

GED

Social Studies

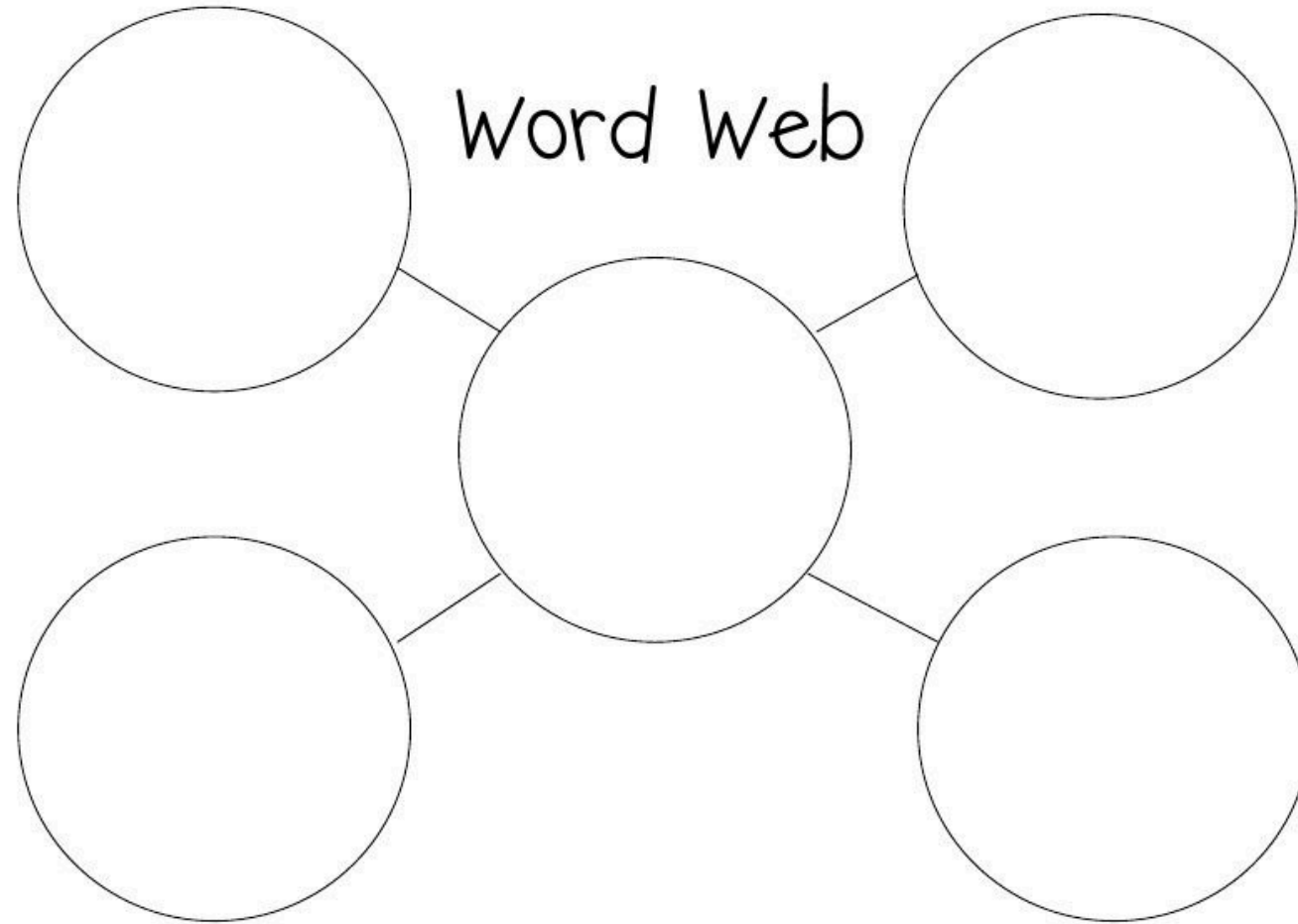
Day 9



COMUNIDADES LATINAS  
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD **GOVERNMENT?**



# What system of government does your country have?



# Types of Governments



## Matching

*Match the systems of government with their descriptions. Work alone or with a partner.*

Representative Democracy

One person holds all the power and has total control of the country.

Monarchy

The absence of government (no government).

Dictatorship

Citizens elect representatives to make decisions and run the country.

Oligarchy

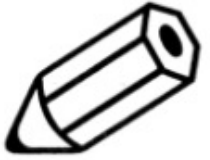
A government ruled by royalty (kings and queens) who inherit their power by birth or marriage.

Anarchy

A government controlled by a few people or small group who hold power over the rest.

## Comparing

Discuss the potential **advantages** and **disadvantages** of each type of government with a partner.



<b>Representative Democracy</b>	Advantages:  Disadvantages:
<b>Monarchy</b>	Advantages:  Disadvantages:
<b>Dictatorship</b>	Advantages:  Disadvantages:
<b>Oligarchy</b>	Advantages:  Disadvantages:
<b>Anarchy</b>	Advantages:  Disadvantages:



**A**

Look at the diagram of the three branches that make up the United States government. What do you know about them?





