Citizen Participation in Government

Autocracy and Democracy
What is Citizen Participation?

In each country, the people have different rights to participate in the government.

• In some countries, any citizen can run for office or vote in elections.
• In other countries, there are restrictions placed on who can run for office and who can vote.
• There are also countries where NO citizen can vote and there are no elections.
Two Types of Government

Types of Government are based on two key questions:

1. Who governs the country?
2. What is the citizen participation like?

The way a country answers these questions determines its government type:

- Autocracy
- Democracy
Autocratic Governments:

- Have a single ruler with unlimited power.
- Citizens cannot participate in the selection of the ruler or vote on the country’s laws.

- One benefit — decisions for the country can be made quickly.
- However...the needs of the citizens may be ignored.
- The leader may make poor or selfish decisions that hurt the citizens.
**Autocracy**

- Generally the power to rule the country is inherited (kings/queens) or is taken by military force.

- There are two main types of autocracies:
  - **Dictatorship**
    - The leader uses force to control the citizens.
  - **Absolute Monarchy**
    - The monarch has absolute power (no constitution) over the citizens.

- Example? Hitler
Democratic Governments:

- The citizens hold the power of the government.

- Citizens have the opportunity to participate in the government:
  - All citizens have the opportunity to be a leader.
  - All citizens have the opportunity to vote for leaders & laws.
Democratic Governments:

There are two forms of democratic governments:

- Presidential
- Parliamentary

Both are designed to represent and protect the rights of the citizens.
Presidential Democracy

- The citizens vote directly for the leader of the country.

- Citizens also vote for members of the legislature, but separately from the leader.
  - The leader of the country does not make the laws.
  - The legislature does this.

- Example: United States, Russia, Mexico
Parliamentary Democracy

- The citizens vote for members of the legislature, not directly for the leader.

- The legislature then chooses the country’s leader among its members.
  - The leader is part of the legislature, so he/she has a hand in making laws.

Examples: United Kingdom, Canada, & Australia
What is Citizen Participation? (Explain in your own words)

Citizens have different rights to participate in their country’s government. Those rights can be restricted or non-restricted.

What are the two types of Government?
1. Autocratic
2. Democratic
Explain an Autocratic Form of Government?

• Single ruler with unlimited power.
• Citizens can’t participate in selection of ruler or vote on laws.
• Citizens may have little to no power
• Power to rule is inherited (king/queen) or taken by military force.
Explain a Democratic Form of Government?

- Citizens hold the power of the government.
- Citizens participate in their government.
- Citizens can become leaders.
- Citizens vote for leaders and laws.
What are the two main types of autocracies and explain each one?

- **Dictatorship** – The leader uses force to control the citizens

- **Absolute Monarchy** – The monarch has absolute power (no constitution) over the citizens
What are the two forms of democratic governments and explain each one?

**Presidential democracy:**
- Citizens vote directly for the leader of the country.
- Citizens vote for members of the legislature, but separately from leader of the country.
- The leader of the country does not make the laws; it is the legislature that makes the laws.
- Example countries—US, Russia, Mexico
What are the two forms of democratic governments and explain each one?

**Parliamentary democracy:**

- Citizens vote for members of the legislature.
- Citizens do not directly vote for the leader.
- Legislature choose the country’s leader among its members of the legislature.
- The leader is part of legislature so he/she help make the laws.
- Example countries – United Kingdom, Canada, Australia
Write three things you have learned from today’s lesson. (Please be as detailed as possible)
Let’s Review

What are the two types of Autocratic governments?

- Dictatorship
- Absolute Monarch

Compare and contrast Autocracy vs. Democracy.

**Autocracy** — one ruler with unlimited power

**Democracy** — Citizens hold the power

What are the two types of Democratic governments?

- Presidential
- Parliamentary

How is the leader chosen in a Parliamentary democracy?

Legislature chooses the country’s leader among its members. The leader is part of the legislature.

Do the citizens get to choose the leader in a Parliamentary democracy?

No, citizens vote for members of the legislature.

How is the leader chosen in a Presidential democracy?

Citizens vote for the leader of the country.
Government Mascots

► Create a mascot that will represent your group’s vocabulary word “Can be a real OR made up thing!”

► Draw and color your mascot on the paper provided

► Be sure to give your mascot a creative name.

► Write down at least 3 reasons why/how your mascot represents your group’s vocabulary word.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autocratic Governments</th>
<th>Democratic Governments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explain an Autocratic form of government?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Explain a Democratic form of government?</strong></td>
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**What are the two main types of autocracies and explain each one?**

| Dictatorship - The leader uses force to control the citizens | Presidential democracy: |
| Absolute Monarchy - The monarch has absolute power (no constitution) over the citizens | • Citizens vote directly for the leader of the country. |

**What are the two forms of democratic governments and explain each one?**

| Parliamentary democracy: | Parliamentary democracy: |
| • Citizens vote for members of the legislature | • Citizens vote for members of the legislature, but separately from leader of the country. |
| • Citizens do not directly vote for the leader. | • The leader of the country does not make the laws it is the legislature that makes the laws. |
| • Legislature choose the country’s leader among its members of the legislature. | • Example countries- US, Russia, Mexico |
| • The leader is part of legislature so he/she help make the laws. | Example countries – United Kingdom, Canada, Australia |