

## **TITLE OF LESSON PLAN**

Forms of Government  
by James Duran

## **LESSON OVERVIEW**

Essential Question – ‘Why do people create, structure, and change government?’

Guiding Questions – ‘What is the purpose of government?’ and ‘What are the types of government?’

## **LESSON OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS**

Standard 3: Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government.

Students will be able to (‘SWBAT’):

- Compare different forms of government (direct democracy, representative democracy, socialism, communism, monarchy, oligarchy, autocracy). SS.7.C.3.1
- Compare parliamentary, federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government. SS.7.C.3.2

## **NUMBER OF CLASS PERIODS**

3-4 days (may vary)

## **GRADE LEVEL**

This lesson is designed for a 7th grade Civics classroom.

## **CONTEXT**

This lesson takes place during out first unit of the school, titled ‘E Pluribus Unum’. This unit covers our nation’s history of immigration, what it means to be a citizen, the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the Enlightenment thinkers, and the different forms of government. The lesson described here takes place near the end of that unit (just after a series of activities centered on the novel ‘Nothing But the Truth’) and correlates directly with Lesson 4 of Chapter 4 in the Civics workbook (see the link below).

[http://rlmscivics.weebly.com/uploads/1/7/2/8/17288598/workbook\\_pages\\_on\\_forms\\_of\\_govt.pdf](http://rlmscivics.weebly.com/uploads/1/7/2/8/17288598/workbook_pages_on_forms_of_govt.pdf)

## **MATERIALS**

- Student class materials (Interactive Student Notebook, scissors, glue stick, colored pencils, etc.)
- Civics workbook Chapter 4, Lesson 4 (pages 39-42)
- Floccabulary Lyrics 'Forms of Government'
- Forms of Government Chart (blank)
- Forms of Government Chart (complete)
- The distinction between unitary and federal states (Encyclopedia Britannica article)
- Confederations and federalism (Encyclopedia Britannica article)

## **PROCEDURES**

\*Note – See accompanying PowerPoint presentation designed to go along with this lesson.

### Day 01

#### Bellwork

- Students will trim and paste the blank 'Forms of Government Chart' and lyrics to 'Forms of Government' into their Interactive Student Notebook (ISN). If time permits, students are to update their ISN Table of Contents.

#### Review Previous Class

- Working as a class, the students will review the in class simulation based on the novel 'Nothing But the Truth'. The conversation will be directed towards the students describing the form of government found in Harrison, New Hampshire (the setting for the novel). Once the students come to the decision that the government demonstrated in the novel is a representative democracy (republic) they will be reminded that this is not the only form of government.

#### Classwork

- Watch the video 'Forms of Government' by Floccabulary.
- Read/Review the lyrics to the song, using it to complete as much of the 'Forms of Government' chart as possible.
- Discuss/Debate the student's answers, filling in any/all missing information as necessary.
- Use any remaining time to continue working in the Civics workbook.

## Day 02

### Bellwork

- Student will continue to work on the assigned items from chapter 4 of the Civics workbook, writing their responses in their ISN.

### Review Previous Class

- Working as a class, the students will review the 'Forms of Government' song by Flocabulary as well as the items found on the forms of government chart. Students will complete the iCivics worksheet 'Who Rules' and discuss their answers. The conversation will be steered towards the notion that there are additional terms that can be used to describe the various forms of government, each differentiated by how power is distributed throughout the system.

### Classwork

- Introduce students to the terms federalism, unitary, and confederation.
- Divide the class into three groups and distribute the accompanying articles.
- Instruct the students to define/describe their assigned form of government, placing their work on the appropriate page in the ISN.
- Have each group share their information, making certain the other groups are completing their own set of notes for each of the three forms of government.
- Use any remaining time to continue working in the Civics workbook.

## Day 03

### Bellwork

- Student will continue to work on the assigned items from chapter 4 of the Civics workbook, writing their responses in their ISN.

### Review Previous Class

- Working as a class, students will review their definitions of federalism, unitary, and confederation. To individually demonstrate their understanding of the terms the students will create a three circle venn diagram in their ISN, labeling each of the three circles with the terms and filling in the various sections with the appropriate information.

## Classwork

- Students will take notes in their ISN based on a teacher directed lecture centered around one example of each form of government (Federalism – United States, Confederation – Switzerland, and Unitary – Japan), relating the information to previous classes.

