Hi! My name is Kaya. It’s nice to meet you!

I just moved to Ottawa for my first year of university and now I am a Senate page!

I’ll tell you more about what pages do in the Senate soon, but first you might want to know... just what exactly is the Senate?

I didn’t know much about what senators did when I first came here. But I learned the Senate is an interesting place. Come with me and I’ll show you!
THE SENATE OF CANADA ACTIVITY BOOK

Over the next few pages, you’ll find lots of activities that will help you learn about the Senate and its role in Parliament.

Here and there you might come across a word that you’ve never seen before. That’s because people on Parliament Hill use lots of special words for the work they do. But don’t worry! If you see a WORD IN BOLD, turn to pages 23 and 24 to find a short definition.

HAVE FUN AND GOOD LUCK WITH THE GAMES!
The **SENATE** is part of **PARLIAMENT**, which makes laws for Canada.

There are 105 senators who come from all over the country to meet in the Senate Chamber. They become senators when they are appointed by the **GOVERNOR GENERAL** on the advice of the **PRIME MINISTER** (so the prime minister gets to decide who will become a senator). Senators must be at least 30 years old to be appointed to the Senate, and they can work there until they are 75 years old.

The **HOUSE OF COMMONS** is also part of Parliament. It has 338 elected members called members of Parliament or MPs. Most laws get started in the House of Commons, but senators can also propose laws.

Together, the Senate and the House of Commons form what we call the legislative power in Canada.

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**CANADA’S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM**

**MONARCH**
Represented in Canada by the governor general

**LEGISLATIVE POWER**

**SENATE**
105 senators appointed by the governor general on the advice of the prime minister

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**
338 elected members of Parliament

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**WHY DO WE NEED THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE SENATE?**

Think about a big province like Ontario and a small province like Nova Scotia. Because a lot of people live in Ontario, it has more seats in the House of Commons than Nova Scotia does. So, things that Nova Scotians want could get ignored. When Canada was created in 1867, the Senate was established to make sure regions with fewer people still had a strong voice in Parliament.

Nowadays, senators also stand up for groups that don’t always have a big presence in the House of Commons, like Indigenous peoples, visible minorities and women.
THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

The Speaker is one of Canada’s 105 senators. The Speaker’s role is to keep order during DEBATES in the SENATE Chamber. He or she also makes sure that the Senate’s rules are being followed.

The Speaker is a diplomatic figure who often greets leaders from other countries when they visit Ottawa. He or she also visits other countries on behalf of PARLIAMENT.

The Speaker is appointed to the role by the GOVERNOR GENERAL on the advice of the PRIME MINISTER.

THE SPEAKER WEARS A SPECIAL UNIFORM AS PART OF A TRADITION THAT DATES BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

TRICORN HAT
The Speaker wears or carries a tricorn hat, a style popular among European men in the 18th century.

ROBE
The Speaker wears a black silk robe with a flat hood and ‘wings’ that hang from the open elbow sleeves.

TABS
Two white bands called tabs are tied around the winged collar of the Speaker’s white shirt.

TAILCOAT
Underneath the robe is a black coat with large cuffs and seven buttons. It is worn over a black vest and pants trimmed with a narrow silk band.

COTTON GLOVES
For ceremonial occasions, like the SPEAKER’S PARADE, the Speaker wears white cotton gloves.
WHAT DO SENATORS DO?

SENATORS REPRESENT

Canada’s 105 senators represent their province or territory. They also give a strong voice in Parliament to underrepresented groups like Indigenous peoples, women, and linguistic and visible minorities.

You don’t have to be a politician to be a senator. Some senators are scientists, judges, teachers and athletes. Others are police officers, businesspeople and women’s rights supporters.

Together, this diverse group of people guides Parliament so that it acts in the best interest of the Canadians they represent. That includes you!

Number of senators representing each province and territory:

- 24 Maritimes
- 24 Quebec
- 24 Ontario
- 24 Western provinces
  - 6 Newfoundland and Labrador
  - 1 Nunavut
  - 1 Northwest Territories
- 1 Yukon

105 senators
NAME THAT FLAG

Fill in the blanks under each flag to complete the name of the provinces and territories that senators represent.

Ontario

British Columbia

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

Saskatchewan

Northwest Territories

New Brunswick

Alberta

Manitoba

Newfoundland and Labrador

 Manitoba

Prince Edward Island

Newfoundland and Labrador

Ontario
Use the clues below to find the answers.

