

**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?  
\_\_\_\_\_
**CHECKS &  
BALANCES**


Scan to watch episode:

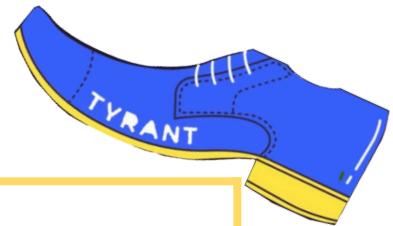
What kind of government would you want to live in? Explain why.

Pick the biggest danger in your government system. Explain why this is a danger.

### 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



#### How a Republic Works Better



## Comprehension Questions

1. When did America declare its independence from Britain?

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2. List 3 Founders mentioned in the video.

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3. Why isn't anarchy true freedom?

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

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

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

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

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

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## 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.)

<b>Dictatorship</b> 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
<b>Absolute Monarchy</b> 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
<b>Oligarchy</b> 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
<b>Theocracy</b> 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
<b>Communist Government</b> 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
<b>Direct Democracy</b> 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."