



TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

(30 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students understand what democracy is within the context of other forms of government.

MATERIALS

Types Of Government handout

GET READY

- ✓ Make a copy of the *Types Of Government* handout for each of your students.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Inform your class that they will be evaluating several forms of government to gain a better understanding of democracy.
- ✓ Review with your students the following forms of government: monarchy, theocracy, communism, dictatorship, and democracy.
- ✓ In explaining the various forms of government, use the classroom as an analogy. For example: *If our classroom was its own country and we were a dictatorship, I might be the dictator. I would have complete control without input from any of you, the citizens.*
- ✓ Distribute the *Types Of Government* handout to your students. Tell your students that they are going to use this handout to reflect on advantages and disadvantages of the forms of government they just learned about.
- ✓ Divide your students into groups of three or four. Have them review with each other the definitions of the different forms of government. Next, have them complete the handouts.

- ✓ Have the group members share with one another their responses to the handout questions.
- ✓ As a class, review the handout and allow students to share their responses.
- ✓ To conclude the activity, have your students write a paragraph/essay on one of the types of government you reviewed: monarchy, theocracy, communism, dictatorship, or democracy. Students should identify a country that has this form of government and explain how that government affects the lives of its people.
- ✓ Have your students share their assignments in class the next day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Define the different types of government we discussed. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?*
- ★ *What do you think is the purpose of government? Do you think democracy accomplishes this? Explain why or why not you think so?*
- ★ *Has this activity helped you realize anything about your own country and how it operates? Please specify.*



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Name: _____

1. What are some universal needs that people have of government? What form of government fulfills these needs best? Explain why you think so.

2. Within your family unit, how are decisions made? Which political system is it most similar to? Explain in detail how they are similar.

3. How might your life be different if you lived under _____?
(Choose one of the following: monarchy, theocracy, communism, or dictatorship.)

4. What advantages and disadvantages are there to democracy in comparison to other forms of government?