

# ***Introduction to Government Independent Packet***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their name and period. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the lower half.

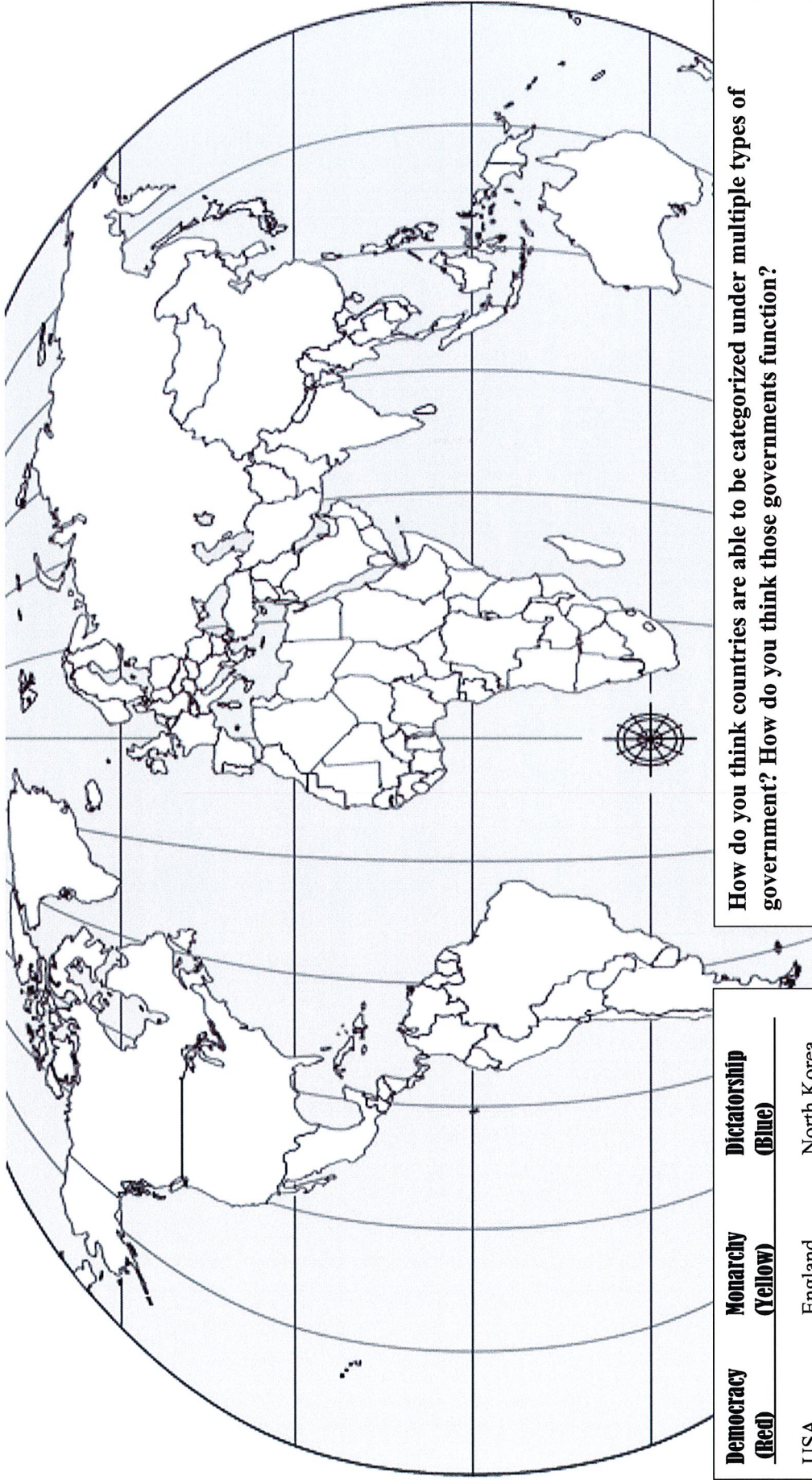
# VOCABULARY

**Directions:** Write the definition for each word in the middle column and draw a picture to represent each in the 3<sup>rd</sup> column.

State		
Public Policy		
Sovereignty		
Democracy		
Republic		
Dictatorship		
Oligarchy		
Autocracy		
Unitary Government		
Federal Government		
Confederation		

# GEOGRAPHY

**Directions:** Complete the map by coloring and labeling the locations of each type of government. Some countries fit in multiple categories, and will end up being different colors due to the combinations!



<b>Democracy (Red)</b>	<b>Monarchy (Yellow)</b>	<b>Dictatorship (Blue)</b>
USA	England	North Korea
Nigeria	Malaysia	Sudan
Mexico	Jordan	China
India	Tonga	Cuba
England	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia

How do you think countries are able to be categorized under multiple types of government? How do you think those governments function?

# PEOPLE & ROLES TO KNOW

**Directions:** First, define and find characteristics for the types of leaders below. Then, for each political leader from history, identify their title, the nation they lead, and significant contributions that person made in history.

King/Queen	President	Prime Minister
Characteristics:	Characteristics:	Characteristics:

Elizabeth II

Angela Merkel

Harald V

George Washington

Emmanuel Macron

Salman of Saudi Arabia

Name: _____ Title: _____ Country: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Title: _____ Country: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Title: _____ Country: _____ Contributions:
Name: _____ Title: _____ Country: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Title: _____ Country: _____ Contributions:	Name: _____ Title: _____ Country: _____ Contributions:



# TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

**Directions:** Research each form of government below and identify its defining characteristics. List these in the middle column. Then, find a current example of that form of government and write it and its current leader in the last column.

