Who Rules?

Someone’s Got to Be In Charge

If you compared all the governments in the world, you would find one thing in common: Someone is in charge. The question is, who? There are many different forms of government. Some have one leader who has all the control. Others give power to the people. Here are some forms of government that exist (or have existed) in the world:

Me, Myself, and I

An autocracy is a government in which one person has all the power. There are two main types of autocracy: a monarchy and a dictatorship.

In a monarchy, a king or queen rules the country. The king or queen is known as a monarch. Monarchs usually come to power through their family line: The current king or queen’s oldest child becomes the next king or queen. In some monarchies, especially those in historical times, the monarch held all the power and had the final say over the government. In modern times, monarchs usually share power with other parts of government. Often they are also subject to the country’s constitution.

A dictatorship is a form of government where one leader has absolute control over citizens’ lives. If there is a constitution, the dictator has control over that, too—so it doesn’t mean much. Although other parts of the government may exist, such as courts or a lawmaking body, these branches always do what the dictator wants them to do. They do not represent citizens.

Power to the People!

In a democracy, citizens hold the political power. There are two fundamental types of democracies:

In a representative democracy, citizens elect leaders to represent their rights and interests in government. The elected leaders, or representatives, do the day-to-day work of governing the country: They consider the issues, work to find solutions, pass laws, and do all of the other things necessary to keep a country going. Citizens hold the ultimate power, though, because if they don’t like what their representatives are doing, they can vote in new ones!

In a direct democracy, there are no representatives. Citizens are directly involved in the day-to-day work of governing the country. Citizens might be required to participate in lawmaking or act as judges, for example. The best example of this was in the ancient Greek city-state called Athens. Most modern countries are too large for a direct democracy to work.
We, Ourselves, and... um... Us

In an oligarchy (OH-lih-gar-kee), a small group of people has all the power. Oligarchy is a Greek word that means “rule by a few.” Sometimes this means that only a certain group has political rights, such as members of one political party, one social class, or one race. For example, in some societies, only noble families who owned land could participate in politics. An oligarchy can also mean that a few people control the country. For example, a junta is a small group of people—usually military officers—who rule a country after taking it over by force. A junta often operates much like a dictatorship, except that several people share power.

Religious Rule

A theocracy is a government that recognizes God or a divine being as the ultimate authority. (“Theo” is a Greek word that means god.) In a theocracy, religious law is used to settle disputes and rule the people. A theocracy can also be a democracy, dictatorship, monarchy, or just about any other kind of government. For example, the Republic of Iran recognizes Islamic law, but Iran’s citizens vote to elect their leaders. Modern theocracies are usually found in countries where the population is strongly religious.

Rule by None

In an anarchy, nobody is in control—or everyone is, depending on how you look at it. Sometimes the word anarchy is used to refer to an out-of-control mob. When it comes to government, anarchy would be one way to describe the human state of existence before any governments developed. It would be similar to the way animals live in the wild, with everyone looking out for themselves. Today, people who call themselves anarchists usually believe that people should be allowed to freely associate together without being subject to any nation or government. There are no countries that have anarchy as their form of government.
A. Identify That Government! Identify the form(s) of government that each country has or had.

**Switzerland**
Citizens elect representatives to sit in two different lawmaking assemblies. But citizens also vote several times a year to decide on laws. Citizens can vote to propose their own laws or undo laws passed by their representatives. All citizens may vote directly on these laws.

Forms of government:
______________________
and
______________________

**South Africa**
From 1948-1994, official policy in South Africa gave white people all the political power. Even though the majority of South Africans were black, non-whites could not influence government. White South Africans elected representatives to sit in a lawmaking body.

Forms of government:
______________________
and
______________________

**North Korea**
One man leads North Korea and controls its government. He also controls its ruling political party. The ruling party chooses candidates for an Assembly, and citizens vote. The candidates do not have opponents, so citizens have no choices.

Form of government:
______________________

**Saudi Arabia**
Saudi Arabia is led by a king. The king appoints a Council of Ministers to help govern, but there are no elections. Saudi Arabia’s Basic Law states that the country’s constitution is the Islamic holy book the Qur’an and other religious traditions.

Forms of government:
______________________
and
______________________

**Denmark**
The people of Denmark elect representatives to sit in Parliament, a lawmaking body. The Queen of Denmark heads the country, but she only has a small role in government. The government is led by a Prime Minister, who is appointed from among the elected representatives.

Forms of government:
______________________
and
______________________

**Brazil**
Brazil is led by a president who is elected by the citizens. Citizens in Brazil elect a new president every four years. Citizens also elect representatives to serve in two different legislative bodies.

Form of government:
______________________
Who Rules?

Name:

B. True or False? Use what you learned in the reading and in Exercise A to fill in the chart below.

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A monarchy can be like a dictatorship or it can be part of a democracy.</td>
<td>☐ True</td>
<td>☐ False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A dictatorship can also be a democracy.</td>
<td>☐ True</td>
<td>☐ False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A democracy can have both representative and direct characteristics at the same time.</td>
<td>☐ True</td>
<td>☐ False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. An oligarchy can include representative democracy.</td>
<td>☐ True</td>
<td>☐ False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. A government can be both a monarchy and an anarchy at the same time.</td>
<td>☐ True</td>
<td>☐ False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Theocracy can co-exist with monarchy.</td>
<td>☐ True</td>
<td>☐ False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Theocracy can co-exist with democracy.</td>
<td>☐ True</td>
<td>☐ False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. An oligarchy can be like a dictatorship.</td>
<td>☐ True</td>
<td>☐ False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Vocabulary. Solve the crossword puzzle using vocabulary from the reading.

Across
3. Type of democracy where citizens elect leaders to represent them in government
7. A small group that rules a country after taking it over by force
9. One person has all the power
10. Type of democracy where citizens are involved in day-to-day government

Down
1. Recognizes God as the ultimate authority in government and law
2. One leader has absolute control over citizens’ lives
4. Citizens hold the political power
5. A small group of people has all the power
6. People are not subject to any nation or government
8. A king or queen rules the country

Worksheet p. 2
**Who Rules?**

**A or B Active Participation Activity.** Read each statement aloud, or project and uncover each statement individually. Have the class answer "A" or "B" as a chorus. Listen for a mix of answers, indicating confusion. Use each question as a chance to quickly review concepts before moving on.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. One person is in charge.</td>
<td>Autocracy</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Citizens often have no rights.</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Dictatorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Can exist with other forms of government</td>
<td>Dictatorship</td>
<td>Theocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Led by a king or queen</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Nobody is in charge</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td>Anarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Those in charge are military members who took over by force</td>
<td>Junta</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Leader often shares power with other parts of government</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td>Dictatorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Democracy where citizens elect others to serve in government</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Citizens vote to elect their leaders.</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Autocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. A small group rules the country</td>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. People do not answer to any leader or government</td>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
<td>Anarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. God and religious law are the government’s authority</td>
<td>Theocracy</td>
<td>Anarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. The group with power can be based on race or social class</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Democracy where citizens participate in lawmaking themselves</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>