

# Results are in – Level 1

## Elections and voting

**This activity lets your class explore how a UK general election translates to ‘seats’ in the House of Commons. Political parties aim to win as many seats as possible so they can have more influence during votes on debates and new laws.**

**So what are the possible outcomes?**

### An overall majority

There are 650 seats available in the House of Commons – one for every UK constituency. To win the election outright, and the chance to form government, one political party needs to win an overall majority of the 650 seats (ie, more than half).

1. For this activity, say MPs from four different parties have won seats in the House of Commons during the election. Start by giving each party a different colour or pattern – fill in each party’s circle.



2. Calculate the minimum number of seats required for an overall majority. Remember the total of available seats is 650. Write your answer in the ‘Government seats’ box below.
3. Choose one party to be the ‘election winner’ with a majority of the seats. Fill in the government benches using the colour/pattern from your key.
4. Subtract the number in your ‘Government seats’ box from 650. This is the number of seats left in the House.
5. Divide the remaining seats between the other three parties. You don’t have to give them all an equal amount.

6. Finally, colour in a block of seats for each party on the Opposition benches. Write the number of seats for each party on their colour block.

**Government benches**

Government seats



**Opposition benches**