

1. What Is a Republic? | Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Civilization Set Up: Government Profile

Government Type: _____

Civilization Name (have fun!): _____

Who has power?

How are decisions made? (write 2-3 bullet points):

- _____
- _____
- _____

What freedoms do people have? (write 2-3 bullet points):

- _____
- _____
- _____

How dangerous is this government if power is abused? (color in the meter and explain in the space provided.)

Safe ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Dangerous



America's Republic

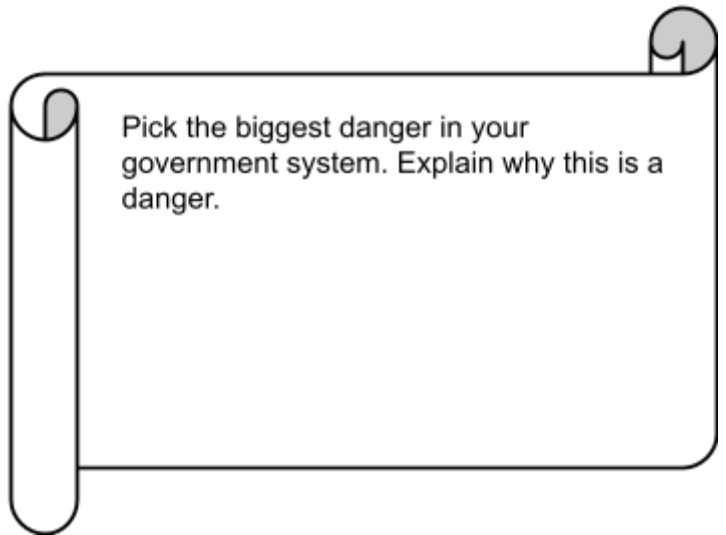
Who has the power?

What limits power?

How does the system stop tyranny?

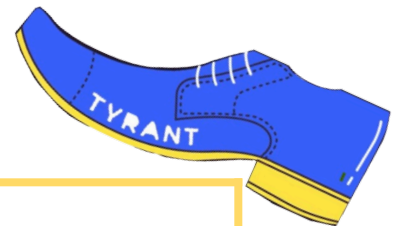


Scan to watch episode:



Republic vs. Other Governments Comic Panel

Draw a comic showing how things can go wrong in the first strip.
Draw a comic showing what works better in the second strip.



How Things Can Go Wrong

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How a Republic Works Better

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Comprehension Questions

1. When did America declare its independence from Britain?

2. List 3 Founders mentioned in the video.

3. Why isn't anarchy true freedom?

4. Describe a republic and explain why the Founders wanted one.

5. What did the Founders believe too much power did?

6. Explain the solution to the pie example in your own words.

7. What three branches of government did the Founders develop? Simply list for now (they will be covered in depth later).

8. Why do you think Benjamin Franklin said that we would "have a republic – if we can keep it"?

Answer Key | What Is a Republic?

Box 1: Civilization Set Up: Government Profile

Answers will vary by group. Grade for understanding. *(Use this to check student responses against the intended model.)*

Dictatorship Power: One ruler Decisions: Made quickly by the dictator Freedoms: Very limited or none Key issue to look for: Unchecked power, fear, punishment for disagreement
Absolute Monarchy Power: One king or queen (inherited) Decisions: Made by the monarch Freedoms: Depend on the ruler's personality Key issue to look for: No limits on ruler's authority; people have no choice in leadership
Oligarchy Power: Small group of wealthy or powerful people Decisions: Made by elites for their own benefit Freedoms: Limited for ordinary people Key issue to look for: Laws benefit a few, not everyone
Theocracy Power: Religious leaders Decisions: Based on religious rules Freedoms: Limited for people with different beliefs Key issue to look for: Lack of religious freedom; minority rights not protected
Communist Government Power: Central government leaders Decisions: Controlled by the state Freedoms: Limited personal choice; little or no dissent Key issue to look for: Government controls most of life; disagreement not allowed
Direct Democracy Power: All citizens (majority rule) Decisions: Everyone votes on every law Freedoms: Majority rules; minorities may be mistreated Key issue to look for: No protections for minority rights; slow decision-making

Box 2: America's Republic

Who has the power: The people hold power by electing representatives to make laws and govern.

What limits power: The Constitution limits what the government can do, and power is divided among different branches.

How does the system stop tyranny? By separating power into branches with checks and balances so no one person or group can control everything.

Section 3: Speech Bubble and Scroll

Answers will vary.

Mark correct if the response shows understanding that:

- some forms of government allow too much power in one place, and
- the Founders believed good government limits power to protect freedom and prevent tyranny.

Section 4: Republic vs. Other Governments Comic Strips

Answers will vary.

- **How Things Go Wrong:** Mark correct if the drawing shows at least one of the following:
 - Abuse of power
 - Unfair or cruel laws
 - Silencing disagreements
 - Chaos or conflict
 - Rights being ignored
- **How a Republic Works Better:** Mark correct if the drawing shows at least one of the following:
 - Elected representatives
 - Rules written in a Constitution
 - Power being limited or checked
 - Fairer treatment of citizens
 - Peaceful change or stability

Comprehension Questions | Answers

1. When did America declare its independence from Britain? 1776
2. List 3 Founders mentioned in the video.
George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton
3. Why isn't anarchy true freedom?
Sample correct answer: Anarchy is not true freedom because without laws or government, people cannot be protected, and stronger people can take advantage of others. Without order, rights are not safe.
Look for: "no rules/no authority," "no protection," "chaos/unfairness," or "rights aren't secure."
4. Describe a republic and explain why the Founders wanted one.
Sample correct answer: A republic is a system of government in which citizens elect representatives to make laws under a constitution. The Founders wanted a republic because it limits power, prevents tyranny, and protects people's rights and freedom.
Look for: "elected representatives," "constitution," and "limits power/prevents tyranny."
5. What did the Founders believe too much power did?
Answer: Too much power **corrupts** / leads to **abuse** / leads to **tyranny**.

Accept: corrupts, abuses people, creates tyranny, harms freedom.

6. Explain the solution to the pie example in your own words.

Sample correct answer:

Power should be divided so that one person cannot make rules, enforce rules, and judge disputes all at the same time. When different people/parts share power, they can stop each other from abusing it.

Look for: "divide power," "more than one person/branch," "stop cheating/abuse," "checks."

7. What three branches of government did the Founders develop? Simply list for now (they will be covered in depth later).

Legislative, Executive, Judicial

8. Why do you think Benjamin Franklin said that we would "have a republic – if we can keep it"?

Sample correct answer: A republic can only last if citizens protect it by paying attention, following the Constitution, and choosing leaders wisely. People must participate and stop power from being abused.

Look for: "citizens must protect it," "pay attention," "participate/vote," "stop tyranny."