Latin American Governments
Brazil, Mexico, & Cuba
Standards

SS6CG1 The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.
a. Describe the ways government systems distribute power: unitary, confederation, and federal.
b. Explain how governments determine citizen participation: autocratic, oligarchic, and democratic.
c. Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential.

SS6CG2 The student will explain the structures of national governments in Latin America and the Caribbean.
a. Compare the federal-republican systems of the Federative Republic of Brazil (Brazil) and the United Mexican States (Mexico) to the dictatorship of the Republic of Cuba (Cuba), distinguishing the form of leadership and the role of the citizen in terms of voting and personal freedoms.
## Comparing Latin American Governments

**Directions:** Complete the chart below with information from the presentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Distribution of Power</th>
<th>Type of Government</th>
<th>Executive Branch</th>
<th>How is the head of government chosen?</th>
<th>Legislative Branch</th>
<th>Role of Citizen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federative Republic of Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Mexican States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Cuba</td>
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**Key**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federative Republic of Brazil</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>Presidential Democracy</td>
<td>President (Head of state &amp; Chief executive)</td>
<td>Elected by popular vote for single 4-year term</td>
<td>National Congress in bicameral legislature—Senate and Chamber of Deputies</td>
<td>Ages 18-70 are required by law to vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Mexican States</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>Presidential Democracy</td>
<td>President (head of state and chief executive)</td>
<td>Elected by popular vote for single 6-year term</td>
<td>National Congress in bicameral legislature—Senate and Chamber of Deputies</td>
<td>Citizens over 18 may vote in elections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Cuba</td>
<td>Unitary</td>
<td>Autocratic Dictatorship</td>
<td>President (dictator)</td>
<td>Castro came to power by military force in 1959—elections are held, but there is only one candidate</td>
<td>The National Assembly of People’s Power is the country’s unicameral legislature. Candidates are approved by government.</td>
<td>Over 16 must vote, can only vote for candidates selected by government (Communist Party)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Latin American Governments: Anticipation Guide

Directions: You will make predictions about the answers to the following questions BEFORE learning about this unit. Write the letter of the vocabulary term that matches the definitions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Unitary</th>
<th>B. Presidential</th>
<th>C. Democracy</th>
<th>D. Federal</th>
<th>E. Cuba</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F. Legislature</td>
<td>G. Autocracy</td>
<td>H. Parliamentary</td>
<td>I. Confederation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. _____ In this type of democracy, the leader works through the legislature.
2. _____ This branch of government makes the country’s laws.
3. _____ In this type of government, citizens play an important role because they are able to vote for leaders and laws.
4. _____ In this type of government structure, power is held by individual countries joined for a common purpose.
5. _____ In this type of government, citizens have virtually no role because all the decisions are made by a single leader.
6. _____ This country is the only autocratic government in Latin America.
7. _____ In this type of government, power is shared by national and regional/local authorities.
8. _____ What type of democracy is found in Mexico and Brazil?
9. _____ This government structure is where the power is held by one central authority.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>A</td>
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</table>
Latin American Governments
Brazil, Mexico, & Cuba
Let’s Review

Government Systems - Who has the power?

• **Unitary**--power is held by one central authority

• **Confederation**--association of independent states that agree to certain limitations on their freedoms by joining together

• **Federal**--power is divided between central authority & several regional authorities
Let’s Review

Government Types - how do citizens participate?

• **Autocracy** -- 1 person possesses unlimited power & citizens have limited role in government

• **Oligarchy** -- small group exercises control & citizens have limited role in government

• **Democracy** -- supreme power is vested in the people & exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation involving free elections
Two Types of Democratic Governments:

- **Parliamentary**—citizens elect members of Parliament, and then the members select the leader
  - Leader works with or through the legislature

- **Presidential**—system of government in which the leader is constitutionally independent of the legislature; citizens directly elect leader
  - Leader works separate from legislature
Federative Republic Of Brazil

Presidential Representative Democratic Republic
Brazil’s National Congress Building
Brazil has a federal system, which means that the national government and the state governments SHARE power.

