

# Who Rules?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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:



*King Harald V of Norway with his wife, Queen Sonja. Norway is a constitutional monarchy. The king is the head of state and has a mainly ceremonial role. The actual government is a democracy.*

## 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!

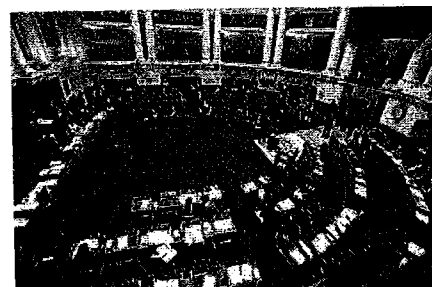
In a **democracy**, citizens hold the political power. There are two fundamental types of democracies:

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.



*A man votes in Peru.*



*The Peruvian legislature*


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## 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:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**\*\* TEACHER GUIDE \*\***

## Informal Assessment: A or B?

**Directions:** 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.

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