**Government Extra Study Packet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What is the purpose of government?**

Government

1. I can explain the purpose of government
2. I can identify each of the following for dictatorship, monarchy, constitutional monarchy, & democracy:

* Leader
* Citizens’ rights/ participation
* Characteristics
* Division of power
* Philosophy (belief)

1. I can explain theocracy

**Democracy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Democracy |  |
| constitution |  |
| Bill of Rights |  |
| bill |  |
| liberty |  |
| right |  |
| responsibility |  |

A democracy is a government **run by the people**. Citizens hold power and participate in the government by **voting and representation**. Voting is a responsibility of each citizen. The leader, a p**resident**, is **elected by the people** and has a limited time of service, often four years. In the United States, a president can be reelected to serve a total of eight years. The **Constitution** provides an outline of how the government should be run. The government is divided into different branches to balance the power. These branches are the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. Officials in the different branches are also elected by the people. These officials represent the citizens. Government is also divided into different levels, which include federal, state, and local.

A democracy provides citizens with unlimited rights and **protects the rights of all citizens**. Some of the rights include freedom of speech, press, religion, and much more, as outlined in the Constitution. Any citizen has the right to introduce a bill into law. Long discussions take place in a democracy between government officials to make decisions. Change does not happen quickly. Many democracies (the U.S.) are indirect, meaning the representatives vote on most issues since every citizen can’t vote on every issue because of time. Almost any legal, adult citizen can run for a government office. People can own businesses, speak their minds, and do not live in fear in a democracy. The United States, India, and Japan are examples of democratic governments.

**Monarchy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monarchy |  |
| inherited (power) |  |

The leader of a monarchy is chosen by **birth rights through inheritance**. This leader is the *one* representative for all of the people. When he dies, his power passes to his children. A monarch believes that **God tells him what is best for his people**, and he is carrying out God’s will. A monarchy can make quick decisions, like a dictatorship, because only one person is making decisions; not having to discuss or disagree with other government officials. In a monarchy, people live as a whole group and move toward one common goal. The direction of the monarchy does not change, as in a democracy, when a new leader is voted in. Leadership does not change often. Usually, **citizens do not have a voice in the government and have limited right**s in a monarchy.

**Constitutional Monarchy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Constitutional monarchy |  |

A constitutional monarchy is led by a **prime minister**, who can be compared to our president and heads the executive branch of government. He or she is **elected** by the citizens and serves four to five years. There is also a Parliament, much like our Congress, which balances the power. The peoples’ rights are protected by the constitution, **having equal rights and freedoms of speech and religion**, with the ability to advance economically. The reason this government is called a constitutional monarchy is because there is an allegiance to a **king or queen who does not have much power**, and there is a written **constitution** that explains all of the workings of the government. The queen or king inherits that position. The position is mainly for historical or ceremonial reasons, and has little to do with the decisions of the government. Canada and Great Britain are examples of constitutional monarchies.

**Dictatorship**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dictatorship |  |
| dictator |  |
| seize (power) |  |

A dictatorship is a government where the leader **seizes control** by fighting to get to the top. He either kills or threatens the previous dictator. Dictators have total control of the people, called **absolute power**, with no one challenging his decisions or actions without punishment. Those who challenge his actions will often be killed or tortured in public as an example for others. There is not a limited length of time for the dictator. He will remain in power until someone else seizes control by force. Some dictatorships will offer **limited elections, but the candidates are only ones that the dictator has chosen**, therefore the government does not change and continues the same philosophy of that dictator. The philosophy of a dictator is that all people have the same opportunity (no rights) and allows the government to make all of the decisions, believing many citizens are not informed. **People do not have a voice in the government**, and **live in fear** with limited opportunity to advance economically. A well-known dictator was Saddam Hussein who ruled over Iraq for thirty years before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. Hussein was accused and found guilty in an Iraq court of law of terrorizing and murdering hundreds of thousands of his own people, and he was put to death by hanging. Cuba is also a dictatorship, with Fidel Castro as dictator. Recently, Gaddafi, a long-time Libyan dictator, was overthrown by his people and killed.

**Theocracy**

Theocracy is a form of government where religion is the basis of the political system. God himself is recognized as the head of the state and superior to all. This form of government originated in the first century A.D. and is not new. The term theocracy is a new label that is now being applied to governments run by the direction of God, even going back to those of ancient times. For example in the times of ancient Egypt, their government was influenced by the gods and the pharaoh, who was considered a god himself. The Mayan and Incas had governments that also fit this definition. Today in the 21st century, Islamic states ruled by Sharia law are examples of theocracy. Iran follows strict religious law. The Vatican City in Rome, the Catholic center of the world, is ruled by the Pope who has sovereign power over the 800 people that live there. In conclusion, theocracy is a political system based on religion.