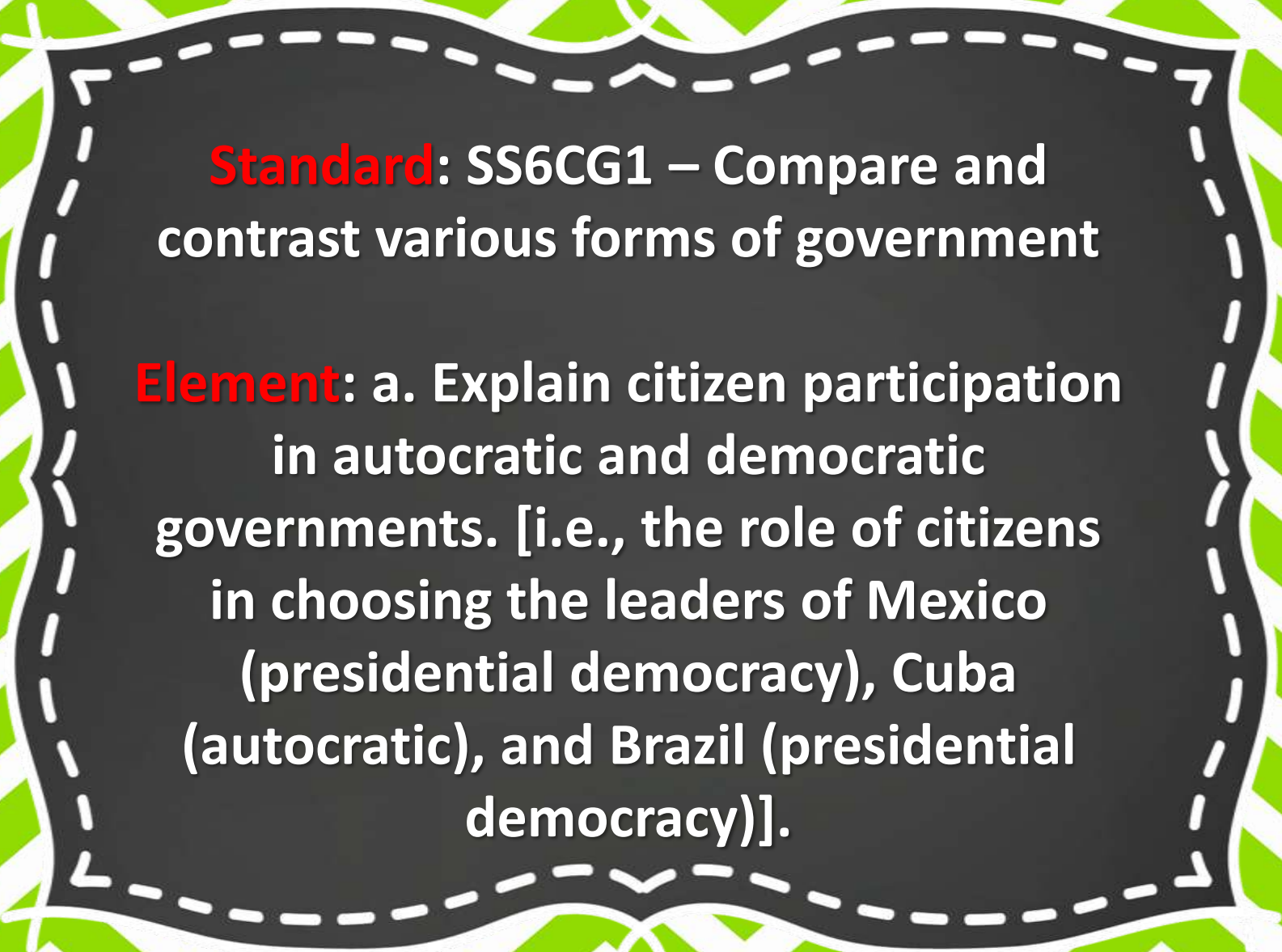




GOVERNMENT







**Standard:** SS6CG1 – Compare and contrast various forms of government

**Element:** a. Explain citizen participation in autocratic and democratic governments. [i.e., the role of citizens in choosing the leaders of Mexico (presidential democracy), Cuba (autocratic), and Brazil (presidential democracy)].

# Autocratic Governments

The amount of power governments has and the amount of participation allowed by its citizens, can be classified as either an **autocratic** system or **democratic** system.

In an **autocratic government**, the citizens are not permitted any say in the decisions of their countries government.

The word autocracy comes from the Greek words autos (meaning “**self**”) and Kratos (meaning “**power**”).





# Autocratic Governments

The people in such a country have **no ability** to participate in the selection of the ruler or in the creation of laws.

Next in line for power are usually through **bloodlines**.

Autocratic governments do not allow the citizens to **vote**.



# Autocratic Governments

## Pro

One benefit from this type of government is that decisions for a country can be made **quickly**.

## Con

The needs of the people may be ignored or unheard. The leader may make **poor** or **selfish** decisions that work **against** the well-being of the people.



# Autocratic Governments

Think of how  
many people  
it takes to  
drive an  
**automobile.**

1



# Democratic Government

Form of government that puts the power of the government in the **citizens** of the country.

The word democracy comes from the Greek words demos (meaning **people**) and Kratos (meaning "**power**").

