

Rights and Responsibilities in the Community

A **community** is a group of people who have something in common. You may belong to a few different ones: for example, your school, family and neighbourhood are all communities.

Being part of a community comes with different **responsibilities**, or things you are **expected** to do – like respecting others and following the rules. It also gives you **rights**, or things you are **allowed** to do – like speaking your mind and sharing your thoughts.



Which of these actions do you think are rights and which are responsibilities?

Circle the correct answer.



You participate in a class discussion.

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY



You help your family with household chores.

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY



You vote in a federal election (once you turn 18).

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY



Your family decides to move to a new city.

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY



You wait for the light to turn green before you cross the street.

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY



You and the other students help your teacher by keeping the classroom tidy.

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY



You eat an apple. Your school has a composting program, so you put the core in the compost instead of the garbage bin.

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY



The adults in your family pay taxes (money that governments use for shared things, like hospitals, schools and roads.)

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY



You think that recess should be longer. You write a letter about it to the principal and ask your classmates to sign if they agree. This is called starting a petition.

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY



You are talking with a friend and disagree with something they say. You explain your opinion to them.

RIGHT or RESPONSIBILITY

Understanding Rights and Freedoms



Rights and freedoms are things that you are always allowed to do, or which are owed to you by others. In Canada, many of these rights are guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* – an important part of the Constitution.

Can you identify what type of right or freedom is involved in each of the scenarios below?

Write down the type of right or freedom below each scenario, using the words from this box.
Each right and freedom can be used more than once.

Democratic rights

Mobility rights

Freedom of religion

Freedom of expression

Freedom of assembly

Equality rights

Official language rights

Freedom of association



Once you are 18, you vote in a federal election.



You participate in a peaceful protest.



You move to a different part of Canada.



You choose to practise a religion (or not).



Once you turn 18, you run to be a member of Parliament.



You go on a trip to a foreign country.



You post about a topic being discussed at Parliament on social media.



You and a few friends start an environmental group at your school.



You write to a senator in English or French to ask about a student jobs program.



Parliament and the federal government cannot discriminate against you for reasons such as your gender, ethnicity, religion or age.

