

## Comparing the Canadian and U.S. Governments

- SKILLBUILDER:**  
**Reading a Chart**  
 1. **Place** • Name three ways in which the government of Canada differs from that of the United States.  
 2. **Place** • How are the governments of Canada and the United States alike?

Aspects of Government		Canada	United States
Type		Constitutional Monarchy (limited power)	Constitutional Republic (limited power)
Head of State		Monarch	President
Head of Government		Prime Minister	President
Legislature		Parliament	Congress
System		Federal (central and provinces)	Federal (central and states)

**Judiciary** Canada has both federal and provincial courts. The highest court is the federal Supreme Court. It is made up of the chief justice of Canada and eight other judges.

## Biography

**Pierre Elliott Trudeau (1919–2000)** From 1968 to 1979 and from 1980 to 1984, Pierre Trudeau was Canada's prime minister. Born in Montreal, Quebec, of French and Scottish ancestry, he grew up speaking both French and English. Despite his French-Canadian background, Trudeau successfully opposed Quebec's attempts to separate from Canada. He considered keeping Quebec a part of Canada one of his great achievements.

In 1982, Trudeau also helped enact a new Canadian constitution. At right, British Queen Elizabeth II signs a proclamation in 1982, making the new Canadian Constitution law, while Trudeau, seated, looks on. He worked to establish diplomatic relations with China and achieved Canada's complete independence from the British Parliament.



## Equality and Justice

Canada is a democracy. Its government is responsible for protecting people's rights.

**Civil Rights** Prime Minister **Pierre Trudeau** led an effort to add a Charter of Rights and Freedoms to the Canadian Constitution in 1982. The Charter is similar to the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. Among other rights, the Charter guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of religion. It protects every citizen's right to vote and to be assisted by a lawyer if arrested. It says that Canadians are free to live and work anywhere in Canada. The Charter also says that people have equal rights regardless of their race, religion, gender, age, or national origin.

