**Sixth Grade Social Studies Webquest: Government Types**

Use this webquest to help your sixth grade students review the type of government of monarchies, democracies, and dictatorships by working in groups to synthesize information given in websites listed. They will learn about theocracies and will then demonstrate understanding by creating a video advertisement for a specific type of government. Finally students will label past and present governments.

Webquest Link: <https://sites.google.com/site/governmenttypes/home>

Ohio Model Curriculum Content Statement 10: Government- Governments can be categorized as monarchies, theocracies, dictatorships or democracies, but categories may overlap and labels may not accurately represent how governments function. The extent of citizens’ liberties and responsibilities varies according to limits on governmental authority.

Students will be able to:

-Describe the relationship between those in power and individual citizens in a democracy, dictatorship, monarchy and theocracy.

-Demonstrate understanding that the characteristics of governments often overlap and can misrepresent the actual relationship between those governing and those being governed.

-Identify past and present government types in specific countries.

-Demonstrate understanding of the characteristics associated with each government type.

1. Divide your students into small groups and provide them with a laptop, Internet access, and Social Studies Notebooks or another means to record answers.
2. Social Studies Notebooks should contain the following information at the end of the webquest:
3. Descriptions of monarchy, dictatorship, and democracy: Information obtained from [http://www.google.com/#hl=en&sclient=psy-ab&q=introduction+to+types+of+government&oq=introduction+to+types+of+government&gs\_l=hp.3..0i30.5981.11028.0.11461.37.25.1.10.10.0.180.2655.13j12.25.0...0.0...1c.EOj6l6L4BBQ&pbx=1&bav=on.2,or.r\_gc.r\_pw.r\_qf.,cf.osb&fp=bcf0da78f757a173&biw=1143&bih=646](http://www.google.com/#hl=en&sclient=psy-ab&q=introduction+to+types+of+government&oq=introduction+to+types+of+government&gs_l=hp.3..0i30.5981.11028.0.11461.37.25.1.10.10.0.180.2655.13j12.25.0...0.0...1c.EOj6l6L4BBQ&pbx=1&bav=on.2,or.r_gc.r_pw.r_qf.,cf.osb&fp=bcf0da78f757a173&bi)

Monarchy: A monarchy is a type of government where the ruler inherits their power from birth. They become ruler simply because they are born into the right family. The ruler is called a monarch and can have many titles such as king, czar, sultan, Kaiser, and the list goes on. There are some positives to having a monarchy. One is that you will always know who the next ruler will be because it is determined by birth. One negative is that no matter how bad the ruler is you are stuck with them, and they rule until they die. There are two types of monarchy: absolute monarchy and constitutional monarchy. They both get their power the same way, through birth, but the amount of power they have is different.

In an absolute monarchy, the monarch has total power over everything. Whatever they say goes. They do not have to listen to someone else. This is effective because they can make quick decisions if need be; however, it is not always made with the people in mind. There is nothing that requires the monarch to think about the rights or needs of its people.

In a constitutional monarchy, the power of the monarch is limited by a constitution. There is usually some form of a legislative body (like Congress) that has to approve or disapprove of the decisions of the ruler. The monarch becomes more of a figurehead, meaning they are there just for appearances, but the country is really run by the legislative body. This is a good thing because the legislative body would be elected and would represent the people. The people now have a say in the government. This can also delay decisions, though, because the monarch has to get the approval of the legislative body before anything can be decided.

Dictatorship: dictatorship is a type of government where a ruler takes the power by using force and keeps it by making the people live in fear of their power. Dictatorships can be run by one person, like Fidel Castro, or by a group, like the Al Qaeda. Dictators sometimes come into power by elections, but they take away the right to vote for someone else. This is similar to how Hitler came into power. Other dictators use military force to literally shoot their way into the head office. People who live in a dictatorship have very few rights. They are constantly in fear and have to proclaim the loyalty to a ruler they may not agree with. Sometimes, another dictator will come in a take over, and then the people may be questioned about their loyalty towards the old dictator. They could get in trouble for showing loyalty to someone they did not like in the first place. The dictator can make quick decisions, but like the absolute monarchy, he does not have to listen to his people or worry about what they want.

Democracy: A democracy is a type of government where the ruler obtains his power through the people. Really, the power belongs to the people; they give it to whoever they feel should lead. Democracies are positive for the people because the people have a strong voice in what happens. Problems with democracy arise because sometimes the decision process is slowed down by debates and the decision making process of voting. There are two main types of democracy: direct democracy and representative democracy.

In a direct democracy, the people vote on everything themselves; they vote “directly.” This is not practical for a large government. What if every law the United States passed had to be voted for by all the citizens? Nothing would ever get done, and voting would turn into a joke. Direct democracies work best with small groups or even very small communities. A direct democracy would work in a classroom if students were deciding on which project to do next or whether or not to review some more.

In a representative democracy, the people vote for an official to make decisions for them. The elected officials or representatives do all the work, but they have to keep in mind what the people want. If they fail to do this or if they do not do what they promise, they know that they could lose the election next time, meaning they lose their jobs. This is the best way to run a large country with a democratic form of government. There are two forms of representative democracy: parliamentary democracy and presidential democracy.

In a parliamentary democracy, the people vote for their legislative branch representatives. Those representatives then vote amongst themselves for who will be in charge of the executive branch. The two branches work close together since one comes out of the other. It is similar to a constitutional monarchy except there is no monarch. The executive leader, a president or prime minister, answers to the legislative body, a parliament or congress.

In a presidential democracy, the people vote separately for the executive branch leaders and their legislative branch representatives. The two branches are separate. They may interact because they need to check each other to keep the balance of power, but they each have separate jobs to do.

B. Theocracy Questions

1. “rule by gods”

2. Moses, King of Egypt, ancient Rome, Mayas, Incas, Iran, Islamic states ruled by the Sharia, Vatican City

3. A theocracy government occurs when an earthly state is ruled by a divinity, either in a personal embodiment, or more frequently, through a human representative. Although religious in its basis, it can still be deemed a political system, since said representative, for instance a church, can take the place of a civil government. Even in the cases where there are both a religious and an administrative hierarchies, the latter is submitted to the former.

C. Government Types Assessment

1. Past Governments

Saddam Hussein in Iraq: Dictatorship

Hebrew government: Theocracy

Egyptian government: Theocracy

Adolf Hitler in Germany: Dictatorship

2. Present Governments:

United States: Democracy

Sadi Arabia: Monarchy

Iran: Theocracy

Vatican City: Theocracy, Monarchy

England: Democracy, Monarchy

D. Guide your students in creating video advertisements for a specific type of government using the following rubric.

Government Types Video Advertisement Rubric & Check sheet

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Place a check once complete. | Points |
| The type of government is identified in the video. |  | /5 |
| The characteristics of the government are evident in the advertisement so that the type is clearly explained. |  | /5 |
| All group members have contributed equally to planning and being involved in the video. |  | /5 |
| The advertisement video contains persuasive elements. |  | /5 |
| The video as a whole clearly demonstrates complete understanding of the type of government. |  | /5 |
| Total Points |  | /25 |

