

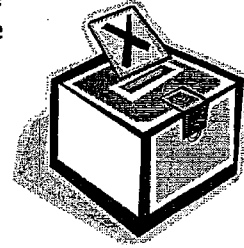
Who Rules?

Name: _____

There are many different forms of government in our world. Each looks a little bit different. The major difference lies in who is in control, but there are subtle differences that exist as well. Let's explore different categories and forms of government...

Democracy Any form of government in which political power is exercised by all citizens, either directly or through their elected representatives. Have you ever been to vote with your parents?

Direct Democracy In a direct democracy all citizens have a chance to participate. The people directly control and are responsible for the laws that govern their society. All citizens can take initiative to create public policy. An example of a direct democracy is ancient Athens where they held assemblies to pass laws.



Representative Democracy Like direct democracy, representative democracy is a government by the people. Representative democracy is a form of government in which people elect leaders to write and manage laws for the country. These leaders are responsible for representing the will of the people and are elected at regular intervals. They are also often bound by a Constitution.



Monarchy Kings, queens, princes, and princesses. We all pretend when we're little, but in a monarchy these roles are reality. Monarchy is rule by a king, or monarch, and he usually gains his power because his parents were rulers (monarchs) also. This applies to queens, too! Some modern monarchies like Spain and Japan have constitutions, while others do not.

Dictatorship In a dictatorship power is not inherited, but usually is acquired by force. A dictator has absolute control over the lives of his citizens, like Kim Jong Il in North Korea. Because a dictator has absolute power, opposition is usually suppressed and people are prevented from voicing their opinions.

Autocracy A form of government in which political power is controlled by one individual such as a monarch, dictator, emperor, etc.

Theocracy The word theocracy contains the Greek root "theo" which means "god." A theocracy is a rule by god or higher power. In a theocracy, religious leaders usually lead the society and religious law is used to settle disputes and rule the people. The Islamic Republic of Iran is an example of a modern theocracy.

Oligarchy The philosopher Aristotle originally used the word "oligarchy" to refer to rule by the rich, but the literal definition of oligarchy is "rule by the few." This means that a few people hold all the power based on military strength (known as a military junta), family power (an aristocracy), or religious force (a theocratic oligarchy). Oligarchies can often come from or lead to other forms of government like monarchies and dictatorships.

Anarchy In this form of government no one is in charge! Sounds too good to be true? Think about all the possible outcomes of having no government at all.

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Enter the different forms of government in the left hand column. Then complete the following chart by placing a plus (+) under features that each form of government exhibits. Place a minus (-) under each feature not exhibited by each form of government. Use a question mark (?) if you're not sure.

The Rules of Ruling

			Autocracy		Democracy		Forms of Government	Features
							Rule by few	
							Rule by one	
							Rule by representatives	
							Rule by none	
							Controlled by citizens	
							Ruled by god or higher power	
							Power usually inherited	
							Holds elections for leaders	
							Constitutional government	
							People have a say	

