

Lesson Plan

Political Trivia

Book: *Emmanuel Macron*

Series: World Leaders

Level: Voyager

Objective

To help students take a detailed look at the structure of the French government, comparing and contrasting that structure with the government in their own country.

Supplies

- *Emmanuel Macron* book
- Political Trivia Sheet (attached)
- Blue pens
- Red pens
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Have students read the *Emmanuel Macron* book. Divide students into teams of three or four. Print a Political Trivia Sheet for each team.

Activity

Divide the students into their groups. Give each team a Political Trivia Sheet and a blue pen. This sheet contains several statements about the structure of France's government. Students should work together to identify if each statement is true or false based on their reading from the *Emmanuel Macron* book. They should circle their group's answer with the blue pen.

Give students about half an hour to choose their answers. Then collect all the blue pens and give each group a red pen. Using the attached answer key, read the correct response out loud to the class and have students mark whether their group's answer was correct or incorrect.

Next, have students in each group work together to write a list of three similarities between the French government and the government of the country where they live, as well as three differences between the two governments. Collect this list, along with the group's Political Trivia Sheet, at the end of the activity.

Evaluation

Give each group one point for each correct answer and one point for each similarity or difference, for a total of 40 points.

Note: Similarities and differences will vary depending on the country in which the students live. For instance, students in the United States could list the following things:

- Similarities: Both governments have three branches (executive, legislative, and judicial), both legislative branches have two houses, and both governments include a cabinet that is appointed by the president.
- Differences: France's executive branch has two leaders, but the US executive branch has only one; France's president serves a five-year term, but the US president's term lasts only four years; and members of the French Senate are chosen by mayors and elected officials, but members of the US Senate are elected by the general population.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading informational texts standards, grade 6 (RI 6.1) and the National Council for Social Studies Standards 1 and 6.

Political Trivia Sheet

1. For centuries, France was a democracy.

True / False

2. In 1792, France briefly became a republic.

True / False

3. France was a monarchy for all of the 1800s and 1900s.

True / False

4. Today, France is in the Second Republic, which began in 1958.

True / False

5. France has a semi-presidential government.

True / False

6. In this type of government, the president is the head of the government.

True / False

7. France has two branches of government.

True / False

8. The legislative branch is in charge of making laws.

True / False

9. The legislative branch consists of a parliament with four houses.

True / False

10. One house of the French Parliament, the National Assembly, has 577 seats.

True / False

11. The president appoints members of the National Assembly.

True / False

12. The other house of the French Parliament, the Senate, has 348 seats.

True / False

13. Mayors and other elected officials choose members of the Senate.

True / False

14. Any laws must be proposed by the prime minister.

True / False

15. Bills must be approved by both houses to become laws.
True / False
16. The legislative branch includes the Court of Cassation, the highest court in France.
True / False
17. The Court of Cassation has a variety of judges, including 120 trial judges.
True / False
18. The president appoints the judges.
True / False
19. The judicial system includes lower-level courts as well, including regional courts.
True / False
20. The judicial branch includes the president and the prime minister.
True / False
21. The prime minister is the head of the government and represents the nation in foreign affairs.
True / False
22. French voters elect the president in two rounds of voting.
True / False
23. The three candidates with the most votes in the first round move on to the final round.
True / False
24. The president serves a five-year term.
True / False
25. The president cannot be elected to more than one term.
True / False
26. According to France's constitution, the prime minister directs government actions.
True / False
27. French voters elect the prime minister.
True / False
28. The prime minister's job is to make the president's agenda a reality.
True / False

29. One of the prime minister's most important tasks is working with members of the French Parliament.

True / False

30. Normally, the president selects a prime minister from his or her own party.

True / False

31. The prime minister also appoints members of the cabinet, known as the Council of Ministers.

True / False

32. Ministers oversee a variety of areas, including culture, the environment, and national security.

True / False

33. France has more than a dozen political parties.

True / False

34. Before Macron won the 2017 election, candidates from the same political party had been president for decades.

True / False

Political Trivia Sheet **Answer Key**

1. For centuries, France was a democracy.

True / **False** **For centuries, France was a monarchy.**

2. In 1792, France briefly became a republic.

True / False

3. France was a monarchy for all of the 1800s and 1900s.

True / **False** **France alternated between monarchies and republics.**

4. Today, France is in the Second Republic, which began in 1958.

True / **False** **Today, France is in the Fifth Republic, which began in 1958.**

5. France has a semi-presidential government.

True / False

6. In this type of government, the president is the head of the government.

True / **False** **Power is shared between a president and a prime minister.**

7. France has two branches of government.

True / **False** **France has three branches of government.**

8. The legislative branch is in charge of making laws.

True / False

9. The legislative branch consists of a parliament with four houses.

True / **False** **The French Parliament consists of two houses.**

10. One house of the French Parliament, the National Assembly, has 577 seats.

True / False

11. The president appoints members of the National Assembly.

True / **False** **Citizens elect members of the National Assembly.**

12. The other house of the French Parliament, the Senate, has 348 seats.

True / False

13. Mayors and other elected officials choose members of the Senate.

True / False

14. Any laws must be proposed by the prime minister.

True / **False** **Each house reviews laws proposed by either the prime minister or a Parliament member.**

15. Bills must be approved by both houses to become laws.

True / False

16. The legislative branch includes the Court of Cassation, the highest court in France.

True / **False** **The Court of Cassation is part of the judicial branch.**

17. The Court of Cassation has a variety of judges, including 120 trial judges.

True / False

18. The president appoints the judges.

True / False

19. The judicial system includes lower-level courts as well, including regional courts.

True / False

20. The judicial branch includes the president and the prime minister.

True / **False** **The president and the prime minister are part of the executive branch.**

21. The prime minister is the head of the government and represents the nation in foreign affairs.

True / **False** **The president does both these things.**

22. French voters elect the president in two rounds of voting.

True / False

23. The three candidates with the most votes in the first round move on to the final round.

True / **False** **The two candidates with the most votes in the first round move on.**

24. The president serves a five-year term.

True / False

25. The president cannot be elected to more than one term.

True / **False** **The president may be elected to a second term.**

26. According to France's constitution, the prime minister directs government actions.

True / False

27. French voters elect the prime minister.

True / **False** **The president appoints the prime minister.**

28. The prime minister's job is to make the president's agenda a reality.

True / False

29. One of the prime minister's most important tasks is working with members of the French Parliament.

True / False

30. Normally, the president selects a prime minister from his or her own party.

True / False

31. The prime minister also appoints members of the cabinet, known as the Council of Ministers.

True / **False** **The president appoints members of the cabinet.**

32. Ministers oversee a variety of areas, including culture, the environment, and national security.

True / False

33. France has more than a dozen political parties.

True / False

34. Before Macron won the 2017 election, candidates from the same political party had been president for decades.

True / **False** **Candidates from one of France's two major political parties had been president for decades.**