Branches of Government

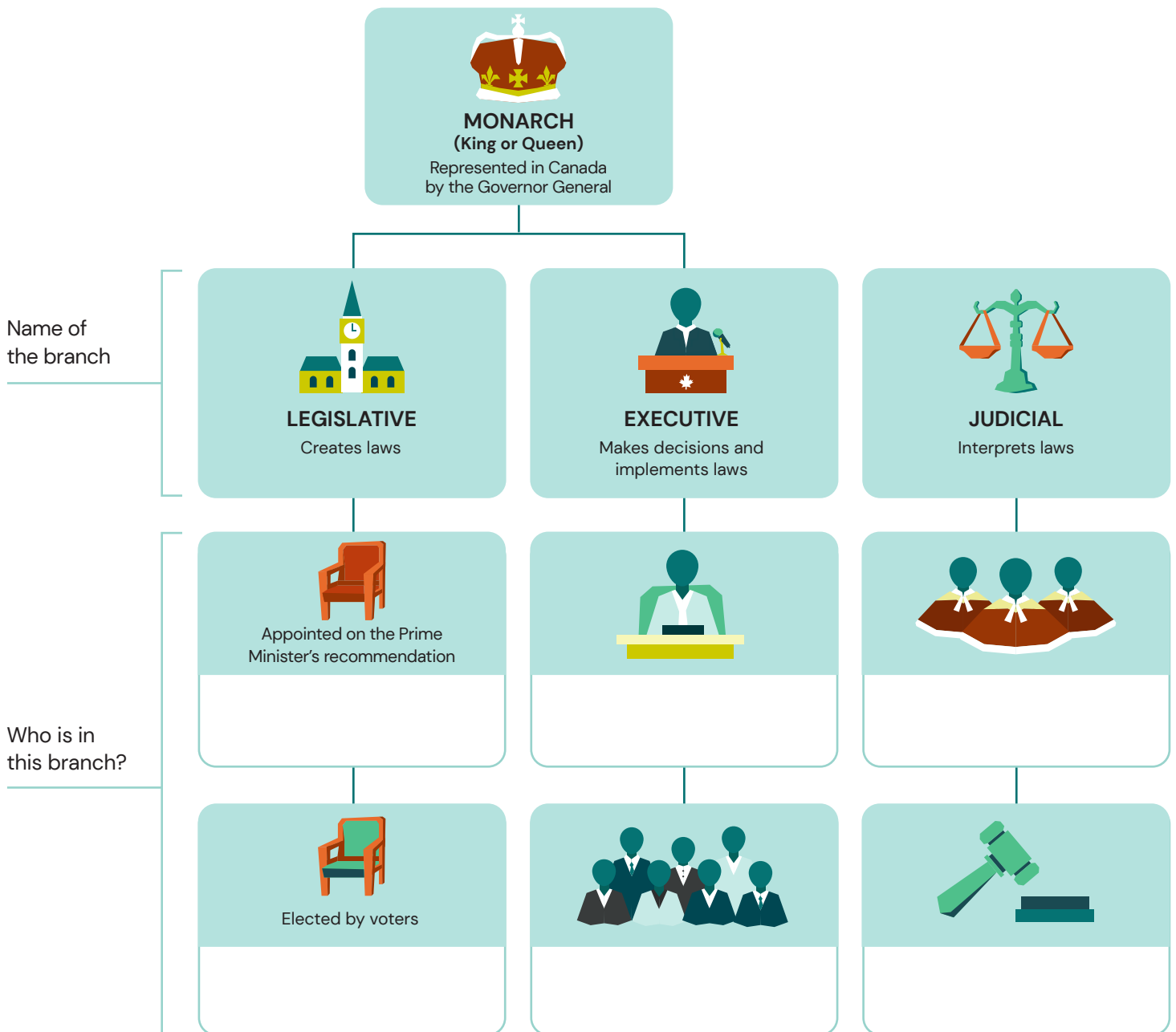
Canada's system of government has three parts, or **branches**: the executive, the legislative and the judicial. Each one has its own powers and responsibilities.



Who's who in the three branches of government?
Complete the puzzle below to find out.

Use the words from the box below to complete the puzzle.

The Prime Minister House of Commons	Cabinet Lower courts	Supreme Court of Canada Senate
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Levels of Government

Have you ever thought about the different ways that government affects your life? Every time you make a phone call, recycle a bottle or go to school, you are affected by the decisions made by your representatives in government.

Canada has three levels of government:

- Federal: creates laws that affect people across the country
- Provincial and territorial: create laws that affect people in one province or territory only
- Municipal: establishes by-laws that affect a specific city, town or village



Do you know which laws and by-laws are made by which level of government?

Circle the correct answer.



You put on your seat belt every time you ride in a car. (road safety laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



When you turn 18, you vote in a federal election. (*Canada Elections Act*)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



Your friend receives a fine for littering in the park. (park by-laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



You keep your dog on a leash when you take it for a walk. (animal control by-laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



You are planning a trip to the United States. You need to get a passport to travel outside Canada. (*Citizenship Act*)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



Your parents buy you a new pair of shoes. The price includes a general sales tax of 5%. (*Excise Tax Act*)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



Your teacher makes sure that you learn certain topics at school, like math and social studies. (education laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



Your parents park next to a meter. They buy a ticket and display it at the front of the car. (traffic and parking by-laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



You hurt your ankle while playing soccer. The medical staff at a nearby hospital treat your injury. (hospital laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



You travel to a different part of Canada, where you buy something with the same money you use at home. (currency laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



You have a sibling in daycare. The daycare centre needs to make sure there are enough qualified adults to take care of all the children. (childcare laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



You take a ride on the bus, subway or streetcar. You make sure to keep your ticket handy, just in case you are asked to show that you have paid. (transit by-laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



You invite your friends over for your birthday party. You have fun but make sure not to be too noisy, so you don't disturb your neighbours. (noise by-laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL



Your friend next door has received an interesting package in the mail. You're curious, but you wait until they open it to see what's inside. (*Canada Post Corporation Act*)

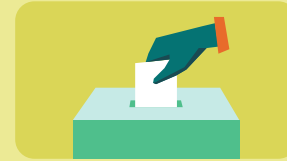
FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL

Parliament and Elections

Canada is a representative democracy, where citizens elect members of Parliament (MPs) to represent them in the House of Commons.