What is the word for one underrepresented group of people that senators represent?

CLUES: This group is composed of many smaller groups with their own cultures, languages and traditions. Inuit, Métis and First Nations peoples are part of this group.

- The first syllable is the opposite of “out.”
- The second syllable sounds like the fourth letter of the alphabet.
- The third syllable sounds like a part of your face where a beard might grow.
- The fourth syllable sounds like a two-letter pronoun that rhymes with “bus.”

Write your answer here: __________________________
Senators often work in small groups called **committees**. That’s where they review **bills** (proposed laws) in detail to make sure there are no mistakes and to suggest improvements. They also study topics that are important to Canadians.

Committees regularly invite **witnesses** to Ottawa so senators can hear from experts or people who might be affected by a bill. But sometimes that’s not enough, so committees will go on fact-finding missions to meet Canadians where they live. Committees then publish reports to tell everyone what they discovered.

Committees also make recommendations to the government in these reports, which often lead to new policies and laws.

**Word Play**

Use the clues below to find the answers.

What is the word for a study group in the Senate?

**CLUES:** This group of senators produces reports and investigates topics that are important to Canadians. It can also invite experts to meet and share their opinions.

- The first syllable is the end of many website addresses.
- The second syllable is another word for a baseball catcher’s glove.
- The third syllable sounds like a hot drink that people in England adore.

Write your answer here: ________________________________
Find the words associated with topics that Senate COMMITTEES study.
Senators study **BILLS** passed by the **HOUSE OF COMMONS** to make sure they’re in the best interest of Canadians. Senators can also propose bills.

As part of this work, senators **DEBATE** whether bills should be amended or passed without changes.

Once a bill has been passed in identical form by the **SENATE** and the House of Commons, the bill receives **ROYAL ASSENT** from the **GOVERNOR GENERAL** and becomes a law.

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### HOW A SENATE BILL BECOMES A LAW

1. **THE BILL IS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE**
   - Senators debate the bill in the Senate Chamber.
   - A Senate committee studies it and may suggest **AMENDMENTS** (changes).
   - Senators have a final chance to debate the bill in the Senate Chamber and suggest changes.
   
   *If it gets a majority of votes, the bill is sent to the House of Commons.*

2. **THE BILL ARRIVES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS**
   - Members of Parliament (MPs) study and debate the bill in the House of Commons and in committee.
   - If MPs change the bill, those changes have to be accepted by the Senate.
   
   *If it gets a majority of votes, the bill is sent to the governor general for Royal Assent.*

3. **THE BILL GETS ROYAL ASSENT**
   - Once the Senate and the House of Commons agree on what should be in the bill, it must receive **ROYAL ASSENT**.
   - The **MONARCH** or the governor general grants Royal Assent, often in writing.
   
   *At least twice a year, the governor general must grant Royal Assent during a special ceremony in the Senate Chamber.*

**THE BILL IS NOW A LAW!**
1. **LRYOA TNSASE**
   Ceremony that turns a **BILL** into a law. It can only take place once the bill has been passed in the same form by the **SENATE** and the **HOUSE OF COMMONS**.

2. **DANMEENMT**
   Proposed change to a bill.

3. **SEDBEAT**
   Senators’ discussions in the Senate Chamber.

4. **ORRONGEV REANLEG**
   Person who represents the **MONARCH** in Canada’s parliamentary system.

5. **DER RHECMAB**
   Colourful nickname for the room where all 105 senators meet.

6. **OSHUE FO SNOMCOM**
   Part of Parliament that has 338 MPs.

7. **TSEENA**
   Part of Parliament that represents regions and minorities.

**Word Scramble**

Put the letters in the right order.

1. **LRYOA TNSASE**
2. **DANMEENMT**
3. **SEDBEAT**
4. **ORRONGEV REANLEG**
5. **DER RHECMAB**
6. **OSHUE FO SNOMCOM**
7. **TSEENA**
WHERE DO SENATORS WORK?
THE SENATE CHAMBER

Colour in the Red Chamber!

Accessible public gallery
Everyone is welcome to watch Senate debates

Royal thrones

Speaker’s chair

Senators’ desks

Provincial and territorial shields
Symbols of the regions that senators represent
THE SENATE HAS MOVED

Senators work in Ottawa, Canada’s capital. Usually they work in a building called Centre Block on Parliament Hill.

