WALT: How was the vote won?

MPs are paid a salary.

Define the following words.

Elections, Votes, Democracy

- L4 Describe the voting process in 1800.
- L5 Compare 1800 to modern day?
- L6 Explain what was wrong with the vote in 1800?

ment.

MPs in Parliament were not paid a salary, so they

had to have enough money to support themselves.

Politics Today Politics in 1800 Politics Today Politics in 1800	ewer than
	ewer than
Everyone over 18 can vote except for the mentally In 1800, nobody under 21 could vote. Fewer than Everyone over 18 can vote except for the mentally In 1800, nobody under 21 could vote. Fewer than	
ill, lords and some criminals. 5% of the population had this political right. No ill, lords and some criminals. 5% of the population had this political	ight. No
women were allowed to vote. women were allowed to vote.	
Voting is secret. No one can see how you vote. Voting was open. There was no secret ballot, so it Voting is secret. No one can see how you vote. Voting was open. There was no secret	ballot, so it
was possible to pay a voter to vote. Sometimes was possible to pay a voter to vote. So	metimes
There are 651 constituencies in Britain, of roughly voters were frightened into voting for a particular There are 651 constituencies in Britain, of roughly voters were frightened into voting for	a particular
even size. even size. candidate. even size. candidate.	
The country was divided into constituencies made The country was divided into constituencies made	encies made
Each constituency sends one MP to Parliament. up of counties and boroughs. The seats were une-	s were une-
venly distributed. There were some boroughs venly distributed. There were some boroughs	roughs
In an election, voters vote for one person to be where nobody lived or where there were only a In an election, voters vote for one person to be where nobody lived or where there were only a	ere only a
their MP. The candidate with the most votes be- few voters. These were called rotten boroughs. their MP. The candidate with the most votes be- few voters. These were called rotten boroughs.	oroughs.
comes the MP. In many constituencies, there was only one candicomes the MP. In many constituencies, there was only	one candi-
date for voters to choose from. date for voters to choose from.	
General elections are held every 5 years. Elections were held at least once every seven General elections are held every 5 years. Elections were held at least once every seven	y seven
years. years.	
The political party with the most MPs in Parliament Most of the new cities and towns had no MP to The political party with the most MPs in Parliament Most of the new cities and towns had	no MP to
forms the government. represent them. forms the government. represent them.	
Parliament was made up of the House of Com-	of Com-
Parliament is made up of the House of Commons mons and the House of Lords. The king chose the Parliament is made up of the House of Commons mons and the House of Lords. The king	chose the
and the House of Lords. Parliament passes all the Prime Minister, but increasingly the Prime Minis- and the House of Lords. Parliament passes all the Prime Minister, but increasingly the Prime Minister, but increasingly the Prime Minister.	ime Minis-
new laws. ter and his Cabinet made the decisions of govern-new laws. ter and his Cabinet made the decisions	of govern-

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