**Read about the United States government. Then answer the questions after each section.**

## **The United States Government**

The United States government has three branches—the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch. It was set up this way so no one person would have too much power. With three branches, each branch balances out the other.



## **The Executive Branch**

In the Executive Branch are the president, the vice president, and the Cabinet. The president is the leader of the country and the Executive Branch. He can sign new laws, prepare the budget, and command the military. The vice president helps the president and is the leader of the Senate. Both the president and the vice president serve for four years and can be reelected only once. The Cabinet is a group of experts who advise the president. The president chooses his Cabinet members. They include the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Education.

1. What does the president do? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the vice president do? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long do the president and vice president serve? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the Cabinet do? \_\_\_\_\_





## The Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch, also known as the Congress, makes the laws for the United States. Congress has the power to declare war, collect taxes, borrow money, control immigration, set up a judicial and postal system, and the most important power, make laws.

This branch has the greatest connection to the people of the United States because this branch represents citizens. Congress has two parts, the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives has 435 state representatives. Each state gets a certain number of representatives based on its population. They serve for two years and can be reelected. The Senate has 100 senators, two senators for each state. Senators serve for six years and can also be reelected.

1. What is another name for the Legislative Branch? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does this branch do? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the two parts of this branch? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many representatives are in the House? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What determines the number of representatives each state gets? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How long do representatives serve? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many senators does each state have? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How long do senators serve? \_\_\_\_\_



## The Judicial Branch

The third branch is the Judicial Branch, which includes the Supreme Court and the federal courts. The job of the courts is to interpret the laws made by the Legislative Branch. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States and has nine judges called justices. The justices listen to cases and make judgments based on the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The president and Congress choose the justices of the Supreme Court.

1. What is the role of the Judicial Branch? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the highest court in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How does a person become a judge on the Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_



# **THE 3 TYPES OF GOVERNMENT**

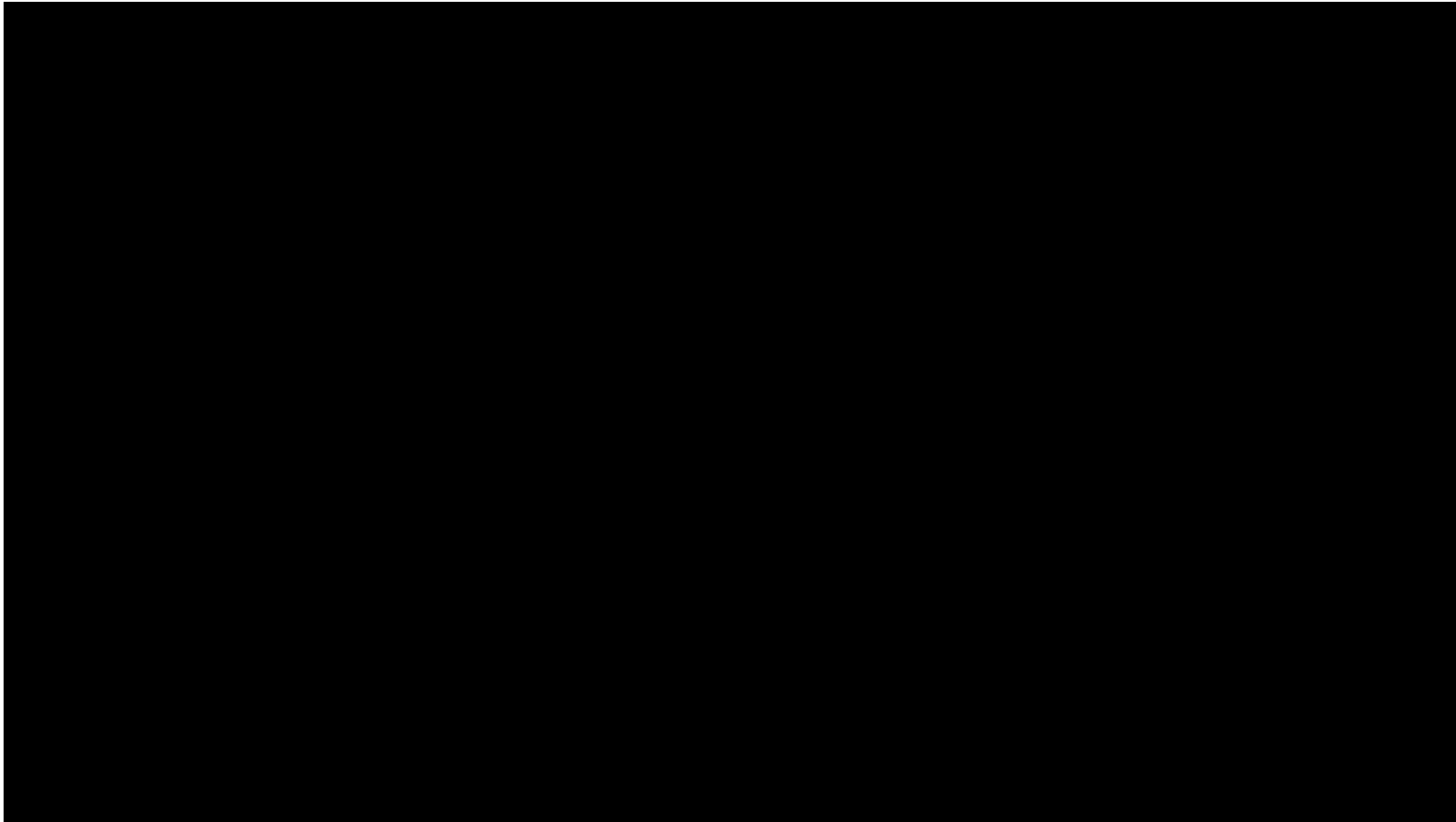
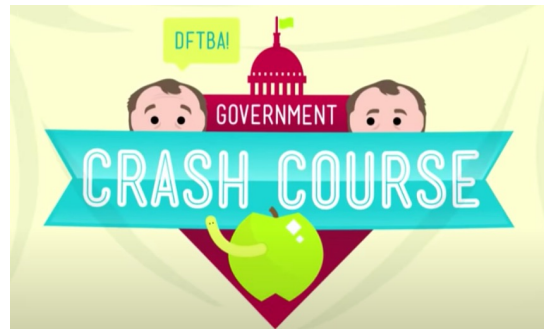
The United States has 3 **levels** of government: 1) The Federal Government 2) The State Government 3) The Local Government.