In February 2019, the **SENATE** moved into a 100-year-old building that used to be Ottawa’s train station. That’s because Centre Block is being renovated.

The train station is now called the Senate of Canada Building, and senators will work there until construction is done in Centre Block.
Help Kaya get from Centre Block to the Senate of Canada Building. Trace her route in RED.

Help Kaya get from Centre Block to the House of Commons’ new home in West Block. Trace her route in GREEN.
Now that you know a bit more about the Senate, you can finally learn about the work that I do.

SENATE PAGES

Each year, 15 university students from across Canada are selected to become Senate pages. They help make the Senate and its committees run smoothly, for example, by making sure senators have copies of documents they need to do their work.

Pages witness history in the making as Bills are debated, amended and become law. Their work is done quietly and in the background — but it is essential to the work of the Senate.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Can you guess what is true and what is false?

1. There were no female Senate pages until 1971.  **TRUE**  **FALSE**
2. A page’s uniform includes a tricorn hat, white gloves and a bow tie.  **TRUE**  **FALSE**
3. The bell that the pages ring to call senators to the Chamber is a recording of the original bell used on Parliament Hill.  **TRUE**  **FALSE**
4. In the early days of the Senate, pages had to be small so they would fit in the uniforms — which came in only one size!  **TRUE**  **FALSE**
5. To become a page, you have to be from Ottawa.  **TRUE**  **FALSE**
Now that you know more about the Senate, try answering these questions.

**Circle your answer.**

1. How many senators are there in the Senate of Canada?
   - A. 338
   - B. 150
   - C. 105
   - D. 215

2. You have to be at least ___ years old to become a senator.
   - A. 30
   - B. 50
   - C. 75
   - D. 85

3. Where has the Senate moved while Centre Block — its permanent home — is being renovated?
   - A. Ottawa’s former train station
   - B. The Rideau Centre shopping mall
   - C. East Block
   - D. The Peace Tower
4. When was the Senate of Canada created?
   A. 1949
   B. 1812
   C. 1867
   D. 1990

5. What do Senate committees do?
   A. They review bills very closely
   B. They ask experts and Canadians for their opinions on bills
   C. They produce reports
   D. All of the above

6. The Senate is also known by which nickname?
   A. The Green Chamber
   B. The Red Chamber
   C. The Purple Chamber
   D. The Gold Chamber

7. What job do you have to hold to be appointed to the Senate?
   A. Politician
   B. Journalist
   C. Teacher
   D. Senators come from all kinds of backgrounds

8. What underrepresented groups get a strong voice in the Senate?
   A. Indigenous peoples
   B. Linguistic and visible minorities
   C. Women
   D. All of the above
9. Who sits in the chair in front of the royal thrones in the Senate Chamber?

A. The Speaker of the Senate  
B. The Prime Minister of Canada  
C. Any senator who is addressing the Chamber  
D. A Senate page

10. The role of the Speaker of the Senate includes:

A. Holding the microphone for senators who are giving a speech  
B. Making sure the Senate rules are being followed  
C. Greeting leaders from other countries  
D. B and C

11. What do senators do?

A. Represent  
B. Investigate  
C. Legislate  
D. All of the above

12. Each senator represents:

A. A province or territory  
B. A riding  
C. A bill  
D. A country
CONGRATULATIONS!

You’ve finished all the games in this activity book — and now you know a lot about the Senate and its role in Canada’s Parliament!

If you want to learn more, follow the Senate on social media or visit sencanada.ca. You’ll find all kinds of photos, videos and articles about the Senate!
Here are some of the terms you've seen in this activity book and their definition.

**AMENDMENT**
Change to a bill suggested by a senator or a member of the House of Commons.

**BILL**
Proposed law. Bills often come to the Senate for approval from the House of Commons but senators can introduce bills too. Bills cannot become law unless the Senate and the House of Commons approve them in identical form. Once a bill has been approved, the final step is for the Monarch or governor general to grant Royal Assent by signing it into law.

**COMMITTEE**
Group of senators that meets to discuss bills and investigate important topics. Committees often invite expert witnesses to shed light on these issues; senators also go on fact-finding missions across the country to get new information firsthand. They use this information to create reports and make recommendations to the government.

**DEBATE**
Senators’ discussions in the Senate Chamber. Senators represent people from across the country and bring a variety of experiences to the Senate. While senators may not always agree with each other, they use research and evidence to support their views and they are respectful of each other’s opinions.

