

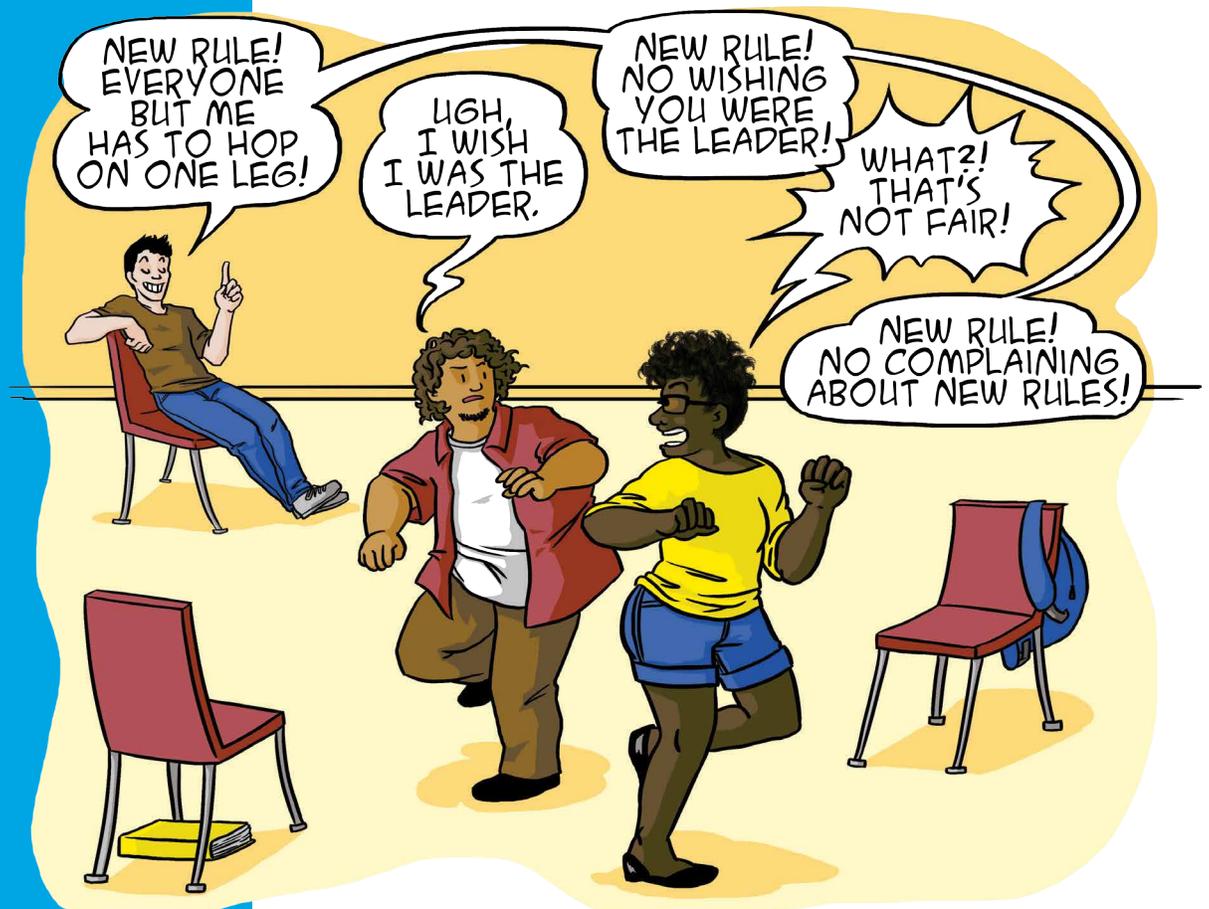
ACTIVITY!

Inquire &
Investigate

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

What would your life be like if you were ruled by someone who didn't follow the rules or made up their own rules? Here's your chance to find out!

- **Have everyone in the classroom or in your family put their names on slips of paper.** Collect them all in a bowl or jar. Have one person randomly choose a name from the jar. That person is now the leader.



ACTIVITY!

- **For a specific period of time, such as one class period or even an entire day, the leader makes all the rules for the entire group.** He or she decides how things are done, who does them, and who can and can't participate in activities. The only limitation, unlike in some totalitarian countries, is that the leader can't make anyone do anything that might be dangerous or harmful.
- **The leader should try to set some rules or create situations where other students are forced to do something they object to.** For example, all people with a certain hair or eye color have to clean the classroom, or people wearing a certain color of clothing can sit and have their lunches brought to them by other kids. Does this sound fair? Why or why not?
- **The next day, everyone evaluates the leader.** Discuss what it was like to be ruled by someone chosen randomly who wasn't obligated to follow certain procedures or be fair and equal, as a teacher or parent would have been. What if this person had been a bully or was really mean? What if this person only had his or her own interests in mind? What if your parents or your teacher did whatever this person wanted? How might this compare to living in a country ruled by a dictator or a totalitarian regime?

To investigate more, write a letter in protest of the leader's actions. Explain why you didn't like being ruled over by this person. Would this letter make a difference in a dictatorship? What about in a democracy?



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CIVIC LESSON

In China, incidents of civic unrest are called *mass frustration*.

