How Do We Select Our Leaders?
A Column Puzzle
(target audience: 6th- through 9th-grade students)
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November 4 was Election Day in the United States. Political candidates and issues have dominated recent news. While the political systems of some East Asian countries have much in common with the United States’, others are very different. Let’s see how much we know about these countries’ politics and government.

Directions: The answers to these clues fit in the spaces below. When all answers are correctly written in, the highlighted letters will spell out the term for the basic principles and laws according to which a nation is governed. (HINT: This word is also the answer to one of the clues.)

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Clues

1. Since 1996 when it held its first direct presidential election, Taiwan has had a __________ system of government.

2. Currently of all the nations of East Asia, __________ Korea has the most authoritarian system of government.

3. Ban Ki-moon, a native of South Korea, is the Secretary General of the __________ __________. (two words)

4. __________ is the name of the legislative branch of the federal government of the United States.

5. The __________ Party is the source of political power in the People’s Republic of China.

6. __________ is the name of Japan’s national legislative body.

7. Of China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan, only North Korea is ruled by a __________.

8. The following excerpt is taken from Chapter 1, Article 1, of the __________ of the People’s Republic of China.

   “The People’s Republic of China is a socialist state under the people’s democratic dictatorship led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants.”

9. Unlike the leaders of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United States, President Hu Jintao of China was not selected in a nationwide __________ but was selected at the 10th National People’s Congress held in Beijing in 2003.

10. While Japan has a parliamentary form of government and a prime minister as a chief executive, South Korean voters elect a __________ to serve as their chief of state.

11. Today, Japan is a constitutional democracy but the __________ is defined as “the symbol of the state.”

12. __________ succeeded his father to become the leader of North Korea.
Answer key for the

How Do We Select Our Leaders column puzzle.

1. **DEMOCRATIC**
2. **NORTH**
3. **UNITED NATIONS**
4. **CONGRESS**
5. **COMMUNIST**
6. **DIET**
7. **DICTATOR**
8. **CONSTITUTION**
9. **ELECTION**
10. **PRESIDENT**
11. **EMPEROR**
12. **KIMJONGIL**