

Guided Reading Activity

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Foundations of Government

Lesson 1 *Purposes and Origins of Government*

Review Questions

Directions: Read each main idea. Use your text to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A. Main Idea: Legitimate and functioning governments maintain order, protect people, and provide them with ways to settle disagreements fairly and peacefully.

1. **Detail:** Governments provide _____ by setting priorities and making decisions on behalf of the people.

2. **Detail:** Governments maintain _____ by placing limits on what individuals are permitted to do and by enforcing these limits.

3. **Detail:** Governments provide _____ such as schools, sewer systems, roads, and often the means of promoting public health and safety.

4. **Detail:** Governments provide for _____ in order to protect the people against attack by another country or by terrorists.

5. **Detail:** Governments provide _____ through trade deals, protection of national businesses, and economic policies.

6. **Detail:** Many governments provide _____ to people in need.

B. Main Idea: Although the terms *nation*, *country*, and *state* are sometimes used interchangeably, they have slightly different meanings.

1. **Detail:** A _____ is a sizable group of people who believe themselves united by common bonds of race, language, custom, or religion.

2. **Detail:** States and countries are political communities, each occupying a defined _____ and having an organized government.

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3. **Detail:** The four essential features of a state are _____, _____, _____, and _____.

C. Main Idea: Scholars have constructed four key theories to explain the origin of governments.

1. **Detail:** The _____ theory suggests that the state evolved from the family unit in order to provide more organization to extended families.

2. **Detail:** According to the _____ theory, states were created when leaders used their power to compel cooperation between people.

3. **Detail:** The _____ theory came from European monarchs who claimed that their right to rule came directly from God.

4. **Detail:** According to the _____ theory, governments are created when people surrender their freedom to the state in exchange for order and security.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the prompt below.

Identify the purposes of government. Explain which purposes would be most important to a government formed according to the force theory and which would be most important to a government formed under the social contract theory.

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Lesson 2 *Types of Government*

Review Questions

Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

I. Systems of Government

- A. In a _____ system of government, all key powers belong to the central government.
- B. In a _____ system of government, key powers belong to independent sovereign states.
- C. In a _____ system of government, the powers are divided between the national and state or provincial governments.

II. Constitutional Governments

- A. A _____ sets out shared ideals, establishes the basic structure, powers, and duties of government, and provides the supreme law for the country.
- B. A constitutional government is a _____ government because the constitution places clearly recognized boundaries on the powers of those who govern.

III. Major Types of Government

- A. Authoritarian governments are sometimes referred to as _____ states because the government has total control.
- B. In a _____, one person has great power, usually through inheritance.
- C. A _____ government derives its power from the consent and trust of the people, who rule either directly or through elected representatives.

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IV. Principles of Democracy

- A. A democracy depends on citizen participation in _____, which are regular, free, and fair, involve more than one party, and lead to a peaceful transfer of power.
- B. In a democracy, no one is above the law and the rights of the _____ are protected even though the majority rules.
- C. _____ and _____ assure that elected officials are held responsible for their actions and that people are aware of the actions their government is taking.
- D. A bill of rights, often attached to a country's _____, limits the power of government and explains the freedoms that are guaranteed to all people.
- E. Democratic governments often control the _____ of power by limiting the powers of government officials.
- F. Other principles of democracy include economic freedom, individual or _____ rights, and the concept that all individuals should be valued _____.
- G. In a democracy, the courts and the judicial system should be _____ and impartial.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the prompt below.

Identify the fourteen principles of democracy and explain why these would not be principles of an authoritarian government.

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Lesson 3 *The Role of Government in Economic Systems*

Review Questions

Directions: Locate each heading below in your text. Then use the information under the correct heading and subheading to help you write each answer.

I. Fundamentals of Economics

- A. What six factors are found in every type of economy?

- B. List the three key questions that must be answered by all economic systems.

- C. Identify the three categories for classifying economic systems by how they work.

II. Capitalism

- A. How does the term *laissez-faire* describe the role of government in capitalism?

- B. Identify the five characteristics of pure capitalism.

III. Mixed Economies

- A. What is a mixed economy?

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- B. What makes the economy of the United States a mixed economy rather than a pure capitalist economy?

IV. Socialism

- A. What is the goal of socialism?

- B. How is democratic socialism different from pure socialism?

V. Communism, a Command Economy

- A. Why is the economy under a communist system called a command economy?

- B. Summarize Karl Marx's basic theory about communism.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the prompt below.

Compare the role of the government in a mixed economy to the role of government in a socialist economy.

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