

## Kinds of Governments

**Objective: Compare and contrast different kinds of governments.**

There are as many kinds of governments as there are countries in the world. Each country has a government which is different from that of any other country. Yet we can group governments into categories. Four of these categories are described below.

**Skill Steps:**

**Step 1: Read the text**

**Step 2: Highlight the characteristics** that describe each kind of government.

**Step 3: Write the characteristics** on the comparison chart.

**Step 4: Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting** the different kinds of governments.

**Skill - I Do**

### Monarchy

A monarchy is a government which is headed by a royal family. Leadership in the government passes from one generation to the next. An example of a monarchy is a country which is ruled by a king or queen. When the king/queen dies, his son or daughter automatically becomes the new monarch. There are no elections for the leader. A monarchy may or may not have a law-making branch with representatives from the people.

- 1. Give an example of a monarchy in the world today.**

**Skill - We Do**

### Democracy

Democracies are a pretty new form of government. In a democracy, citizens of the country are able to select the government. This is done through periodic elections. These elections give the citizens a voice (a say) in how the government works. A democracy operates under a written set of rules (constitution) which describes the powers and limitations of the government. An unpopular leader can be "fired" by the people when he is not re-elected. Democracies rule "with the consent of the governed" (permission of the people).

- 2. Give an example of a democracy in the world today.**

**Skill - You Do**

### Republic

The power of government is held by the people. □ Government rules by the "consent of the governed". The people then give power to leaders they elect to represent them and serve their interests. ž Representatives are responsible for helping all the people in the country, not just a few people. It is believed that laws made by representatives would be "more" fair. If the representatives

do not make fair laws, the people can elect others who will. The laws will help everyone instead of one person or a few favored people. People will have greater freedom and be able to live well. A Republic operates under a written set of rules (Constitution) to describe the powers and limitations of government.

**3. Give an example of a republic in the world today.**

**Skill - Independent Practice**

**Dictatorship**

A dictatorship is a government which is headed by one person. Usually, this person is not chosen by the people. Often the dictator seized (took) the power in some way, often by force. Dictatorships do not allow opposition groups in their country. They do not allow honest elections. They are able to maintain their power because they have the support of the country's military people. In fact, often the dictator is a military figure himself. Then the form of government is referred to as a military dictatorship. In a dictatorship the government controls all of the country's media (TV, radio, internet and newspapers). This way they can control what the citizens of the country see, hear, and read about. They don't allow the citizens to hear stories that would make the government look bad. Citizens of countries ruled by dictators usually do not enjoy freedoms such as speech or assembly.

**4. Give an example of a dictatorship in the world today.**

**Answer the following questions.**

- 5. What do monarchies and dictatorships have in common?**
- 6. What does a Democracy and a Republic have in common?**
- 7. What are some of differences between a Monarchy and a Democracy?**
- 8. What are some of the differences between a Dictatorship and a Republic?**
- 9. Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences of these four governments. Finish by explaining which type of government you would prefer to live under and why?**