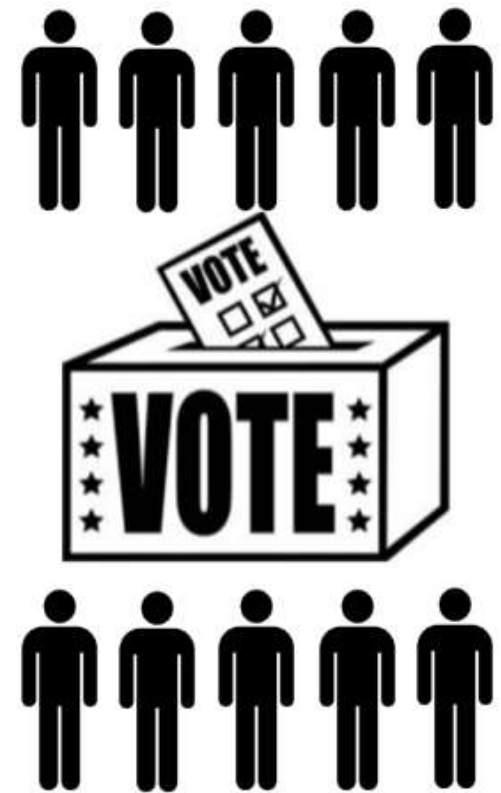


# Democratic Government

The people in such a country have **total** ability to participate in the selection of the ruler or in the creation of laws.

The people **vote** what they want.

Power in **numbers**.





# Democratic Government

## Pro

All citizens are involved in the **decision-making** process of the government, and all groups in the country are represented.

## Con

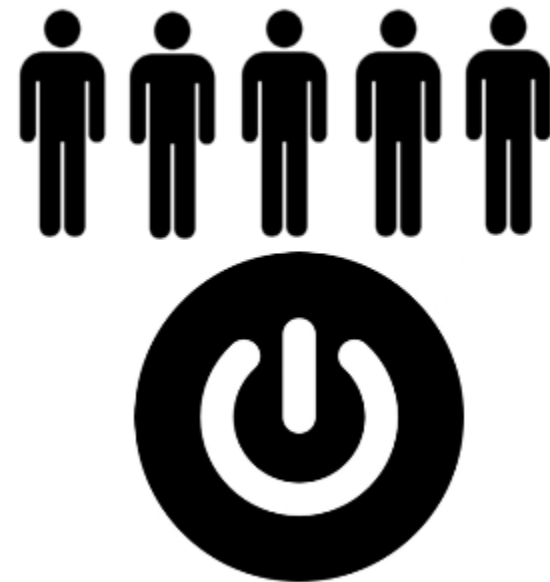
Often **slow** to make decisions since people must discuss and vote on issues.

# Democratic Government

Just remember what the  
word “Demo” and  
“cratic” means.

Demo = **People**

Cratic = **Power**

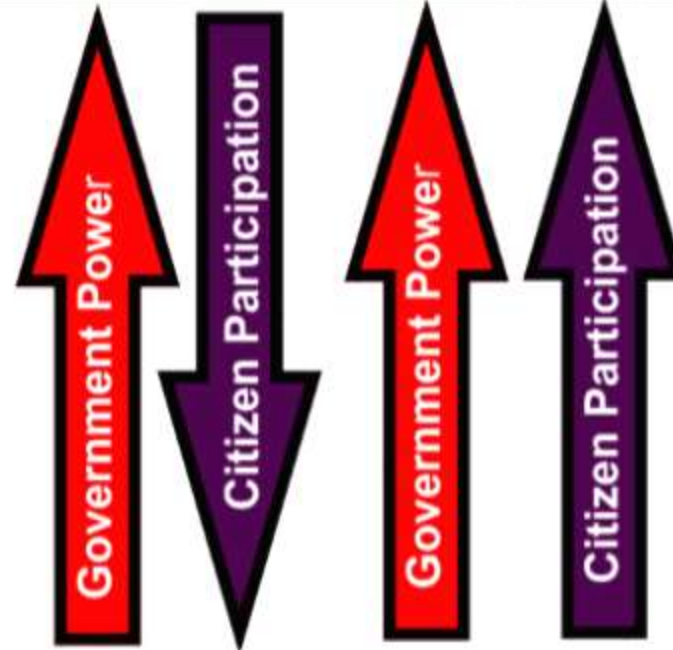




# Democratic Government

How governments Determine  
Citizen Participation

High Participation



Low/No Participation

Autocracy

Democracy



## Mexico and Brazil Government

**Mexico** and **Brazil** are both similar because they are both **democracies**.

Mexico and Brazil both hold elections at the **local** and **national** levels.

Brazilians and Mexicans elect **legislators** to represent their interests and pass laws.

Both countries have more than one political **party** to choose from when voting.





## Mexico and Brazil Government

Both countries' citizens also elect an **executive leader** (**president**) to enforce these laws and lead their respective nations.

In Mexico, a president may serve **one six-year** term in office; in Brazil, the president may serve up to **two four-year** terms.



## Mexico and Brazil Government

Voting ages differ in each country. Voting is **permitted** for those **18** years of age and older in Mexico.

In **Brazil**, voting is permitted as early as age 16; however, all Brazilians ages **18 – 70** are **REQUIRED** to vote.

Those who do not vote are **fined** and even **imprisoned** for multiple offenses.





# Cuba Government

Cuba is an example of an **autocracy**.

Cubans aged 16 and older vote for legislators to represent them; however, the vote is essentially **meaningless** because there is only one political party to choose from.

The **Cuban Communist Party** (PCC.) is the only political party allowed in Cuba.



## Cuba Government

Cuba has **no** real **diversity** of political views or real representatives with the people's best interest in mind.

The nation's president is **not** directly elected by the Cuban people, but rather appointed by the nation's **only political party**.

Once the Cuban Communist Party picks the president, he or she may stand for an **unlimited** number of terms in office.

There is only one political view in autocracies.



## Cuba Government

The nation's current **president, Raul Castro**, was handpicked by his brother, the infamous **Fidel Castro**.

A Castro has ruled the island in some way, shape or form since the 1959 **Cuban Revolution**.