## **ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY**

Assessment of student's progress towards the stated objectives/standards will take place at various points within the lesson. The first assessment point will come from the conversations/sharing of information that will take place during the creation of the 'Forms of Government' chart. Results of said conversations will determine the extent to which the content will need to be remediated in the subsequent class periods. Similar informal assessment data will be gathered and remediated accordingly (within class or in the following days, as necessary) during the jigsaw activity as well as the lecture on the examples of each form of government. A more formal assessment of the student's progress will take place as the students answer questions from their weekly Homework Quiz, and Exit Slips. If time permits, additional assessment will take the form of a reflective essay where students will be asked which of the different forms of government is the best/worst. An additional formal, objective district-designed assessment will be administered at the end of the unit. The data from that assessment will go through an item analysis and disaggregation to determine a plan of action for the areas in need of improvement prior to the semester exam.

## **TEXT OF DOCUMENTS EXCERPTS/SOURCE MATERIALS**

See attached.

## **TEXT AND EXAMPLES OF GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS, WORKSHEETS, SYNTHESIS, EXIT CARDS, ETC. THAT WILL BE UTILIZED BY STUDENTS DURING THE LESSON**

See attached.

# Types of Government Chart

Type of Government	<u>Head of State</u>	<u>Decision Maker(s)</u>	<u>Source of Power &amp; How it is Acquired</u>	<u>Length of Rule</u>	<u>Political Freedoms Determined by:</u>
Military Dictatorship					
Absolute Monarchy					
Limited Monarchy					
Oligarchy					
Representative Democracy (Republic)					
Direct Democracy					
Anarchy					

## Types of Government Chart

<u>Type of Government</u>	<u>Head of State</u>	<u>Decision Maker(s)</u>	<u>Source of Power &amp; How it is Acquired</u>	<u>Length of Rule</u>	<u>Political Freedoms Determined by:</u>
Military Dictatorship	Dictator (Military officer)	Dictator	Military thru a coup d'état	Death or overthrow (coup d'état)	Dictator
Absolute Monarchy	King/Queen	King/Queen	Divine Right thru Birth	Death, Overthrow or Abdication	King/Queen
Limited Monarchy	King/Queen or Prime Minister	King/Queen & representative group	Divine Right through birth & a constitution through elections	Death, overthrow, abdication, and/or end of term	Bill of rights
Oligarchy	Small group of leaders	Small group of leaders	Intelligence & wealth through coalition or consensus	Death or overthrow	Oligarchs
Representative Democracy (Republic)	President	President & Representative Group	A Constitution thru Elections	End of Term	Bill of Rights
Direct Democracy	N/A	All citizens	All citizens through elections	N/A	All citizens
Anarchy	N/A	N/A	No one has power over anyone else	Ends when a government is established	Each individual (can do anything except organize)

**'Forms of Government'**  
**by Flocabulary**  
**<https://www.flocabulary.com/>**

# Who Rules?

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

## 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Confederations and federations

by Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/political-system/Confederations-and-federations#ref416900>

The distinction between unitary and federal states

by Encyclopedia Britannica

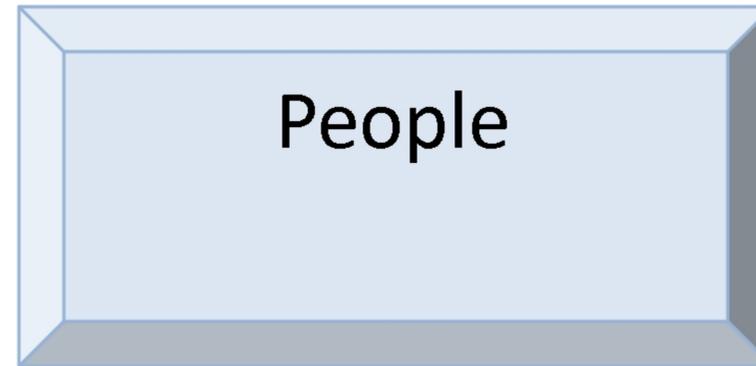
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/constitutional-law/Unitary-and-federal-systems#toc22075>