**Vocabulary**  
**Judiciary** the judicial branch of government; a court system

**Reading Social Studies**

**B. Analyzing Motives** Why did Prime Minister Trudeau want special doctors stating the rights of all Canadians?

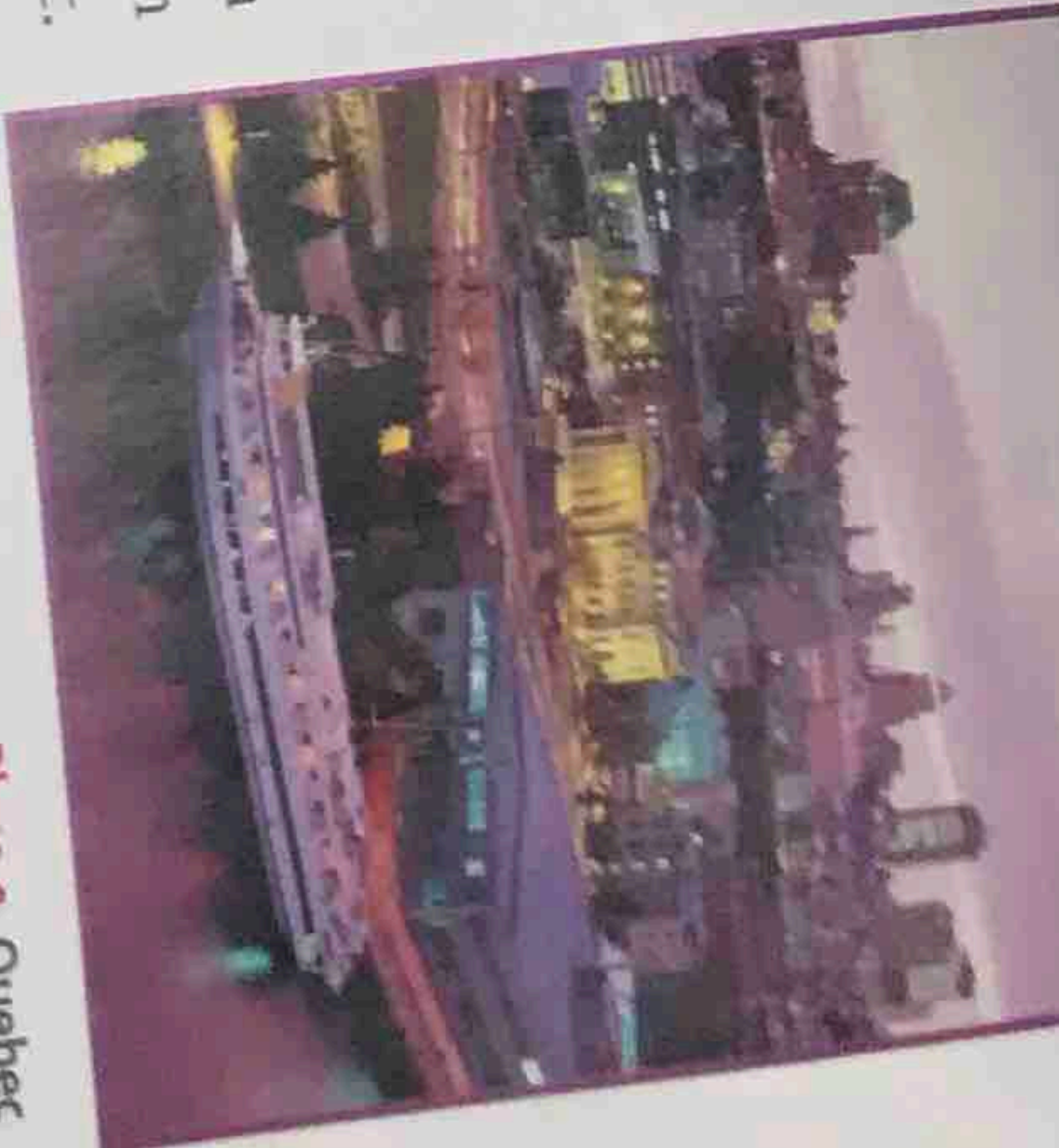
## Many Cultures, Many Needs

Canada's people come from different cultures, and many wish to safeguard their special language and customs. Some French-speaking Canadians are **separatists**, or people who want the province of Quebec to become an independent country. In 1980 and in 1995, separatists asked for a vote on whether Quebec should become independent. Both times the issue was defeated, but the separatists promised to try again.

**Quebec's Importance** The federal government wants Quebec to remain part of Canada. Quebec is a major contributor to Canada's economy. Quebec is responsible for half of Canada's aerospace production, half of its information technology, and 38 percent of its high-tech industry. French culture is important in Canada's history and modern-day identity.

**Reading Social Studies**  
**C. Finding Causes** What led to the passage of the Multicultural Act of 1988?

**Laws Protecting Multiculturalism** The Quebec provincial government has passed laws to preserve its citizens' French heritage. In an attempt to satisfy the separatists, Canada's federal government passed the Canadian Multicultural Act in 1988. This act guarantees the right of all Canadians to preserve their cultural heritage. Finding ways to maintain a unified country remains a critical issue in Canada today.



**Place** • Quebec City, overlooking the St. Lawrence River, is the capital of the province of Quebec and the center of French-Canadian culture. ▲

## SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

### Terms & Names

1. Explain the significance of:
- |                             |                |                    |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| (a) constitutional monarchy | (b) Parliament | (c) prime minister |
| (d) Pierre Trudeau          | (e) separatist |                    |

### Using Graphics

2. Make a diagram like the one shown below. Add details to show how the Canadian government is organized.
3. (a) What are some similarities and differences between Canadian and U.S. governments?  
 (b) Describe some of the rights guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.  
 (c) What is the purpose of the Multicultural Act?

Canada's Government	
Head of state	
Legislature	
Judiciary	

### Critical Thinking

#### 4. Predict

What might happen if Quebec became a separate country?

#### Think About

- Quebec's location
- Canada's multiculturalism
- economic impacts on Quebec and Canada

## ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Conduct research and create a travel poster to attract tourists to French-speaking Canada. Highlight the culture of Quebec.