The **federal government** is the highest and most **powerful** government. The federal government includes the president, congress and the judicial branch. The federal government helps and protects the people of the United States. The **head executive** of the federal government is the president.



The **State government** helps and protects its own state. There are 50 states. There are 50 state governments. All state governments have a legislative, executive and judicial branch. State government is similar to the federal government. The head executive of the state government is called the **governor**. The people of each state vote for their leaders.

Each **community** has its own government. This government is called the **local government**. The people of the community vote for this government. The head executive of a city or local government is called the **mayor**.



# CREATE YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT!

**You will be working to create a fictitious country's government. You will create a government structure, rule/laws, symbols, and describe the role of the citizens for your country.**



# Requirements:

- Government Structure: Create a structure that showcases the governmental leaders and how decisions are made. This may or may not include different branches of government.
- Role of the Citizens: Determine the rights and responsibilities of your citizens. How do citizens participate in the government and do they have any duties?
- Laws/Rules: What are your top 6 laws/rules that will serve your people?
- Symbols: What symbolizes your country? Sketch images of your country's flag and symbol and explain their meaning.

# Government Structure:

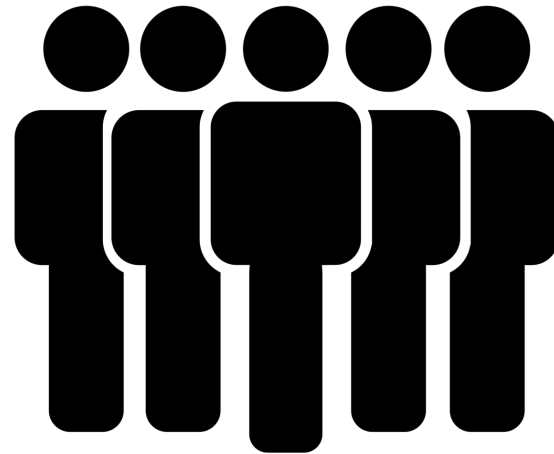
- Who is in charge? How do they get power? How is power divided (or not)? Who makes laws, declares war, commands the army, collects taxes, makes legal (court) decisions, etc.?





# Role of the Citizens:

- Ideas: What does a citizen of your country do? Do they vote, do they serve in the military, to they make laws, do they participate in legal (court) decisions, etc.?



# Laws/Rules:

- Make a list of the 6 most important laws/rules for your country.
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



# Symbols:

- What does your country's flag look like? What is your symbol? Why?



Your flag:

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A symbol for your country (*ex. The US uses an eagle as a symbol.*)

**Why did you choose this flag/symbol?**

What do they represent?



Citizenship



PROS

CONS

voting



# The Test!

- 100 civics (history and government) questions
- You will be asked up to 10 questions from the list of 100 questions
- You must answer correctly 6 of the 10 questions to pass the civics test.
- Reading and writing sections





# Citizenship Test:

1. What is the name of the President of the United States?
2. Who was the first president of the United States?
3. What are the two major political parties in the United States?
4. What is the political party of the president?
5. How many stars are there in the American flag?
6. How many bars are there in the American flag?
7. Name one problem that led to the Civil War?
8. What was one thing that President Abraham Lincoln did?
9. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?
10. What are the three powers in the US Government?
11. What is the Executive power?

# Example Questions

## American Government

### A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
  - the Constitution
2. What does the Constitution do?
  - sets up the government
  - defines the government
  - protects basic rights of Americans
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
  - We the People

4. What is an amendment?
  - a change (to the Constitution)
  - an addition (to the Constitution)
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
  - the Bill of Rights
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment? \*
  - speech
  - religion
  - assembly
  - press
  - petition the government

# Learn About the United States Quick Civics Lessons for the Naturalization Test

- [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/M-638\\_red.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/M-638_red.pdf)