## Unitary System



Concentrated Power  
Centralized Authority

## Federal System



Divided Power  
Authority with the People

## Confederation



Decentralized Power  
Concentrated Authority

## National Powers

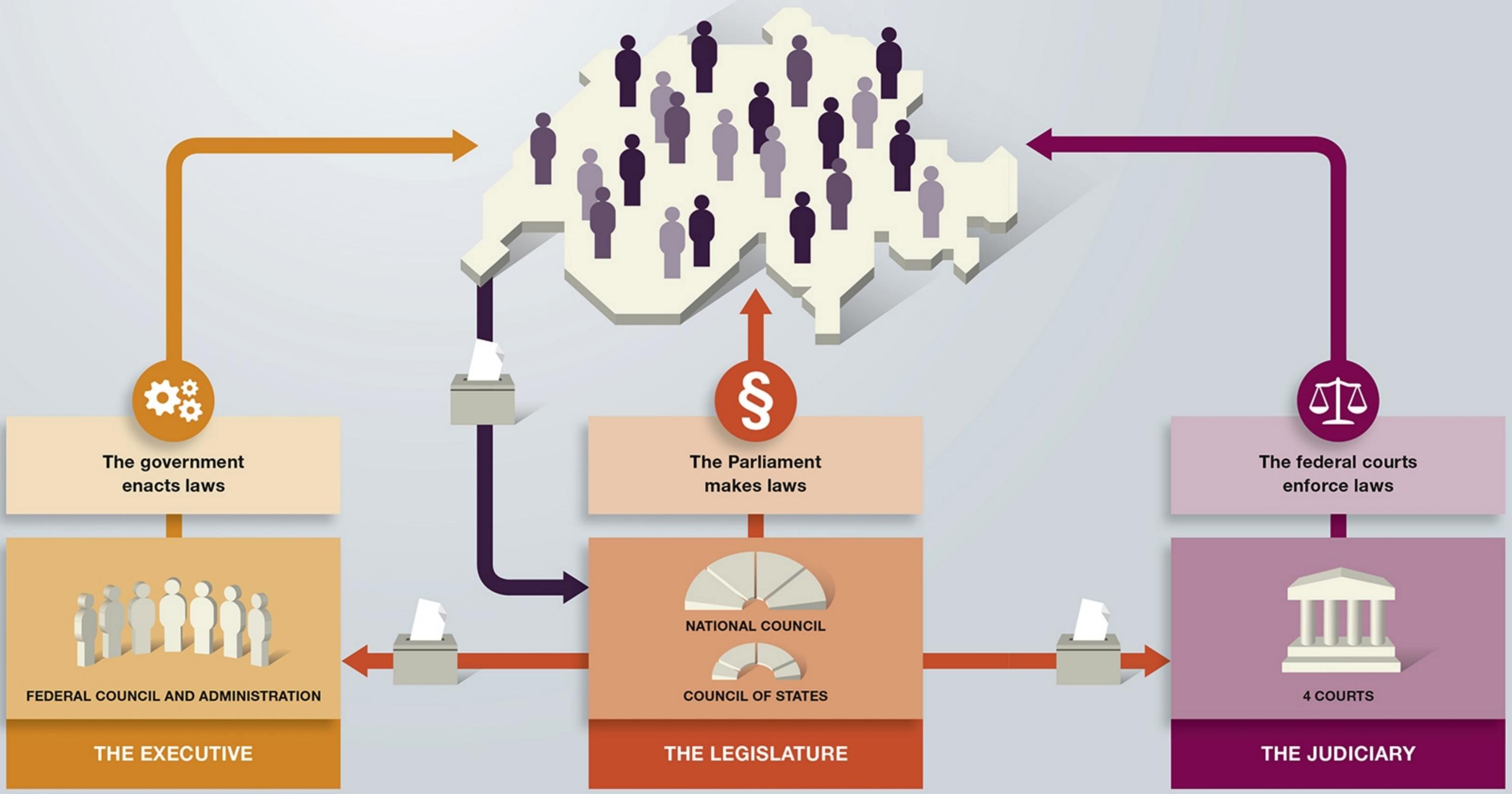
- Maintain military
- Declare war
- Establish postal system
- Set standards for weights and measurements
- Protect copyrights and patents

## Shared Powers

- Collect taxes
- Establish courts
- Regulate interstate commerce
- Regulate banks
- Borrow money
- Provide for the general welfare
- Punish criminals

## State Powers

- Establish local governments
- Set up schools
- Regulate state commerce
- Make regulations for marriage
- Establish and regulate corporations

