

Parliament

Now (Modern History)



Quick Facts



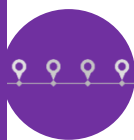
- In 1215, King John was forced to agree to the Magna Carta, a set of demands which limited the king's power.
- By agreeing to the Magna Carta, King John agreed to share some of his powers and therefore Parliament was born!
- Parliament is now made up of three parts: the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarch.

Vocabulary



House of Commons	Where MPs debate the big political issues of the day and the proposals of new laws.	Timeline	1215 - King John agreed to the Magna Carta, a set of demands which limited the king's power. 1341 - The lords and the commoners split into different 'houses' and soon after, voters started to elect members of the House of Commons. 1832- Until 1832, almost no one was allowed to vote in elections in the UK, but gradually more and more people were given the vote. 1928 - All men and women were given equal rights to vote.
House of Lords	The second chamber where members check new laws and challenge the work of the government.	Impact 	The UK Parliament is the place where Members of Parliament (MPs) meet to make decisions and pass laws. Parliament makes sure that the government are running the country properly. The UK Parliament is made up of the Queen, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. England is the only country in the UK which does not have its own Parliament. Scotland has the Scottish Parliament; Northern Ireland has the Northern Ireland Assembly, and Wales has the Welsh Assembly. The UK Parliament keeps control of foreign affairs and defence though. The clock tower is one of London's most famous landmarks and is nicknamed Big Ben. The House of Lords and the House of Commons meet in the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London. The Queen is the head of state. The Queen opens parliament each year, but because Britain has a constitutional monarchy, it means the Queen does not exercise any political power. The House of Lords is where peers meet. They check that new laws are fair. The House of Commons is where MPs meet. Each MP has been elected by the people in their constituency (local area). Most MPs belong to a political party, although a very small number are independent. Every 5 years, a general election is called by the Prime Minister. In the UK, each adult can vote for a politician in their constituency (local area) to represent them in the House of Commons. The political party which wins the majority of the seats forms the government. The leader of that political party becomes the Prime Minister. The Government is led by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister belongs to the political party with the majority of the seats. The Prime Minister chooses their team of ministers from their party to lead the work on important areas of the country's business, such as trade and education. These ministers are called the Cabinet and help the Prime Minister to run the country.
Parliament	The House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarch.		
Election	The voting process to select a person for a public position.		
MP	A Member of Parliament (specifically a member of the House of Commons).		
Constituency	An electoral district that an MP is elected to represent.		
Representation	When MPs speak or act on behalf of someone (their constituents - the people that voted for them).		
Peer	A member of the House of Lords.		
Democracy	A system where people have the right to vote for who runs the country.		

Surrounding
Chronology



Magna Carta
AD 1215

World War I
AD 1914 - 1918

World War 2
AD 1939 - 1945

Victorians
AD 1837 - AD 1901

Women's suffrage
AD 1928

Modern Britain
AD 1945 - NOW

