj> to learn more. You don't have to read the entire report, but choose at least one subheading from each main section. When you are finished reading, fill in the table below with one problem from each section, and one idea for a law or a change to the Constitution that would improve Turkey's quality of democracy.

Section Name	Problem with democracy in Turkey	Idea to improve democracy in Turkey
<i>Quality of Democracy</i>		
<i>Electoral Process</i>		
<i>Access to Information</i>		
<i>Civil Rights & Political Liberties</i>		
<i>Rule of Law</i>		