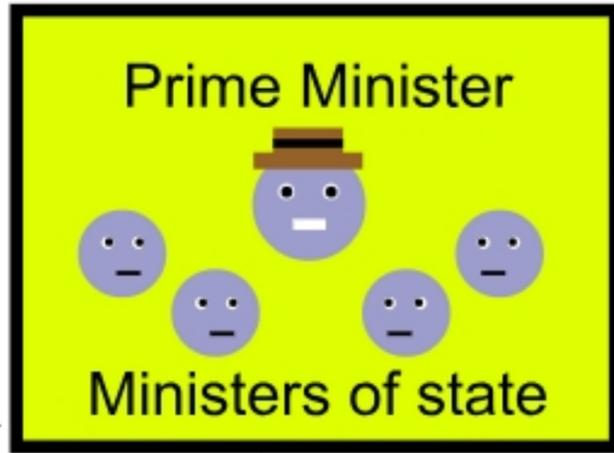


Emperor: The symbol of the State and of the unity of the people



- The advice and approval

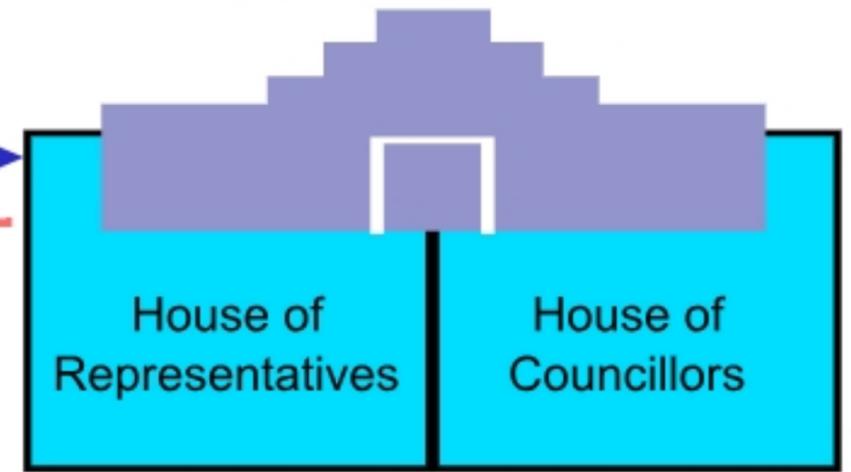
Cabinet



- Dissolution of the House of Representatives

- Designation of the Prime Minister
- Censure vote of the House of Representatives

National Diet



- Appointment of the Prime Minister

- Jurisdiction of an administrative legal case

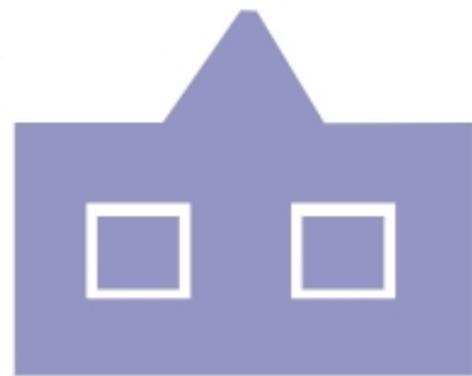
- Designation of the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court
- Appointment of Judges

