Civics Unit 1: Key Terms

* Self-Government: A group, or nation’s power to administer its own government
* Executive: The Branch of a government or organization that makes decisions and enforces rules
* Legislative: The branch of government that makes laws
* Judicial: The branch of government that deals with the administration of justice and the interpretation of laws
* Governor General: The appointed representative of Canada’s monarch as the official head of state in the Canadian federal system of government.
* Cabinet: advisors selected by the prime minister to head ministries or departments and run the executive branch of government
* Members of Parliament: The elected representatives of the people, who sit in the federal House of Commons.
* House of Commons: The structure in Ottawa where the elected members of Canada’s federal government meet to discuss and pass laws; sometimes called the lower house
* Question Period: the 45 minute period put aside during daily sessions of the legislature when the opposition parties can question the government; also known as “oral questions”
* Senate: In Canada, the legislative branch of the federal government that is composed of senators who are not elected by appointed by prime ministers; sometimes called the “upper house”
* Mayor: The head of a municipal government in a town or city
* Councillors: elected representatives in the municipal government; a councillor may be elected citywide or may represent specific geographical areas, known as wards.