<b>Type of Government</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Modern Example &amp; Leader</b>
<b>Communist State</b>		
<b>Presidential Republic</b>		
<b>Parliamentary Republic</b>		
<b>Constitutional Monarchy (ceremonial monarch)</b>		
<b>Constitutional Monarchy (executive monarch)</b>		
<b>Absolute Monarchy</b>		
<b>Theocracy</b>		
<b>Oligarchy</b>		
<b>Dictatorship</b>		
<b>Junta</b>		
<b>Federal System</b>		
<b>Unitary System</b>		

# KEY CONCEPTS

**Directions:** For each section, either take notes on the required topics or answer the questions in complete sentences.

## Theories of the Development of Government

### **Force Theory**

“The exponents of this theory hold that wars and aggressions by some powerful tribe were the principal factors in the creation of the state. They rely on oft-quoted saying “war begot the king” as the historical explanation of the origin of the state...

After establishing the state by subjugating the other people in that place, the chief used his authority in maintaining law and order, and defending the state from aggression from outside. Thus, force was responsible not only for the origin of the state but for development of the state also.”

-Dr. Deepika Gahatraj

According to this theory, what was the most important factor?

How does a new chief use their power in Force Theory?

### **Evolution Theory**

How does this theory differ from the Force Theory?

This theory states that the state evolved over time, starting with the primitive family. One person in the family was determined to be the leader of the family. On a primitive level, a basic government was formed.

Over decades, the family became a clan and a clan became a tribe. The state was identified when the tribe settled in a designated area and claimed it as their own.

### **Divine Right Theory**

“Divine right is the notion that royalty is given divine sanction to rule. In the words of England’s King James I (r. 1603–1625): “The State of MONARCHIE is the supremest thing upon earth: For Kings are not only GOD’S Lieutenants upon earth, and sit upon GOD’S throne, but even by GOD himself they are called GODS.”

... divine-right theory emerged out of Europe’s medieval period and was supercharged by the Protestant Reformation. Before that break, only the pope could be considered God’s lieutenant on Earth. Following the Reformation, kings like James I made a claim on this title as well.

-Matthew Wills,

“Making Sense of the Divine Right of Kings”

In the Divine Right Theory, where does a ruler get their power?

When did Divine Right Theory become popular?



## Social Contract Theory

A contract is an agreement. According to the Social Contract Theory, what is the agreement?

When was this theory most popular?

In the social contract theory, a specific population within a given designated area gave up as much power to a government as needed to promote the well-being of all. Specifically, the community population and the leader have a contract. The state has power and authority over the territory.

The community receives certain services such as a safe, crime-free area in which to live and keep their rights protected.

This theory was developed in the 17th and 18th centuries by philosophers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau. The U.S. political system is based on the social contract theory.

Do you think that any of these four theories could have coexisted in leading to one government, or could have led a state from one form of government to another? Explain your ideas.

## What Makes a Democracy?

A democracy is a government in which the power comes from the people. In a direct democracy, the people vote for all legislation and decisions. In a representative democracy, people elect representatives who make decisions to meet the will of the people.

The government's goal in a democracy is to do what is best for the people. Decisions are based on what the majority wants through free and open elections, but representatives also keep minority opinion in mind.

In elections, all citizens have the right to vote, and each vote is worth the same amount. Citizens choose the candidate whose opinions and party opinions they most closely agree with.

Democracy works best when there are certain conditions present.

- Democracies are most effective in countries where more people participate in all parts of democracy. This includes everything from federal elections to local town hall meetings, to peaceful protest. The more people involved, the healthier the democracy.
- Countries with stable economies, consistent economic growth, and a large middle class best support democracy.
- A well-educated population with public schools that are open to all is helpful in a democracy. This allows the population access to a well-balanced education.
- Most importantly, a democracy needs citizens that value democratic principles, such as individual rights and liberties, and equality for all.

What is the difference between a direct democracy and a representative democracy?

Which form of democracy do we have in the United States?

What is the government's goal in a democracy?

In your own words, summarize the conditions that democracy works best in.



# VISUAL LITERACY

**Directions:** Use the included images and captions to answer each question.



*Many monarchs in the medieval period had paintings made that reflected their power. This painting is of King Charles I of England, who ruled from 1625-1649.*

Examine the painting. What details has the artist included to promote the idea of divine right in this painting of Charles I?

Why might divine right theory be helpful as a ruler?



*In a constitutional monarchy, the monarch is typically considered to be the head of the state. However, the monarch's powers are usually only ceremonial and symbolic. Despite this, they work closely with the head of their prime ministers, who are head of the legislative system. In this picture Queen Elizabeth II greets Prime Minister Boris Johnson, both of the United Kingdom.*

Why do you think the monarch and the prime minister work so closely together?



*The right to assemble peaceably is a vital democratic ideal and is protected by the U.S. Constitution. This photo shows veterans who fought in the Vietnam War protesting against it after returning home to the US.*

Why do you think the right to assemble peaceably is so important to democracy?





*Communist nations rely heavily on state-controlled media to enforce expectations and encourage citizens to follow the government's ideas.*

Examine the poster. What do you notice about it? Even though you likely cannot read it, what do you think the message is?



*In a theocracy, the head of the religion is also head of the state. One famous example is the Pope, who is the leader of Catholicism and the head of Vatican City, which is located inside of Rome, Italy.*

Why is the leader of the religion also the leader of the state in a theocracy? Which theory of government does this sound most similar to?



*Democracies often need a lot of volunteers and a high level of civic engagement to thrive, especially in federal systems. This photo shows volunteers working to collect food for families in need.*

Why do democracies rely on volunteers and civic engagement?