

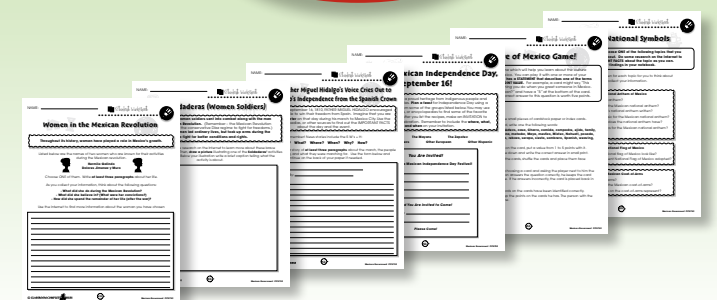
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# What Is Government?



1. Choose the correct word from the list below to fill each blank. You may use your dictionary to help you.

rights government power authority enforce legislate leader defend

- a) A \_\_\_\_\_ is the person or group of people who makes the rules or laws for everyone else in the country.
- b) A \_\_\_\_\_ is one who is in charge or in command of other people.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ are anything due to a person or government by law, tradition, or nature.
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ means to create or pass laws.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ is the power that people have the right to use because of custom, law, or consent of those being governed.
- f) To \_\_\_\_\_ something, you keep it safe from danger, attack, or harm.
- g) \_\_\_\_\_ is the ability to control someone or something.
- h) To \_\_\_\_\_ a law means to command obedience to it.

2. Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false.

- a) A system of government is necessary to keep order in society.  
True False
- b) A system of government is not necessary to protect its citizens' rights.  
True False
- c) People and countries sometimes have conflicts with each other.  
True False
- d) A leader of a country should not be concerned with the common good of its citizens.  
True False
- e) The government of a country has the authority to make rules for everyone else.  
True False



# What Is Government?

There are about 200 different nations in the world. Each one has some form of government. The **government** of a country is the person or group of people who make the rules or laws for everyone else. This person or group has the power or **authority** to make laws. Every country also has a **leader** or leaders who take charge and make plans for it and its people. In most countries, leaders are chosen by the people. However, in some countries leaders use force to take charge of the government. There are many different types of governments in the world.

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.

## Why Do We Need Governments?

What would happen if you and your friends were playing a game that had no rules? Each person could do or say whatever they wished. One player could take all the game pieces or even hurt everyone else. Without rules there would be no consequences. Now think about a country with no rules. This isn't a very pleasant thought, is it? Government is **necessary** to protect the **citizens** and their **rights** or privileges that are due them.

A government should **protect** or keep its citizens safe. A government that provides safety and well-being for its citizens is looking out for their **common good**. Members of a government should **legislate** or make, and **enforce** laws to make sure that the people are treated fairly and with dignity.

The governments of two or more countries may have **conflicts** or disagreements. Sometimes these disagreements are so serious that they lead to war between the countries.

**STOP** What do you think? Why does a country need laws? Name three laws that you would make if you were the government of a country.

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# What Is Government?



1. Fill in each blank with a term from the list. Some terms will be left over.

rights leader power authority legislate enforce  
protects government secure conflicts consent common good

- a) If you were forming a new country, one of your first jobs would be to make sure that all the people were safe and \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) A person or group of people who make the rules for everyone else in a country are called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) Governments provide a system of rules or laws for people to follow when they have disagreements or \_\_\_\_\_ with each other.
- d) The person with the most power in the government is called the country's \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) The government should work for the well-being of \_\_\_\_\_ of all of its citizens.
- f) Often the army \_\_\_\_\_ or keeps the other citizens from danger.

2. Suppose that you are asked to create a new country. What would you name it? What would be the first three laws that you believe should be passed?

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3. Sometimes two or more countries disagree so strongly that they begin to wage war against each other. What does "waging war" mean? Do you think that war should be the first solution that the leaders of countries try? Why or why not?

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Here are six writing tasks about the government of Mexico. Be sure to think about all that you have learned about the Mexican government as you write. Write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

**Task #1** Every country on earth has some kind of government even though all governments are not alike. All governments have leaders. What is the title of the person who leads the Mexican government? How is he or she selected?

**Task #2** Being the leader of a large country like Mexico is a very big task for anyone. What kind of qualities do you think the leader of the Mexican government should have? What kind of qualities do you think the leader of your country should have? Compare the qualities you have given for each leader. Give good reasons for your opinion.

**Task #3** Article 3 of the Mexican Constitution of 1917 states, "Every individual has the right to receive education." Why do you think the writers of the Constitution thought an education was so important?

**Task #4** All countries have problems which must be solved. Some of these problems are so serious that they are present in most countries (for example, homelessness). If you were president of the United Mexican States which three problems would you try to solve? What would you do to solve them?

**Task #5** The Mexican president has many powers. Think about what you have learned about the Mexican government and describe three of the powers the Mexican president has. What document gives him these powers?

