

LESSON TWELVE

Core Learning Goal: 2

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the history, diversity, and commonality of the peoples of the nation and world, the reality of human interdependence, and the need for global cooperation, through a perspective that is both historical and multicultural.

Expectation: 2

The student will compare and evaluate the effectiveness of the United States system of government with various other political systems.

Indicator 2.2.1

The student will analyze the advantages and disadvantages of various types of governments throughout the world.

Assessment Limits:

? ***Types of political systems from democratic to authoritarian***

? *Forms of government: confederation, federal, unitary*

Overview:

This lesson focuses on comparing political systems. Students should have previously learned about the characteristics of various types of governments. Students will also need prior knowledge of United States democracy, specifically “consent of the governed” and “rule of law.”

Lesson Objectives:

Students will research the political systems of other nations.

Students will compare the United States’ system with other political systems.

Materials:

Student Handout: ***Comparison Chart***

Student Handout: ***Types of Government Project***

Library Resources: encyclopedias, almanacs

Student Handout: ***Political Systems: Advantages and Disadvantages***

Useful on-line resources:

Encarta

www.infoplease.com

Library of Congress online

Procedures:

1. Have students create a list of the various political systems and their characteristics.
2. Distribute the handout **Comparison Chart**. Review the terms “consent of the governed” and “rule of law.” Have students complete only the United States column of the chart on their own. Review their answers.
3. Divide students into groups. Explain that each group will research one foreign country’s political system. Distribute the handout **Types of Government Project**. Tell groups that their final product will be an oral presentation in which they will teach about their nation’s government. The oral presentation must be accompanied by a visual: a map, picture of the leader, flag, or symbol.

Review the grading criteria. Assign countries so students will learn about a variety of political systems. For example:

China/Cuba – oligarchy	Jordan/Saudi Arabia - monarchy
Libya/Iraq – dictatorship	Britain/Canada - parliamentary

4. During the oral presentations, have all students complete the **Comparison Chart**. Add columns depending on the number of countries assigned. Conduct a debriefing after each presentation to ensure that students have accurate information.
5. Assign one student from each country to a new group. Have the students complete the handout **Advantages and Disadvantages**. Discuss their conclusions.

Assessment of Indicator:

Have students answer this Brief Constructed Response item:

“Democracy is the worst form of government on earth except for all the rest.”

Winston Churchill

- ? Explain the meaning of the quote.
- ? Do you agree or disagree with the author of the quote? Explain why.
- ? Give details and examples to support your answer.

Use the Social Studies Rubric to score student responses.

Comparison Chart

Directions:

Complete the column describing the political system in the United States. The teacher will give you directions for the rest of the chart later.

Country	United States			
Type of Government				
How are leaders selected?				
Is there consent of the governed?				
Is there a peaceful way to change government?				
Do they follow the rule of law?				

Political Systems: Advantages and Disadvantages

Directions:

In your group, brainstorm a list of advantages and disadvantages for each political system. Each member of the group can contribute ideas about a different country's government.

Type of Government	Advantages	Disadvantages
Representative Democracy (Presidential)		
Representative Democracy (Parliamentary)		
Monarchy		
Dictatorship		
Oligarchy		

Types of Government Project

Your group will complete a project describing one country's government. Begin by answering the questions below. To answer these questions, research the type of government of your assigned country. When your research is completed, divide up the information so that everyone participates in your group's oral presentation to the class. You will lose points if each person does not have a speaking part. Include a visual to illustrate something about the country. This may be a drawing of the current leader, a map, or something that symbolizes the government.

COUNTRY ASSIGNED: _____

1. What type of government does the country have? (for example: dictatorship, monarchy, oligarchy)
2. How are the leaders of the country selected? What title(s) are they given?
3. Is consent of the governed an important principle in this country? How do you know?
4. Is there a peaceful way to change the government?
5. Do government leaders follow the rule of law? Explain.

Sample Grading Criteria

Presentation skills: Volume, Clarity, Eye Contact	5 pts	_____
Answered each question correctly (3 pts per question)	15 pts	_____
Visual aid	10 pts	_____
Ability to work together as a group	10 pts	_____