

Types of Government



Teacher Traffic Safety Academy 2023



Types of Government Lesson Plan

Different Types of Government - LESSON PLAN

Learning Objective: Students will...

1. Engage with peers to determine different types of government
2. Problem solve how to create change within the parameters of those different types of government to better protect society with traffic safety issues.

TEKS: Social Studies Grade 6: 9A-C; Grade 7: 15B; Grade 8: 19C, 31; World History 18A-B; Government 11A; Special Topics 1A-G, 2A

Materials Needed: Different Types of Government Handouts (pages 1-2 cut into smaller cards - one for each student), Different Types of Government Handouts, Different Types of Government Slide Show

Vocabulary: theocracy, democracy, republic, monarchy, dictatorship, communism, socialism, oligarchy

Estimated Time:
45-60 minutes


Engaging Focus:

As students enter class, hand them a government card to randomly place them into groups. With their card, see if they can figure out what type of government is represented on their card.

Once students have a guess, allow them to share the government of their group.

Teaching Strategy:

1. After students have correctly identified their government, distribute copies of the *Different Types of Government - Questions*. Have students consider the answers to the questions on the Handout. Allow about 15-20 minutes for students to work on the questions. Questions include:
 - What type of government does your country have? Tell us a little about the political structure of your country.
 - Where does your government get their authority? What gives your government political legitimacy in the eyes of the people?
 - How does the government interact with society? Are there social implications with this type of government (such as the existence of classes, homogeneity, or fragmentation of society)?
 - What are the economic implications of this type of government? If you choose, you may identify the type of economy that exists in your country.
 - Are there political parties? If so, how many? How are they divided? What is the “political climate” like in your country?





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- Does your country's government have limited or unlimited power? Explain your thinking.
2. After students work through the questions, offer follow-up questions for whole class discussion:
 - Why do we have rules?
 - How do you change people's behaviors? What works? What doesn't?
 - What happens if a government goes too far (like executing people for not bowing to their will)? What if it does not go far enough?
 - Based on your government, what might be an effective way to change the behaviors of your people? What makes you think your way will work?
 3. Next, tell students their community is facing a serious challenge and their government needs to come together to discuss how to handle it.
 4. Pass out the *Different Types of Government - Enacting Change* handout and read the scenario. Have students consider what they know about their government and how they will solve the issue at hand.
 5. Have students share their ideas with the class. Encourage them to pose pros and cons to the strategies offered to stimulate open discourse regarding the different types of government. Considering the idea that no government is perfect, see if they can identify the strengths and weaknesses of the various governments to enact change for society.

Optional: Have students write their ideas on chart paper and do a gallery walk to share their conclusions. Encourage students to pose pros and cons by writing ideas on post-it notes for each government's idea. Conduct a full class discussion over the observations.





Extension: Have students create their own perfect world. It could be based on one that already exists, or a new one entirely. Understanding that utopia does not exist, what type of government would make for the best world possible. Have students share their near utopian world to the class. In addition, you could have a democratic vote to decide which world students would want to most likely live in.

Different Types of Government Handouts

Different Types of Government - HANDOUTS

	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we believe in the teachings of our deity and believe our rules and regulations should follow their teachings. Our rulers closely follow our deity's teachings and rule thusly.</p>
	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we make decisions by popular vote. This includes deciding issues and choosing leaders. Our motto is "majority rules!"</p>
	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we are ruled by representatives who we entrust to make decisions on our behalf. If we disagree with their decisions, we don't vote for them again.</p>
	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we have one leader who inherits this right through their bloodline at birth. We believe their power comes from "divine right."</p>

Different Types of Government - HANDOUTS

	<p>Welcome to _____ land! We're happy to have you! We currently have one ruler who came to power through force. That leader has complete control over all we do.</p>
	<p>Welcome to _____ land! We're happy to have you! In our community, each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs. We know our government will always come to our aid. Our motto is, "workers of the world, unite!"</p>
	<p>Welcome to _____ land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we believe everything should be shared by the community as a whole.</p>
	<p>Welcome to _____ land! We're happy to have you! In our community, there is an elite, wealthy class that governs us.</p>



Different Types of Government - HANDOUTS

Questions

Now that you have a guess on your government's structure, work with your group to answer the questions below. Note: You do NOT have time to decide on the entire governmental structure, economy, and details of your country! Keep it simple!

Name your country:

What type of government does your country have? Tell us a little about the political structure of your country.

Where does your government get their authority? What gives your government political legitimacy in the eyes of the people?

How does the government interact with society? Are there social implications with this type of government (such as the existence of classes, homogeneity, or fragmentation of society)?

What are the economic implications of this type of government? If you choose, you may identify the type of economy that exists in your country.

Are there political parties? If so, how many? How are they divided? What is the "political climate" like in your country?

Does your country's government have limited or unlimited power? Explain your thinking.

OPTIONAL: Draw a map of your country. Where are the lakes, rivers, roads, etc.?



Different Types of Government - HANDOUTS

Enacting Change

Dilemma: In 2021 there were 4,489 fatalities and 15,764 injuries in the state of Texas due to car crashes. This was an increase in fatalities of 15.22% from 2020. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, one of the leading causes of crashes in Texas is unsafe driving speeds. In fact, in your community, 3,892 of your citizens have already been killed and 15,692 have been injured in car crashes so far this year.

Your Task: Assuming the same issue is present in your community with speeding, how do you enact change to keep your people safe? Consider the questions below and propose ideas to share with your peers.

Questions to Consider:





- If the purpose of government is to protect its citizens, what is your government's obligation with this scenario?
- If driving too fast on the roads is causing harm to your community, how will your government make changes for the betterment of your society?
- What is your government's role when enacting change for its citizens?
- How can they best achieve that objective?
- What will they do if the citizens disagree or don't obey?
- What are the pros and cons of your decision for the government? For its citizens?

Resources to Ponder with Safe Driving:





- <https://www.txdot.gov/safety/driving-laws/tips-highway-driving.html>
- <https://www.txdot.gov/data-maps/crash-reports-records/motor-vehicle-crash-statistics.html>
- <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/#!/#%2F>
- <https://cdan.nhtsa.gov/>
- <https://www.ghsa.org/resources/publications>
- <https://tea.texas.gov/finance-and-grants/state-funding/state-funding-reports-and-data/bus-accident-reporting-system>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>
- <https://nasdpts.org/stop-arm-violations>
- <https://saferoads.org/>

Different Types of Government Handout Key

Different Types of Government - KEY

<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Theocracy</p> 	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we believe in the teachings of our deity and believe our rules and regulations should follow their teachings. Our rulers closely follow our deity's teachings and rule thusly.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Democracy</p> 	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we make decisions by popular vote. This includes deciding issues and choosing leaders. Our motto is "majority rules!"</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Republic</p> 	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we are ruled by representatives who we entrust to make decisions on our behalf. If we disagree with their decisions, we don't vote for them again.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Monarchy</p> 	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we have one leader who inherits this right through their bloodline at birth. We believe their power comes from "divine right."</p>

Different Types of Government - KEY

<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Dictatorship</p> 	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! We currently have one ruler who came to power through force. That leader has complete control over all we do.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Communism</p> 	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs. We know our government will always come to our aid. Our motto is, "workers of the world, unite!"</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Socialism</p> 	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, we believe everything should be shared by the community as a whole.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Oligarchy</p> 	<p>Welcome to _____land! We're happy to have you! In our community, there is an elite, wealthy class that governs us.</p>