- There are 26 states in Brazil.
Leadership

1. President: holds the most political power; the president is both the chief executive and the head of state.

2. Vice President: helps in the day-to-day running of the government; performs ceremonial duties.
Dilma Rouseff

Brazil’s President
Michel Temer

Brazil’s Vice-President
How Leaders Are Chosen

• President: elected by popular vote for a single four-year term

• Vice President: runs on the same ticket as the president
Legislature

• The National Congress is the country’s bicameral legislature.

• It consists of:
  1. Senate (81 seats) – 3 members elected from each state.
  2. Chamber of Deputies (513 seats) – members are elected by proportional representation.

• Members serve four and eight-year terms.
The citizens directly elect the president (every four years).
- The last election was in October 2010 (next to be held in 2014).
- The president works separately from Brazil’s Congress.
Citizens have many freedoms and they also have the right to vote.

Men and women who are 16 years of age may choose to vote, but citizens 18-70 are required by law to vote in national elections.

Citizens can choose representatives from many political parties.
Voting in Brazil – October 2010
United Mexican States

Federal Republic
Mexico has a federal system, which means that the national government and the state governments SHARE power.

- There are 31 states in Mexico.
Leadership

- President: holds the most political power; the president is both the chief executive and the head of state.
Enrique Pena Nieto

Mexico’s President
How Leaders Are Chosen

- **President**: elected by popular vote for a single six-year term
The National Congress of Mexico is the country’s bicameral legislature.

It consists of:
1. Senate (128 seats) – elected by popular vote to serve six-year term.

2. Chamber of Deputies (500 seats) – members elected by popular vote to serve three-year terms.
President
Democracy

• The citizens directly elect the president (every six years).
  • The last election was in July 2012 (next to be held in 2018).

• The president works separately from Mexico’s Congress.
Citizens of Mexico have many freedoms, and they also have the right to vote.

It is universal and compulsory (but not enforced) that citizens who are 18 or older vote in national elections.

There are many political parties in Mexico.
Capitol Building in Havana, Cuba
Cuba has a unitary system, which means that the national (central) government holds all of the power.

- The provinces are under central government control.

- There are 15 provinces in Cuba.
Leadership

- President: holds the most political power; the president is both the chief executive and the head of state.
Raul Castro

Cuba’s President
How Leaders Are Chosen

- **President:** elected* by National Assembly for a five-year term.

- *Cuba's Communist Party is the only legal party, and officially sanctioned candidates run unopposed.
The National Assembly of People’s Power is the country’s unicameral legislature.

The number of seats is based on Cuba’s population.
- As of the most recent election in February 2013, there were 614 seats.

Candidates are selected and approved by the government before the people can vote for them.
- Members serve five-year terms.
Cuba’s National Assembly
Autocracy

• Cuba has been an autocratic dictatorship since Fidel Castro used military force to overthrow the government in 1959.

• Since this time, there has been one leader (Fidel or Raul) who holds unlimited power over the country.

• Even though citizens get to “vote”, they do not get to select the candidates or make the laws.
Autocratic Governments

Current autocracies (including both monarchies and republics)
Role of the Citizen

- Citizens have few freedoms.
- Men and women aged 16 and over may choose to vote, but have few choices.
- There is only one political party (the Communist Party) that is allowed in Cuba.
  - It has been controlled by Fidel Castro and his brother, Raul, since 1959.
Compare and Contrast Latin American Governments

Brazil

Mexico

Cuba
Your Task: Write a "recipe" for either Brazil, Mexico, or Cuba's government. Include several ingredients that were used to form the government. Also, write out the special cooking instructions for bringing the government together.

Ingredients:

Instructions:
Based on what we learned about Brazil, Mexico, & Cuba’s governments, what do you think their economies will be like?
Directions: Write several important facts, words, people, etc., that would pop up about the country's government in the "search results" boxes.