**GOVERNOR GENERAL**
Monarch’s representative in Canada. Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette became Canada’s 29th governor general on October 2, 2017.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**
Parliament’s elected house. The House of Commons is made up of 338 members of Parliament (MPs for short), including the prime minister. MPs draft legislation, debate issues and represent Canadians who live in their riding.

**MONARCH**
Queen or King of Canada. Queen Elizabeth II has been Canada’s monarch since 1952.
PARLIAMENT
Institution that consists of the Monarch, the Senate and the House of Commons. Parliament passes laws that affect Canadians.

PRIME MINISTER
Head of the government of Canada who is the leader of the governing political party. The prime minister sits in the House of Commons as a member of Parliament.

ROYAL ASSENT
Ceremony that turns a bill into a law. Royal Assent is given by the Monarch or the governor general. It takes place only after the bill has been passed in the same form by the Senate and the House of Commons.

SENATE
Body of 105 senators that reviews and proposes bills. It's part of Parliament, along with the Monarch and the House of Commons. It's also called the Red Chamber.

SPEAKER'S PARADE
Parade that marks the opening of a Senate sitting. The parade includes officials who escort the Speaker into the Senate Chamber.

WITNESSES
People who appear before committees to speak about a proposed law (a bill) or an important issue. Senators may recommend changing a bill because of what a witness says. Anybody with knowledge to share on a specific topic may be invited to be a witness — even young people!
ANSWERS

WORD CLOUD

Page 5
- Appointed
- Canada
- Minorities
- Red Chamber
- Regions
- Parliament
- Laws
- Senators

NAME THAT FLAG

Pages 8-9
- Ontario
- British Columbia
- Prince Edward Island
- Nova Scotia
- Saskatchewan
- Northwest Territories
- New Brunswick
- Alberta
- Manitoba
- Quebec
- Yukon
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Nunavut

WORD PLAY

Page 9
IN-D-CHIN-US = Indigenous

Page 10
COM-MITT-TEA = Committee
WORD SEARCH

1. Royal Assent
2. Amendment
3. Debates
4. Governor general
5. Red Chamber
6. House of Commons
7. Senate

WORD SCRAMBLE

WORD SCRAMBLE

Find THE Right PATH

Senate of Canada Building – B
House of Commons – C
**TRUE OR FALSE**

**TRUE.** Former senator Muriel McQueen Fergusson called attention to the lack of female pages. She became the first female Speaker of the Senate in 1972.

**FALSE.** It is the Senate Speaker who wears a tricorn hat. Pages do, however, wear white gloves and a bow tie.

**TRUE.** The recording was made after the original bells broke. Luckily, a parliamentary employee had kept a bell as a souvenir and the sound was recorded in a studio.

**TRUE.** Pages had to be small for several reasons. First, senators had difficulty hearing each other because there was no sound system in the Senate Chamber back then. Tall pages would have stopped the sound from carrying and blocked senators’ view during debates. Most importantly, the uniforms came in only one size — so pages had to be small enough for the uniform to fit.

**FALSE.** Pages can come from any province or territory in the country. If you’re a full-time student and in your first undergraduate degree program, you could be a page. You must also be able to speak English and French, Canada’s two official languages.

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

1. **C** – 105
2. **A** – 30
3. **A** – Ottawa’s former train station
4. **C** – 1867
5. **D** – All of the above
6. **B** – The Red Chamber
7. **D** – Senators come from all kinds of backgrounds
8. **D** – All of the above
9. **A** – The Speaker of the Senate
10. **D** – B and C
11. **D** – All of the above
12. **A** – A province or territory
Find out more about the Senate and how senators represent you!

Want to know more about how a bill becomes a law?

For a bill to become a law, the Senate and the House of Commons have to agree on what should be in it. Why? Because senators have an important contribution to make — they represent regions and minorities to give them a powerful voice in Parliament and make sure their concerns are heard.

Watch how a Senate bill goes through Parliament at info.sencanada.ca/how-bill-becomes-law

Missed your chance to visit Center Block?

Although this iconic building is now closed, you can still experience its art and architecture through the Senate’s immersive virtual tour.

Visit tour.sencanada.ca

Want to invite a senator to speak to your class?

The SENgage program can help you bring a senator to your class or event.

Visit sencanada.ca/en/sengage

sencanada.ca