

Name/Date:

Social Studies 10 Unit 4 Politics and Government

4E: Election Process in Canada

Reference: Counterpoints Ch. 9 p. 312-321 & keynote presentation

Big Idea: How our elections works, why we have voter apathy

Definitions (explain briefly and give an example):

- electoral districts (ridings, constituencies)
- voter apathy
- nomination process
- enumeration
- party platform
- polling stations
- electoral officer
- first-past-the-post system
- proportional representation
- single-transferable vote

Questions:

1. Describe briefly how our voting system works (p. 313)

2. Why do you think we often have low voter turnout? (p. 313)



Elections Canada

<http://www.elections.ca/home.aspx>



Awesome photo-essays / current events

<http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/>



3. How do political parties choose the people they want to run in elections? (p. 313-314)

4. Take note of the steps in a federal election at the bottom of p. 314 -- these terms explain the process well and often show up on the final exam

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iv

v

5. How are opinion polls used? What impact do they have on politicians? (p. 315)

Trivia - see if you can figure these out:

1. What is the age requirement for voting?
2. What is the eligibility requirement?
3. How frequently are elections required in federal parliaments? provincial legislatures? municipal level?
4. How can people who choose not to vote, make those that do, more influential?
5. Why would a Prime Minister call an early election?
6. Describe two ways that candidate running for a party may be chosen?
7. Name 5 some functions or tasks of party volunteers.
8. Describe some problems with political parties soliciting donations from individuals and businesses.

For gamers who like slow-paced games:

Interesting Nation-building simulation - <http://www.nationstates.net/>

Interesting Facebook App - <http://apps.facebook.com/nations/>