Who Rules?
Forms of Government
What the heck is an….Oligarchy?

❖ Oligarchy
❖ Government in which decisions are made solely from a small group of people that hold power
❖ NOT influenced by the people

❖ Examples:
❖ Venezuela
❖ China
❖ Soviet Union
❖ *Some say the U.S. is an oligarchy government, why would that be??*
Democracy

A system of government in which the power is shared by all the people

There are two kinds of **Democracies**...

Direct!

Representative!
Direct Democracy

❖ All citizens participate in government.

❖ There are no representatives in government: The citizens vote on everything!

❖ All citizens can create public policy if they want to.

❖ Example: Switzerland is the closest demonstration we have to a Direct Democracy in the world today.
Representative Democracy

❖ Like direct democracy, all citizens participate in government

❖ People elect representatives who vote on laws for the citizens

❖ Representatives are also usually held accountable by a constitution
Autocracy
A form of government in which political power is controlled by one individual such as a monarch, dictator, emperor, etc.

We’re going to talk about two kinds of autocracy...

Monarchs!

Dictators!
Monarchy

❖ Leaders usually gain their power because their parents were rulers too.

❖ Rule by kings, queens, princes, and princesses... sometimes by other names, but always MONARCHS!

❖ Some modern monarchies like Spain and Japan have constitutions.

❖ Absolute monarchies that exist today:
  ❖ Saudi Arabia
  ❖ Swaziland
Dictatorship

- In a dictatorship, power is not inherited, but is acquired by force (military or political).
- Dictators have absolute control over the lives of their citizens and usually people are not allowed to voice their negative opinions.
- North Korea’s leader Kim Jong-un is considered a dictator.
Theocracy

❖ “Theo” means “god” in Greek... so if a government is THEO-cratic that means it is ruled by a “higher power”

❖ Leaders (autocratic or oligarchic) are usually religious leaders and society uses religious law to settle its disputes

❖ Example: The Islamic Republic of Iran is a modern theocracy that uses the holy Islamic book, The Qur’an, as its guide.
Anarchy

- No government at all...
- In anarchy there is no government to make or enforce laws.
- Usually Anarchy is temporary with the intended purpose of installing a new type of government.
What kind of Government does the U.S. have?

- U.S. Government: Democracy
  - More specifically a Representative Democracy
  - Why? We vote on representatives who are to express our opinions and thoughts through their law making.
Sources

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