

LESSON PLAN 1:

NATIONS & STATES. SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT.

(POWER & ORGANISATION)

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FOUNDATION**

**TIME: 1 HOUR 30 MIN
FACILITATED BY: TASNEEM &
LESEGO**



OBJECTIVE:

To introduce and give a better understanding of the systems of government and how they work.



VOCABULARY:

SOURCE: Civics Academy, Unifrog

WHAT MAKES UP A STATE?

A state or province is defined by:

- A defined territory/piece of land.
- A population.
- A governing system.
- Forms part among other states/provinces in a country.



STATE:

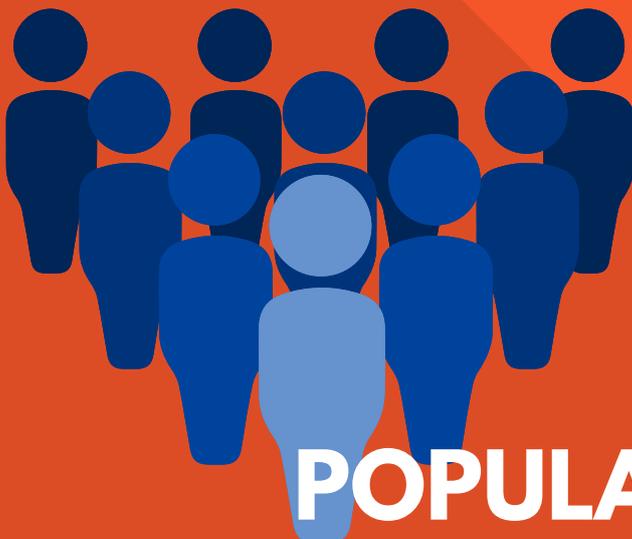


GOVERNMENT

PIECE OF LAND



FORMS PART AMONG
OTHER PROVINCES THAT
MAKE UP OUR COUNTRY



POPULATION

ACTIVITY 1:

Think about the different provinces in South Africa.

List each of the provinces and name the ruling governing provincial party in these provinces.



WHAT MAKES UP A NATION?

A nation is a stable community of people formed on the basis of a common language, territory, history, ethnicity, struggle, or psychological make-up manifested in a common culture of various people in the nation/country.



NATION:



LANGUAGE



HISTORY



ETHNICITY



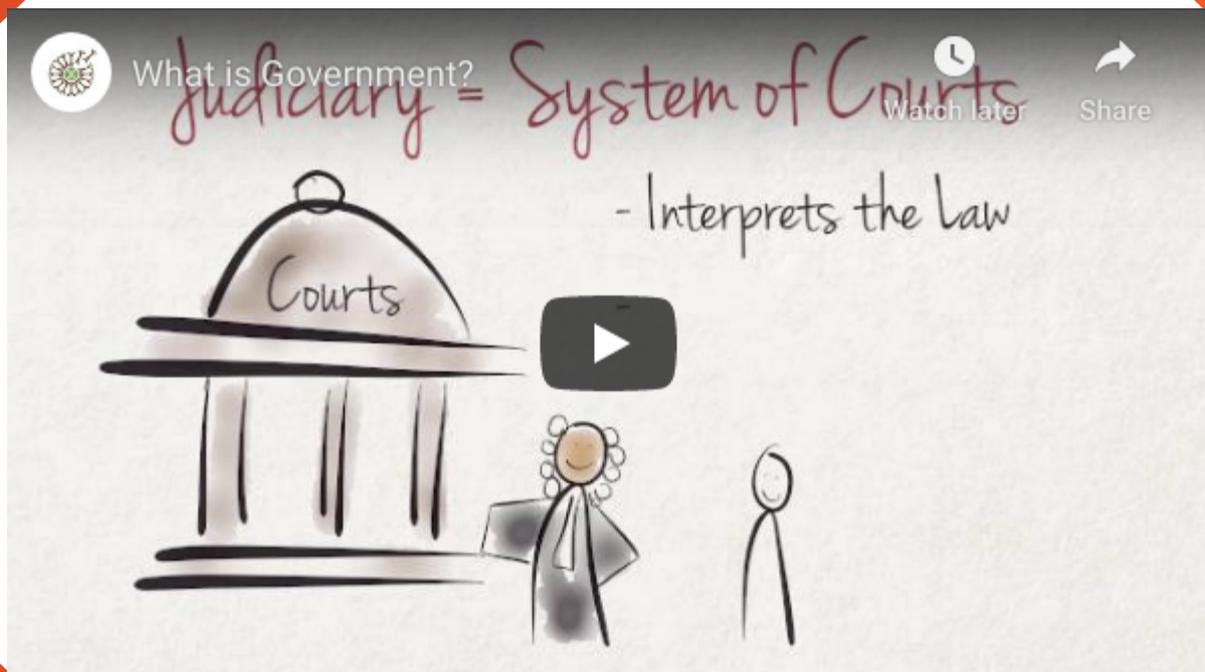
TERRITORY

ACTIVITY 2:

Create a fun and colorful poster or collage of the things that you think make up South Africa as a whole, from people, to culture, languages and struggles etc.



HOW ARE GOVERNMENTS STRUCTURED/FORMED?



TYPES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS:

- **Monarchy** - Rule of one. Traditionally a king or emperor, but in modern times this usually describes a dictator.
- **Dictatorship** - a form of government in which a ruler or small clique wield absolute power (not restricted by a constitution or laws).

TYPES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS:

- **Anarchy** - a condition of lawlessness or political disorder brought about by the absence of governmental authority.
- **Republic** - a representative democracy in which the people's elected deputies (representatives), not the people themselves, vote on legislation.

SOCIALISM:

Socialism - a government in which the means of planning, producing and distributing goods is controlled by a central government that theoretically seeks a more just and equitable distribution of property and labor; in actuality, most socialist governments have ended up being no more than dictatorships over workers by a ruling elite.

COMMUNISM:

Communism - a system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single -- often authoritarian -- party holds power; state controls are imposed with the elimination of private ownership of property or capital while claiming to make progress toward a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people (i.e., a classless society).

CAPITALISM:

Capitalism - refers to an economic system in which a society's means of production are held by private individuals or organizations, not the government, and where products, prices, and the distribution of goods are determined mainly by competition in a free market.

DEMOCRACY:

Democracy - a form of government in which the supreme power is retained by the people, but which is usually exercised indirectly through a system of representation and delegated authority periodically renewed (elections).

WHY IS A DEMOCRACY IMPORTANT?

- **Protecting the interests of citizens.** People get the chance to vote on the key issues affecting their country or can elect representatives to make these decisions.
- **Promoting equality.** One principle of democracy is that all people are equal in the eyes of the law, and every person gets a vote.

WHY IS A DEMOCRACY IMPORTANT?

- **Preventing abuse of power.** In democracies, people in authority are usually elected by people who vote them in. They are therefore responsible for carrying out the will of those who elected them. If they misuse their position, they won't be re-elected.
- **Creating stability.** Democracies have rules and laws that provide stability and protect human rights (see our guide on Understanding human rights to find out more). Democratic governments have time to make changes that are in the interests of everyone.

ACTIVITY 3:

According to each of the different types of governments described above, list both a pro and con for each of them had you been living under a governing party of such.

Thereafter, write down a short paragraph on why a democratic government is important to YOU.