- Judicial review

- Restriction by laws
- The establishment of Court of Impeachment Judges

- Election

- Appointment of the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court

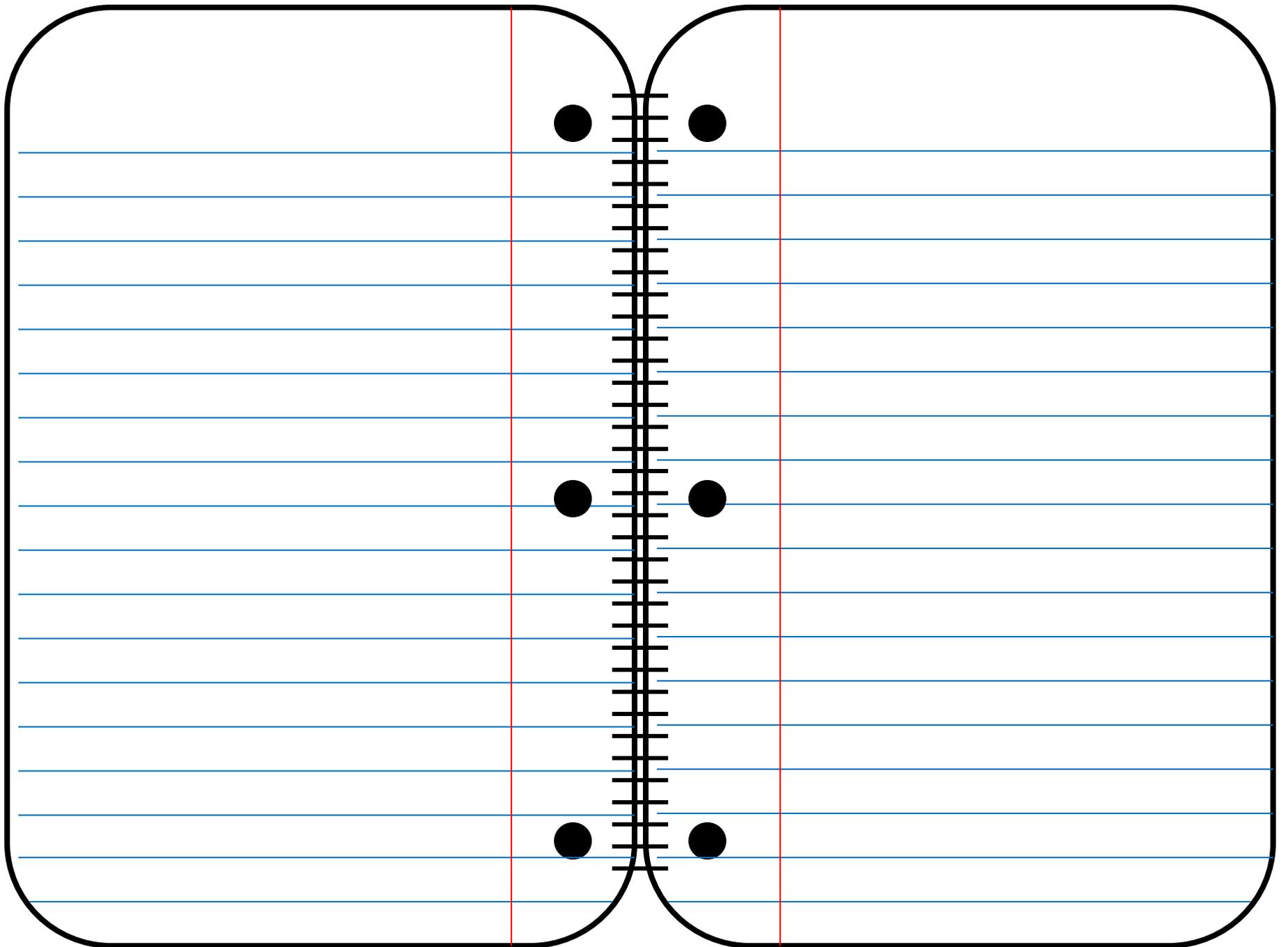


Court

- National review of the Supreme Court judges



People



Workbook CH4 Q&A

Workbook CH4 Q&A

## Types of Government Chart

Type of Government	Head of State	Decision Maker(s)	Source of Power & How it is Acquired	Length of Rule	Political Freedoms Determined by:
Military Dictatorship	Dictator (Military officer)	Dictator	Military thru a coup d'état		Dictator
Absolute Monarchy					
Limited Monarchy	King/Queen or Prime Minister	King/Queen & representative group		Death, overthrow, abdication, and/or end of term	Bill of rights
Oligarchy			Intelligence & wealth through coalition or consensus	Death or overthrow	Oligarchs
Representative Democracy (Republic)					
Direct Democracy					
Anarchy	N/A	N/A		Ends when a government is established	

## 'Forms of Government' by Flocabulary <https://www.flocabulary.com/>

I know you guys in America have your democracy, and that's awesome, but in my country, we've been through every form of government. Let me tell you about it.

You might not know who is making the rules,  
But there is some form of government that's governing you.  
And when people get disillusioned,  
That's when we see a revolution.

In my land, you need to ask who's running it,  
We've lived through every single form of government.  
It started out, we didn't have any laws,  
People did whatever they wanted just because.  
That's anarchy, no government at all,  
People robbed and killed in the free-for-all.  
No police, just gangs and bandits,  
Until some families joined up and demanded,  
A king to rule over the land,  
And when the king died, his kids ruled after him,  
Which means that we lived in a monarchy,  
Where crowns and thrones move through the family.  
Until somebody flat out got sick of it,  
Led an armed revolution just to go against.  
Overthrew the king and kidnapped his kids,  
Overnight we lived in a dictatorship.  
One single person calling all of the shots,  
Power-tripping in his palaces or one of his yachts.  
So much propaganda from the state-controlled media,  
And harsh punishments if we beefed with the leader, yep.