When and why do elections take place?

- **By constitutional rule:** According to Canada's Constitution, a federal election must be held at least once every five years. This gives Canadians the chance to consider whether the government should stay in power.
- **A question of confidence:** The government must maintain the support of a majority of members in the House of Commons. If it loses an important vote known as a confidence vote, it loses that support, and an election may be called.

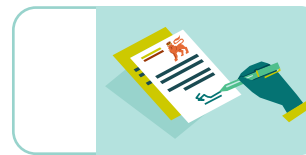


There are many steps involved in planning an election and beginning a new Parliament. Can you put them in the right order?

Write down a number from 1 to 9 in front of each step to put them into the correct order.



Candidates campaign for voters' support.



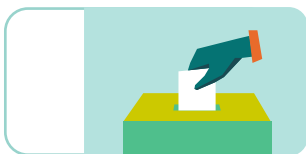
The Governor General dissolves Parliament. This means a federal election must be held.



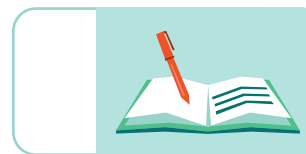
The Prime Minister visits the Governor General and recommends that they dissolve Parliament.



The new group of parliamentarians proposes, debates and passes laws.



Canadians vote for the candidate of their choice.



Members of Parliament are sworn in.



Parliament meets for the first time. A Speaker of the House of Commons is elected.



Official election results are announced. The candidates who receive the most votes in their ridings will become members of Parliament.



The Governor General opens Parliament by reading the Speech from the Throne, which sets out the government's priorities for the upcoming session.

Parliament at Work: Senate

The work of the Senate involves many different players. Senators represent the people in their region, and they propose, debate and pass laws. Other people support them in political, non-political and administrative roles.

Learn more about the key roles in the Senate at <https://learn.parl.ca/UP>



Can you identify who does what in the Senate?

Draw lines to connect the people on the left to their correct roles on the right.



LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION IN
THE SENATE

These people are appointed by the Governor General, on the advice of the Prime Minister, to represent Canada's provinces and territories.



CLERK OF THE
SENATE AND CLERK
OF THE PARLIAMENTS

This senator is appointed by the Prime Minister to bring forward the government's bills in the Senate.



SENATORS

This senator is head of the largest party in the Senate that is **not** the government.



USHER OF THE
BLACK ROD

This senator oversees debates and facilitates chamber business. They are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.



GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE SENATE

This person supports all aspects of the legislative process and oversees the legislative services provided by the Senate.



SPEAKER OF
THE SENATE

This individual has many ceremonial and administrative duties, including leading the Speaker's Parade that starts each day and overseeing the security of the chamber.

Parliament at Work: House of Commons

The work of the House of Commons involves many different players. Members (MPs) represent their constituents, and they propose, debate and pass laws. Other people support them in political, non-political and administrative roles.

Learn more about the key roles in the House of Commons at <https://learn.parl.ca/UP>



Can you identify who does what in the House of Commons?

Draw lines to connect the people on the left to their correct roles on the right.



CLERK OF THE HOUSE

As the Head of Government, this MP defends the government's actions and policies in the House of Commons.



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

These MPs are chosen by the Prime Minister to run government departments, such as Finance, National Defence, and Global Affairs.



PRIME MINISTER

This MP facilitates debates, maintains order, and interprets the rules and traditions of the House of Commons.



CABINET MINISTERS

These MPs are not part of the governing political party. Their role is to ask the government questions and to provide alternative perspectives on issues.



SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

These MPs belong to the political party in power.



GOVERNMENT MPS

This person is the chief administrative officer of the House. Among other duties, they advise the Speaker on parliamentary procedure.



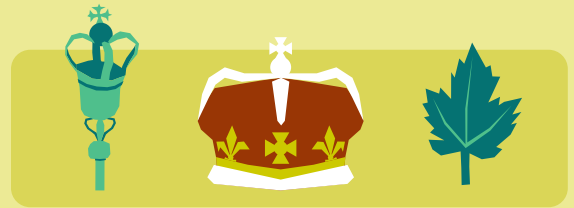
OPPOSITION MEMBERS

This person is responsible for the security of the House of Commons.

Canadian Symbols at Parliament

Symbols are images that represent something else. They may make us think of an idea, a place or a story. For example, a dove can represent peace.

The Parliament Buildings are full of symbols from across Canada.



Can you match the descriptions with the symbols?

Write the name of the symbols below next to their correct descriptions on the next page.



BEAVER



CANADIAN
FLAG



CROWN



DRAGON



FARMER



FLEUR-DE-LYS



INUK HUNTER



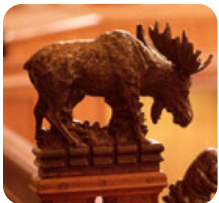
MACE
(HOUSE OF
COMMONS)



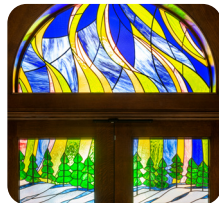
MACE
(SENATE)



MAPLE LEAF



MOOSE



STAINED GLASS
WINDOW



ORCA



PEACE TOWER



PHOENIX



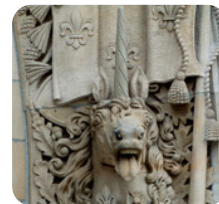
POPPY



PROVINCIAL AND
TERRITORIAL
SHIELDS



SAILOR



UNICORN



This animal works hard and has a big, flat tail. It is Canada's national animal.



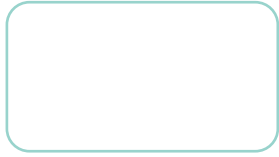
This stone carving represents the Monarch (the King or Queen)



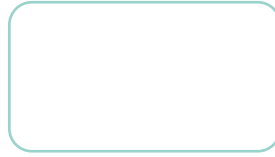
This little red flower is used to remember soldiers, especially around Remembrance Day.



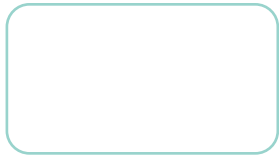
This tower was named to honour the end of the First World War.



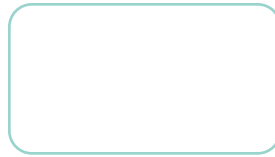
This big animal has antlers and lives in many different parts of Canada.



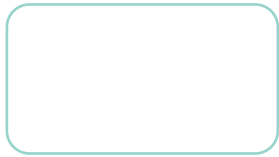
The bands on the sides of this Canadian symbol represent the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.



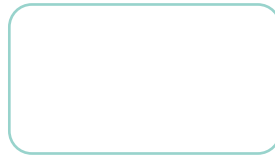
This mythical creature has a horn on its head. It is a symbol of Scotland.



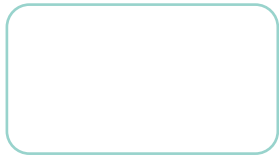
These symbols represent Canada's 13 provinces and territories.



This person grows food. They symbolize a job done by many Canadians.



This leaf is an important Canadian symbol.



This mythical bird is shown rising from the ashes. It is a symbol for the main Parliament Building, which was rebuilt after a fire in 1916.



This person represents communities who live along Canada's coasts.



This sea mammal is important to many First Nations communities, especially on the West Coast.



This forest scene is a symbol of Canada's northern landscapes.



This fire-breathing creature represents Wales.



