

Forms of Government

Comparing Different Forms of Government

Benchmark: SS.7.C.3.1 Compare different forms of government (direct democracy, representative democracy, socialism, communism, monarchy, oligarchy, autocracy).

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will identify different forms of government based on its political philosophy or organizational structure.
- Students will analyze scenarios describing various forms of government.
- Students will apply their understanding of the definitions of the various forms of government.

Time: One class period

Materials:

- Forms of Government PowerPoint
- Computer
- Projector
- Speakers
- Handout A: Forms of Government
- Handout B: Traveling Through the Forms of Government
- Chart paper
- Markers

Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.

Lesson Overview

Warm Up Ask students to name any forms of government they have heard of. Ask students to provide examples. Answers will vary.

Using the Forms of Government PowerPoint, discuss the purposes of government with the class and show the list of different forms of government that will be discussed in the lesson.

Distribute Handout A. Students should complete the handout by filling in the definition of each form of government and then creating a visual to represent each form of government. Students should take a few minutes per slide to individually illustrate each form of government. Continue with the PowerPoint.

Divide students into five groups. Using Teacher Handout A, assign each group a different form of government. Each group will need to work together to create one illustration based on their individual drawings to represent their form of government on a piece of chart paper. They should not write the form of government on the chart paper. Distribute Handout B. Hang and number each poster #1-5. Students will rotate from poster to poster and complete Handout B by identifying the form of government on each poster, providing a definition for the form of government, and drawing the diagram provided. Debrief by going to each poster and having students call out which form of government they thought it represented.

Continue with the PowerPoint and address additional forms/theories of government including a republic, socialism, and communism. View the video “A Teenage Girl Explains Different forms of Government” created by [“A Teenage Girl Explains” on YouTube](#).

Optional extension activity: Have students review the forms of government they have learned about and consider the following question: *If you were to have your own country, which form(s) of government would you put in place?* Students can select one form of government or create a hybrid of multiple forms of government. They should explain their selection.

Check for Understanding The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask student to explain how they made their decision.

Forms of Government

Directions: Complete the handout below by providing a definition and illustration for each form of government.

Form of Government	Definition	Illustration
Direct democracy		
Representative democracy		
Constitutional monarchy		
Absolute monarchy		
Oligarchy		

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Form of Government	Definition	Illustration
Autocracy		
Anarchy		
Republic		
Socialism		
Communism		

Traveling Through the Forms of Government

Map It Out

Directions: Complete the table below based on the illustrations created by your classmates. You will need to provide the name of the form of government shown in the correct box, a definition of that form of government, and copy the illustration.

Form of Government	Definition	Illustration
Poster 1		
Poster 2		
Poster 3		
Poster 4		
Poster 5		

Provide one form of government to each group.

Constitutional monarchy

Absolute monarchy

Oligarchy

Autocracy

Anarchy