You might not know who is making the rules,  
But there is some form of government that's governing you.  
And when people get disillusioned,  
That's when we see a revolution.

### 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.

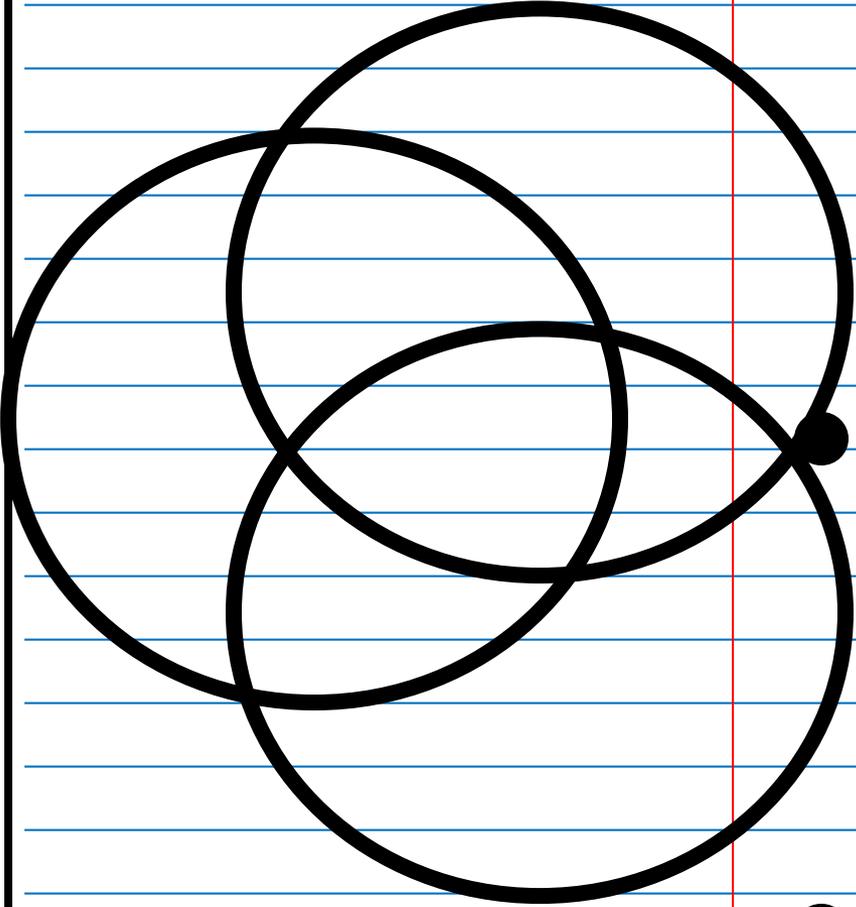


Form of government:

\_\_\_\_\_

But the dictator died and the army started running it,  
A few leaders controlling the whole government,  
That's an oligarchy, and the heads of military,  
Ruled by force which was really pretty scary.  
With war on their mind we lived through violent times,  
And the laws were designed to help the more refined.  
Till the church made it a crime to live this way,  
Religion should be the law for how we live each day.  
With laws built by religious leaders now in charge.  
It was a theocracy, laws came from god —  
Or one religion's version. We still couldn't vote,  
Oppressive rule still shaped the country no joke,  
It was OK if you agreed,  
but anyone who didn't was probably getting beat.  
We wanted a voice, and we wanted to be free,  
We organized as a direct democracy,  
Where everyone gets to vote on all the laws,  
Everyone has a voice, cuz we're all in charge.  
Things got better and you know how it showed?  
The population began to explode.  
With so many people to be spoken for,  
They had to better organize just to ensure,  
That we all were represented and this just means,  
That we became a representative democracy.  
With a lean new team built around a constitution,  
And elected officials who upheld and used it.  
It's been long a story, and it never ends,  
Cuz another revolution might come again.

You might not know who is making the rules,  
But there is some form of government that's governing you.  
And when people get disillusioned,  
That's when we see a revolution.



Federalism

Confederation

Unitary

Federalism Example

United States

Confederation Example

Switzerland

Unitary Example  
Japan

Reflective Writing  
Assignment