This gold object is carved with many details. It is a symbol of the Senate.



This flower represents France.



This gold object is carved with many details. It is a symbol of the House of Commons.



The person in this stone carving is gathering food and fuel for their community.

Assembling Canada

On July 1, 1867, Canada became a country – an event known as **Confederation**. With only four provinces, the country was much smaller than the one we know today.

Parliament was smaller back then, too: in 1867, there were only 72 senators and 180 members of Parliament (MPs). Today, the Senate has 105 seats, while the House of Commons has 338.

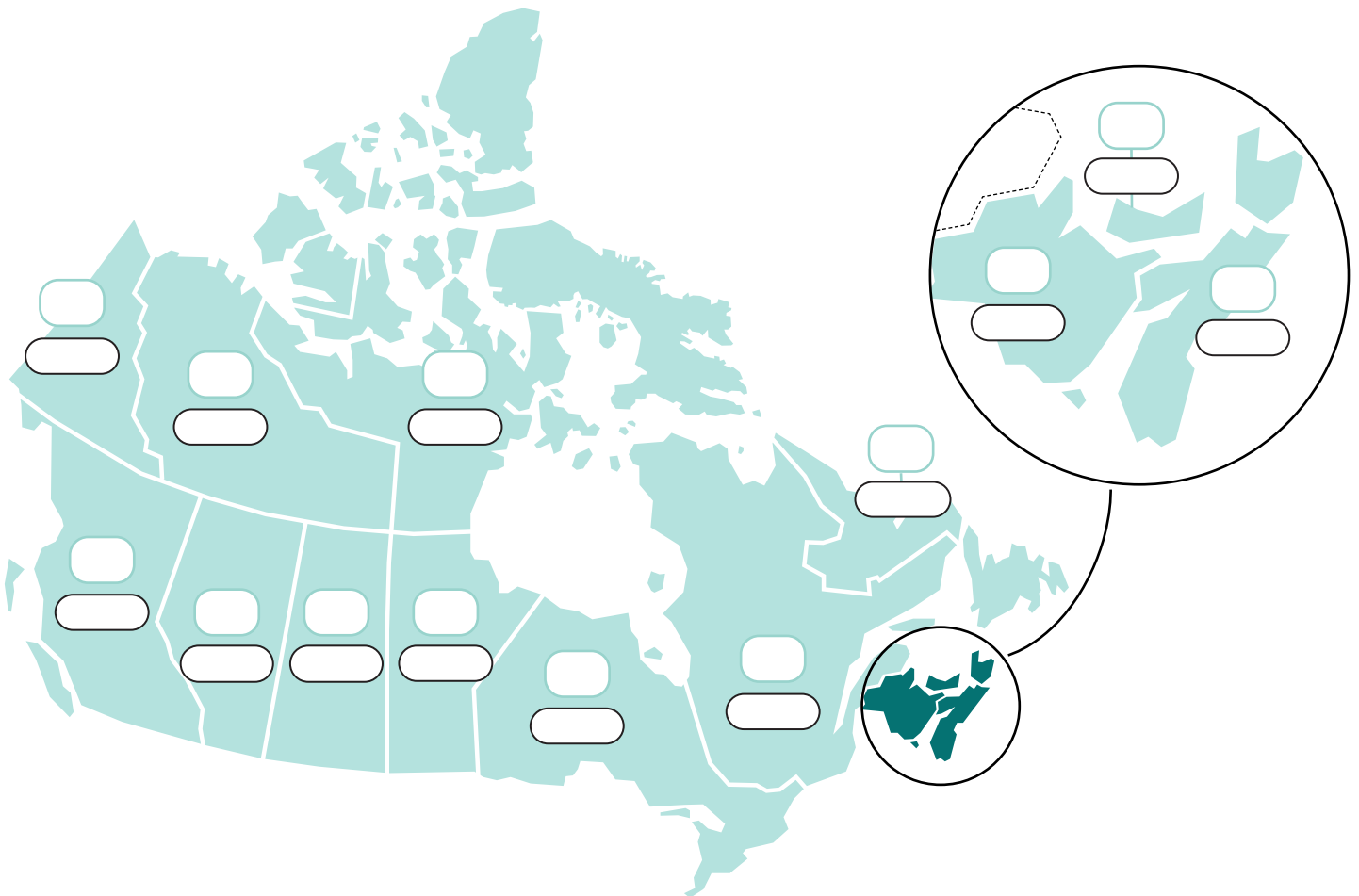
Test your knowledge of Canada and its Parliament by putting together these maps!