**Task #6** The Constitution of 1917 states that slavery is forbidden in Mexico. What is slavery? What basic rights are taken away from a person who is a slave to another person or group of people?



# Crossword Puzzle!

**Word List**

balances	dictator
conflicts	judicial
candidate	protect
Hidalgo	branch
Senate	power
sexenio	anarchy
federation	vote
titles	

**Down**

- Chamber of the \_\_\_\_\_
- to forgive
- Another word for "might"
- An army should \_\_\_\_\_ the citizens
- A group of independent states
- Checks and \_\_\_\_\_
- One who has all the power and rules by force
- The Chamber of \_\_\_\_\_

**Across**

- Presidential term in Mexico
- Person or group of people who make the rules for everyone else
- Privileges due to a person because he lives in a particular place
- Sections of the Mexican Constitution
- Another word for disagreements or battles
- One division of government
- Miguel \_\_\_\_\_, Mexican patriot
- A form of government in which the people select the ones who govern them
- In a democracy, a citizen casts his \_\_\_\_\_ for president
- The branch of the Mexican government which makes sure that the laws are constitutional
- Having no government at all
- Judicial, Legislative and \_\_\_\_\_



# Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

- |              |              |           |           |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| leader       | democracy    | titles    | chambers  |
| citizens     | independence | branches  | publishes |
| rights       | hidalgo      | sexenio   | democracy |
| enforce      | sovereign    | checks    | elected   |
| anarchy      | mexico city  | veto      | political |
| monarchy     | federation   | pardon    | parties   |
| constitution | president    | authority | vote      |

c	h	e	c	k	s	a	b	s	r	e	b	n	a	h	a	c	d
m	i	l	k	j	t	i	h	g	f	e	r	d	c	b	u	z	y
n	d	o	p	q	h	i	n	o	a	r	a	p	r	s	t	u	v
d	a	c	b	a	g	z	t	y	w	n	v	u	t	h	r	q	
e	l	f	g	h	i	i	j	k	l	c	m	n	b	o	p	q	
r	g	s	p	o	r	n	m	l	s	k	h	j	i	h	r	e	a
a	o	e	d	f	g	t	e	w	a	s	e	n	m	u	i	i	n
e	v	i	i	b	o	i	n	e	x	e	s	e	n	e	t	l	s
m	n	t	s	y	t	u	b	v	e	j	q	k	b	e	y	l	i
h	o	r	n	o	e	l	k	r	y	c	a	r	c	o	m	e	d
t	r	a	e	r	v	o	t	e	p	o	r	y	k	r	j	a	w
w	i	p	z	l	m	e	x	i	c	o	c	i	t	y	y	d	c
s	n	v	i	p	e	y	r	d	s	a	q	w	e	h	r	e	o
b	d	e	t	y	q	c	u	e	j	w	b	e	e	c	o	r	n
w	e	g	i	n	k	t	s	i	z	x	p	a	r	t	e	s	
i	p	e	c	w	q	a	r	e	s	g	d	o	f	a	h	j	t
j	e	c	r	v	b	e	m	y	d	e	n	l	w	n	e	r	i
y	n	f	g	n	b	l	h	x	c	n	m	i	q	o	w	e	t
p	d	q	u	m	r	c	e	r	w	q	m	t	n	m	b	v	u
l	e	w	a	o	r	y	o	t	n	e	d	i	s	e	r	p	t
a	n	h	b	a	j	f	g	d	s	d	s	c	a	q	w	q	i
l	c	a	n	m	n	o	f	e	d	e	r	a	t	i	o	n	o
h	e	a	f	e	f	y	s	e	h	s	i	l	b	u	p	h	n



# Comprehension Quiz

## Part A



Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false. If it is false, rewrite the statement to make it correct.

- A government is the person or group who makes the rules for all the other citizens in a country.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- Governments are not necessary in all countries.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- Most governments in the Western Hemisphere are monarchies.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The Constitution of 1917 was written in order to set up a government for Mexico.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- In a country with popular sovereignty the citizens hold the highest power in the government.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The Institutional Revolutionary Party and the National Action Party are the two most popular political parties in Mexico.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The government of the United Mexican States is a representative monarchy.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The government of Mexico is divided into four branches.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- The Mexican president's advisors are called Secretaries of Senate.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_
- In Mexico, the right to introduce laws or decrees belongs to the deputies and senators of the Congress only.  
True False \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL: /10

## Maya Temple (Chichén Itzá, Mexico)





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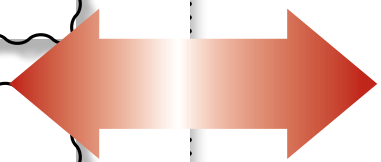
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Answers will vary

- Across:**
- sexenio
  - government
  - rights
  - Titles
  - conflicts
  - branch
  - Hidalgo
  - democracy
  - vote
  - judicial
  - anarchy
  - executive

- Down:**
- Senate
  - pardon
  - power
  - good
  - protect
  - federation
  - balances
  - dictator
  - Deputies
  - candidate



EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY

