What kinds of rights do you think people should have? For example, you probably think that people have the right to be safe from burglars. There are a lot of other rights that many people think we should have, too. That is why we need to have a government. Governments are there to protect the rights of citizens. In return, citizens support the government by paying taxes and obeying laws, and some serve in the armed forces. There are many different kinds of governments. One of them is the republic, which is the kind of government the United States has. In a republic, citizens elect people to represent them. Those representatives make laws that protect the citizens. In a republic, citizens do not vote on laws, but elect people to make and vote on laws.

1. According to this text, why do we need to have a government?
   A. to protect the rights of citizens
   B. to pay taxes and obey laws
   C. to serve in the military
   D. to give people what they want

2. Which is not something citizens do to support the government?
   A. pay taxes
   B. obey laws
   C. serve in the military
   D. make laws

3. Which word is defined as a person who lives in a state or country?
   A. representative
   B. republic
   C. law
   D. citizen

4. Which noun below can also be used as a verb?
   A. government
   B. republic
   C. support
   D. citizens

5. What is the meaning of the phrase in return?
   A. as a favor
   B. instead of
   C. in exchange
   D. most of the time
There are many other kinds of governments besides republics. One of them is the monarchy. A monarchy is a government that is run by a ruler, often a king or a queen. The monarchy is one of the oldest forms of government. Many ancient people were ruled by monarchs. For example, in ancient Egypt, the monarch was called the Pharaoh (FAIR-oh). China and Japan had monarchs for a very long time, too. Some monarchies still exist today. For example, both England and Spain have monarchs. For many centuries, monarchs made all the decisions, and they could do whatever they wanted. But that is not true today. Today’s monarchs usually do not have the last word when it comes to making decisions. The decisions are made by a group of representatives. The monarch still has some power, but it is shared with others.

1. What is this text mostly about?
   - A China
   - B representatives
   - C Japan
   - D monarchies

2. Which statement is true about monarchies?
   - A In a monarchy, the government is run by a ruler.
   - B There are no more monarchies.
   - C The monarchy is a brand-new form of government.
   - D Monarchies were not common in ancient times.

3. Which word is a synonym for monarch?
   - A country
   - B government
   - C ruler
   - D power

4. The root cent means 100. The noun centuries probably means
   - A hundreds of days
   - B hundreds of years
   - C thousands of days
   - D thousands of years

5. What does the phrase to have the last word mean?
   - A to make the decision
   - B to say something last
   - C to have no power
   - D to stand behind everyone else
Sometimes, a government is run by a small group of people. That form of government is called an oligarchy. The people who run an oligarchy are all members of the same group. They are not elected to office. Instead, they hold power because they belong to that particular group. Some oligarchies are run by the very wealthy. Some are run by the members of a ruling family. Sometimes, they are run by members of one political party. There have been many oligarchies in history. For example, the kingdom of Sparta was a city-state in ancient Greece. It was run by an oligarchy. The ruling class of Sparta had all of the power and made all of the decisions. Ordinary people did not vote. The Soviet Union lasted from 1917 to 1991; it was also an oligarchy. Only members of the Communist Party could hold office. There have been other oligarchies, too.

1. Why are the people who run an oligarchy in charge?
   A. The people elect them.
   B. They are members of the same group.
   C. They do not want to be in charge.
   D. They know how to run a government.

2. Which is a fact about an oligarchy?
   A. A king or queen makes all of the decisions.
   B. Anyone may be elected.
   C. Ordinary people do not vote.
   D. There is no government.

3. The root arch means chief in oligarchy. What does the root oli– mean?
   A. many
   B. few
   C. the study of
   D. universe

4. Which word from the text is an adjective?
   A. wealthy
   B. party
   C. oligarchy
   D. member

5. What is the tone of the text?
   A. informative
   B. silly
   C. persuasive
   D. serious
WHO’S IN CHARGE?

For as long as people have lived in groups, they have had leaders. And when people began to live in cities, they began to create governments. Governments do several things for people. A government helps to protect people’s rights and keep the peace. Governments also protect the borders of the countries they serve. They also provide things such as education, highways, and mail service. People cannot easily provide those things for themselves. So the government provides them. In return, people pay taxes, obey laws, and support the government.

People have tried many different forms of government. For example, one of the earliest forms of government was the monarchy. In a monarchy, a ruler, usually a king or queen, is in charge. For many years, monarchs had all of the power. They made all of the decisions. Those monarchies are called absolute monarchies. There are still monarchies today. But the rulers cannot do whatever they want. Today, most monarchs share power. They work with a group of elected representatives. The people vote for the members of that group. These monarchies are called constitutional monarchies. England and Spain are constitutional monarchies.

People have also been ruled by oligarchies. In an oligarchy, the government is run by a small group. Some are run by the wealthy, and others are run by members of a ruling family. Still others are run by members of the same political party. In many oligarchies, the people do not vote. The people who run the government are in charge because they are members of a particular group.

Today, people want a voice in their government, and they want to be able to vote. So many governments are run by people who are elected to office. For example, many governments are republics. In a republic, the people vote, but they do not directly vote on laws. They vote for representatives. Then, those representatives make laws and vote on those laws. The United States is a republic. France, Israel, and Ireland are also republics.

As you can see, there are many different kinds of governments. Which government do you think works best?
Read "Who's In Charge?" and then answer the questions.

**1.** If a reader doesn't remember what an oligarchy is, what could he or she do?

- A Review the title and the picture.
- B Reread the paragraph that has that word in it.
- C Say the word out loud.
- D Write the word a few times.

**2.** How is an absolute monarchy different from an oligarchy?

- A An absolute monarchy is run by a small group.
- B An absolute monarchy is very large.
- C An absolute monarchy is run by one ruler.
- D An absolute monarchy is elected by the people.

**3.** What might happen if there were no government?

- A People would pay taxes.
- B People would not be as safe.
- C There would be new highways.
- D People would vote in elections.

**4.** People who like to vote would like what form of government?

- A a republic
- B an oligarchy
- C an absolute monarchy
- D a king or queen

**5.** What is a purpose for reading this text?

- A to learn about different kinds of government
- B to learn how to vote
- C to read a personal story
- D to learn about a visit to England

**6.** How do absolute monarchs most likely feel about people who vote?

- A They want to teach them to vote.
- B They want them to vote.
- C They do not want them to vote.
- D They encourage them to vote.

**7.** What is something that the many different types of government have in common?

- A They have a queen or king.
- B All the citizens can vote.
- C They have nothing in common.
- D They protect their citizens and keep peace.

**8.** Why do you think many monarchies are now constitutional monarchies?

- A The people want a king or a queen.
- B Rulers do not want to share power.
- C Rulers want to share power.
- D The people want a voice.
Reread “Who’s In Charge?” Then, read the prompt and respond on the lines below.

If you could design a government, what would it be like? Write about the government you would have.

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