THEME 1 – DATE OF CONFEDERATION

Do you know when each province and territory became a part of Canada?

Fill in the correct abbreviation and year of Confederation for each of the provinces/territories on the map, using the hints for *Theme 1* on page 4 of this activity.



ON – Ontario	YT – Yukon	NB – New Brunswick	NL – Newfoundland and Labrador
QC – Quebec	AB – Alberta	BC – British Columbia	NT – Northwest Territories
NU – Nunavut	MB – Manitoba	SK – Saskatchewan	PE – Prince Edward Island
NS – Nova Scotia			

THEME 2 – NUMBER OF SENATORS

Senate seats are divided according to Canada's **regions**. In 1867, there were 24 for each of the two largest provinces, plus 24 for the east. As the country has grown and new provinces and territories have been created, more have been added.

Can you figure out how many Senate seats each province and territory has today?

Fill in the correct abbreviation and the number of seats for each of the provinces/territories on the map, using the hints for *Theme 2* on page 4 of this activity.



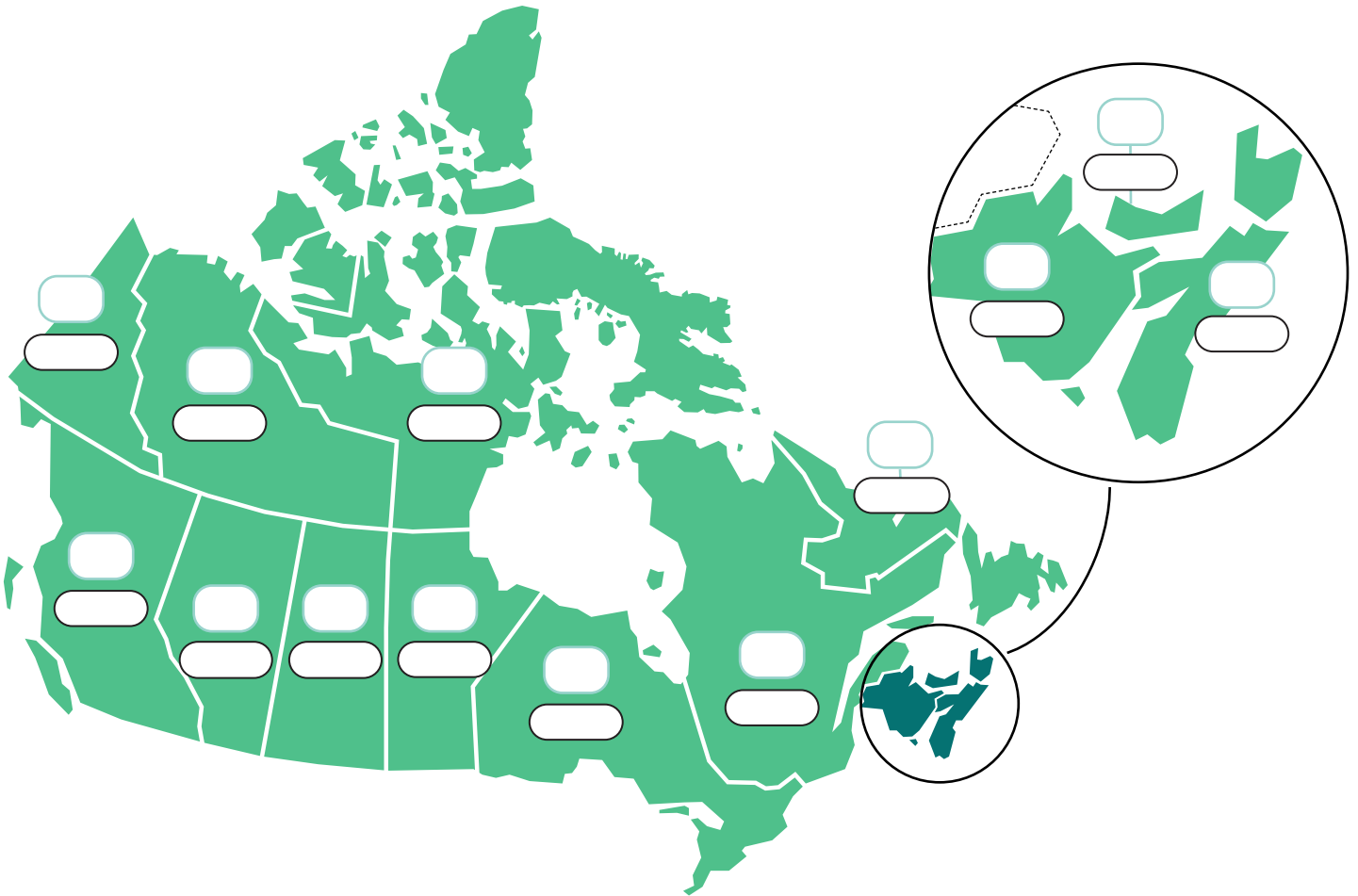
ON – Ontario	YT – Yukon	NB – New Brunswick	NL – Newfoundland and Labrador
QC – Quebec	AB – Alberta	BC – British Columbia	NT – Northwest Territories
NU – Nunavut	MB – Manitoba	SK – Saskatchewan	PE – Prince Edward Island
NS – Nova Scotia			

