The Five Types of Governments

A Social Studies Online Presentation
The Different Types of Government

- Democracy
- Autocracy
- Oligarchy
- Theocracy
- Republic
In a democracy, the government is elected by the people. Everyone who is eligible to vote has a chance to have their say over who runs the country. It is distinct from governments controlled by a particular social class or group (aristocracy; oligarchy) or by a single person (dictatorship or an absolute monarchy).

A democracy is determined either directly or through elected representatives.
There are Two Kinds of Democracies

A Parliamentary Democracy
And a Presidential Democracy
Parliamentary Democracy

found in Israel

Government in which members of an executive branch (the cabinet and its leader—a prime minister, premier, or chancellor) are nominated to their positions by a legislature or parliament, and are directly responsible to it.

This type of government can be dissolved at will by the parliament if it can no longer function.
A Presidential Democracy

- A system of government in which the president is constitutionally independent of the legislature.
- The executive branch exists separately from the legislature.
- People elect the representatives and they make the decisions.
Autocracy

- Government by a single person having unlimited power; via despotism (domination through threat of punishment and violence by using the military).

- The citizens has limited, if any, role in the government.
Autocracy

- The oldest form of government.
- One of the most common forms of government.
- Maintains power through inheritance or ruthless use of military and police power.
Forms of Autocracy include…

- A Dictatorship
- Absolute Monarchies
Dictatorship

- A country ruled by a single leader.
- The ideas of this single leader are glorified.
- The leader has not been elected and may use force to keep control.
- In a military dictatorship, the army is in control.
Dictatorship

- The government tries to control all aspects of social and economic life.
- The government is not responsible to the people.
- People lack the power to limit their rulers.
- Examples of dictators include: Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Joseph Stalin
Dictatorships
found in Sudan and Cuba

A form of government in which a ruler wields absolute power.

It is not restricted by a constitution or laws.
Absolute Monarchy

- A king, queen, or emperor, exercises the supreme powers of government/unlimited power.
- The position is usually inherited.
- People lack the power to limit their rulers.
- Absolute monarchies are rare today but from the 1400s to the 1700s, they ruled most of Western Europe.
- Examples - Saudi Arabia
Constitutional Monarchy

- A monarchy has a king, queen, emperor or empress.
- The ruling position can be passed on to the ruler’s heirs.
- In some traditional monarchies, the monarch has absolute power.
- But a constitutional monarchy, like the UK, also has a democratic government that limits the monarch's control.
Constitutional Monarchy
Japan and Canada

A system of government in which a monarch is guided by a constitution whereby his/her rights duties, and responsibilities are spelled out in written law or by custom.
Oligarchy

- It is Governed by a few-such as a small clan or a clique.
- Sometimes a small group exercises control for corrupt and selfish purposes.
- The citizens has a very limited role.
The group gets its power from military power, social power, wealth, religion, or a combination.

Political opposition is usually suppressed—sometimes violently.

Examples—Communist countries such as China.

Leaders in the party and armed forces control the government.
In a communist country, the government owns property such as businesses and farms.

It provides its people's healthcare, education and welfare.
A system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single-often authoritarian-party holds power. State controls are imposed with the elimination of private ownership of property or capital while claiming to make progress toward a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people (i.e. a classless society).
Theocracy

Iran

A form of government in which a Deity is recognized as the supreme civil ruler, but the Deity’s laws are interpreted by ecclesiastical authorities (bishops, mullahs, etc.)

A government subject to religious authority.
Citizen Participation in an Autocracy and a Oligarchy

- Sometimes rulers claim they rule for the people.
- In reality, the people have very little say in both types of government.
- For example, they may hold elections with only one candidate or control the results in various ways.
- Even when these governments have a legislature or natural assembly, they often only approve decisions made by the leaders.
How Governments Determine Citizens Participation

- Autocratic: Low or No Participation
- Oligarchic: Low or No Participation
- Democracy: High Participation
Republic

- A republic is a country that has no monarch.
- The head of the country is usually an elected president.
Republican Systems
Kenya and South Africa

A representative democracy in which the people’s elected deputies (representatives), not the people themselves, vote on legislation.
Federal Republic
India, Brazil, Mexico

A state in which the powers of the central government are restricted and in which the component parts (states, colonies or provinces) retain a degree of self-government. Ultimate sovereign power rests with the voters who choose their governmental officials.