# GRADE 6 DEMOCRACY AND THE PEOPLE What is Democracy?





### **OBJECTIVE**

Students understand what democracy is within the context of other forms of government and discuss how a citizen's liberties and responsibilities may differ in different types of government.

#### **MATERIALS**

*Types of Government* handout

#### **GET READY**

✓ Make a copy of the *Types Of Government* handout for each of your students.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- ✓ Inform your class that they will be evaluating several forms of government to gain a better understanding of democracy.
- ✓ Review with your students the following forms of government: monarchy, theocracy, communism, dictatorship, and democracy.
- ✓ In explaining the various forms of government, use the classroom as an analogy. For example: If our classroom was its own country and we were a dictatorship, I might be the dictator. I would have complete control without input from any of you, the citizens.
- ✓ Distribute the *Types Of Government* handout to your students. Tell your students that they are going to use this handout to reflect on advantages and disadvantages of the forms of government they just learned about.
- ✔ Divide your students into groups of three or four. Have them review with each other the definitions of the different forms of government. Next, have them complete the handouts.

- ✓ Have the group members share with one another their responses to the handout questions.
- ✓ As a class, review the handout and allow students to share their responses.
- To conclude the activity, have your students write a paragraph/essay on one of the types of government you reviewed: monarchy, theocracy, communism, dictatorship, or democracy. Students should identify a country that has this form of government and explain how that government affects the lives of its people.
- ✓ Have your students share their assignments in class the next day.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- ★ Define the different types of government we discussed. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?
- ★ What do you think is the purpose of government? Do you think democracy accomplishes this? Explain why or why not you think so?
- ★ Has this activity helped you realize anything about your own country and how it operates? Please specify.

#### **SUGGESTED ASSESSMENT:**

★ Students can complete the Types of Government handout.



# **TYPES OF GOVERNMENT**



| Name: |  |
|-------|--|
| 1.    | What are some universal needs that people have of government? What form of government fulfills these needs best? Explain why you think so. |
| 2.    | Within your family unit, how are decisions made? Which political system is it most similar to? Explain in detail how they are similar.     |
| 3.    | How might your life be different if you lived under? (Choose one of the following: monarchy, theocracy, communism, or dictatorship.)       |
| 4.    | What advantages and disadvantages are there to democracy in comparison to other forms of government?                                       |
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