THEME 3 – NUMBER OF MPs

Seats in the House of Commons are divided according to **population**: each member represents the people who live in a specific area, called a constituency. In 1867, the population of Canada was only 3.4 million people. Today, it has grown to more than 10 times that number!

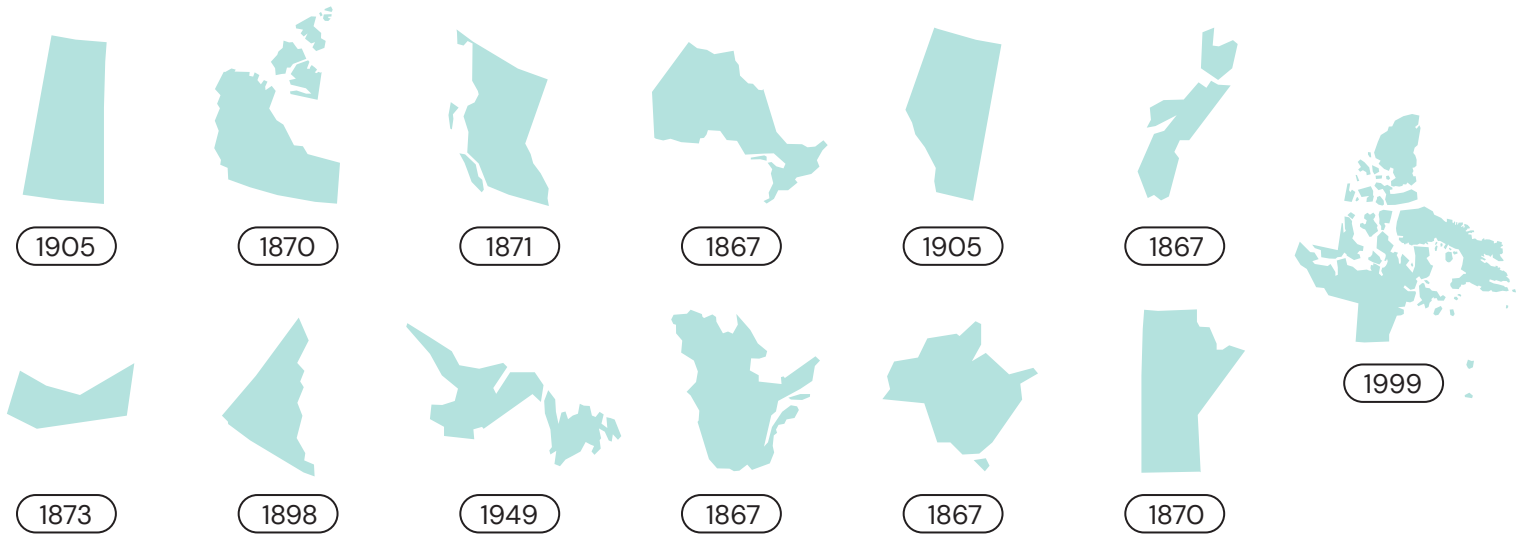
How many members of Parliament are there from each province and territory today?

