Explore Different Types of Government

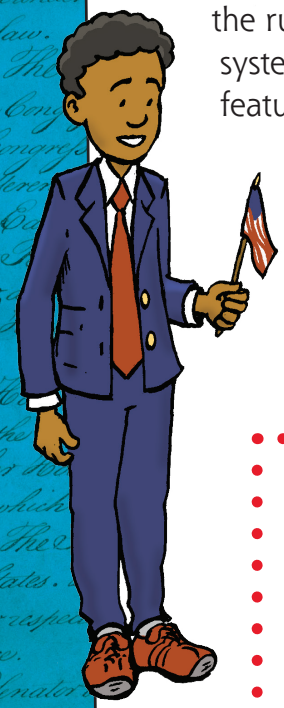
IDEAS FOR SUPPLIES

students in a classroom or members of a family

Every form of government has key features and characteristics that define it. For example, in a democracy, the citizens vote on laws and policies, but in a totalitarian country, the ruling party makes all decisions about public and private life. In this activity, you will explore how different forms of government would impact your classroom or family.

1 Divide the students or family members into groups. Assign each group a form of government: democracy, monarchy, dictatorship, oligarchy.

2 Each group designs a set of rules for the classroom or family based on their system of government. For example, an oligarchy might have two or three people making laws and deciding who has to follow them.



3 Have each group role play and present the rules that they have designed for their system of government. What are the key features of each type of government? How do these features appear in the group's rules? What are the benefits and drawbacks of each type of government? Did any form of government feel more fair than the others? Did any feel unfair?

EXPLORE MORE: Hold an imaginary summit meeting among all the government types to discuss the issue of climate change. What kinds of ideas might each group have? What kind of guidelines might the groups have to establish to be productive?

ACTIVITY

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