



## Be an active citizen!

### VOTING

The 2024 elections are special because it will take place 30 years after South Africa's first free and fair elections in 1994. Before 1994 only White people were allowed to vote. This was because our country was governed under a system of separation based on race, which was called apartheid.



The first democratic constitution of South Africa was adopted in 1996. It has the most important rules in our country, and the main values are democracy, equality, reconciliation, diversity, responsibility, respect, and freedom. South Africa is now a democracy, and every South African has the right to vote for the people they believe should lead the nation. To vote means to choose. It is when you mark your choice on a ballot. And the Constitution of South Africa says that every adult citizen is guaranteed the right to vote.

Kids can't vote in an election, but there are things that you vote on. Can you think of some?

#### 1. What are some of the activities you do at school where you have to vote?

List some examples:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Do you think it is a good idea to vote in an election? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

- If you answered "yes", explain why you think it is a good idea to vote.  
I think it is a good idea to vote in an election because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If you answered "no", explain why you think it is not a good idea to vote.  
I think it is not a good idea to vote in an election because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. How well do you know the people who govern our country?

- Who is the President of South Africa?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who is Premier of the province where you live?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who is your local councillor?  
\_\_\_\_\_