Fill in the correct abbreviation and the number of seats for each of the provinces/territories on the map, using the hints for *Theme 3* on page 4 of this activity.

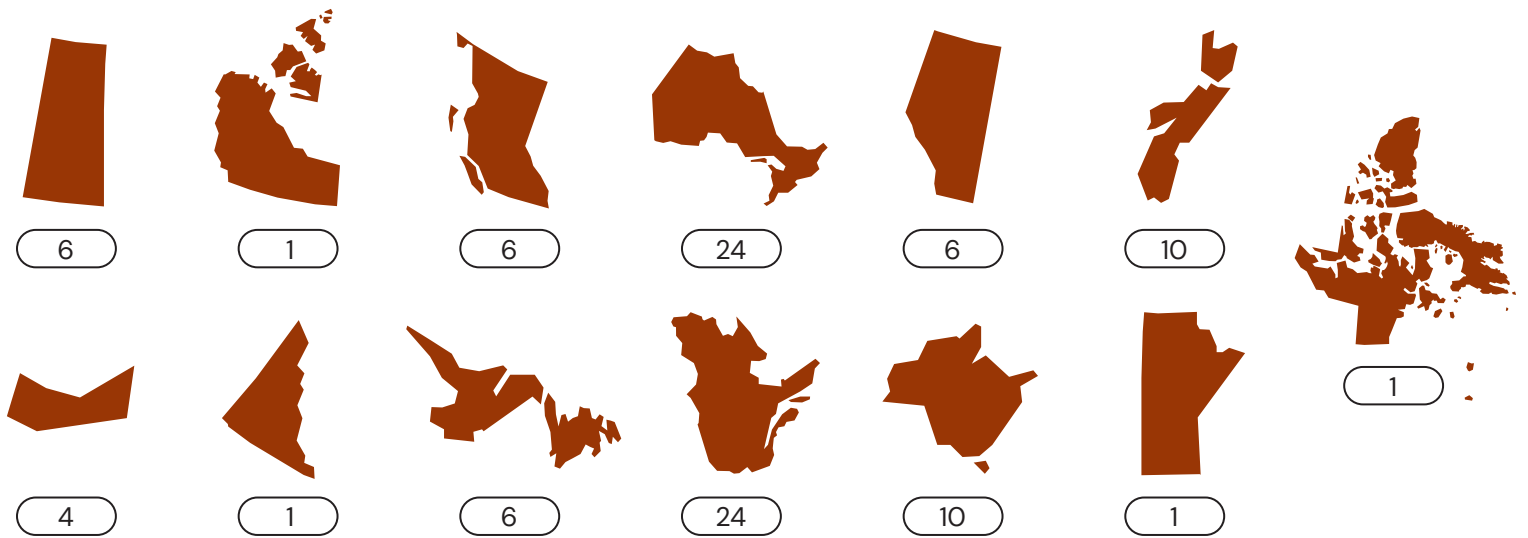


ON – Ontario	YT – Yukon	NB – New Brunswick	NL – Newfoundland and Labrador
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THEME 1 – DATE OF CONFEDERATION



THEME 2 – NUMBER OF SENATORS



THEME 3 – NUMBER OF MPs

