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**Teaching with Webquests**

**Theme**: Regions and People of the Eastern Hemisphere

**Strand**: Government

**Topic**: Roles and Systems of Government

**Content Statement #10:** Governments can be categorized as monarchies, theocracies, dictatorships, or democracies, but categories may overlap and labels may not accurately represent how governments function. The extent of citizens’ liberties and responsibilities varies according to limits on governmental authority.

**Background Knowledge**

A government can be described as a group of people that governs a group of people. A democracy is a type of government where the power of those in authority is limited because the people hold the highest power; they have the ability to vote. An example of this type of government would be the United States. A dictatorship is a type of government where one single leader or a small group holds absolute power, often through force. An example of this type of government would be North Korea. A Monarchy is a government in which authority over people is retained through a tradition of allegiance. An example of this type of government would be Saudi Arabia. The last type of government that will be discussed is a Theocracy. A Theocracy is a government in which authority over the people is help by religious leaders who represent divine power and gain authority through their religious beliefs. AN example of this type of government would be Iran.

*Types of Government*. BBC Newsroom. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/find_out/guides/world/united_nations/types_of_government/newsid_2151000/2151570.stm>

Descriptions of Governments, http://stutzfamily.com/mrstutz/WorldAffairs/typesofgovt.html

Webquest -- Forms of Government, http://www.stjoanofarc.org/school/grade7/government/govquest.htm

**Webquest Features**

Introduction

Students will learn about the many forms of government around the world. They will get to focus on one type of government themselves and they will learn about the other types from their classmates’ research.

\*Essential Question: What are the main differences between the types of governments of the world?

Task

Day 1

Each group member will be in charge of researching one specific type of government.

Day 2

Together the group will create a multimedia presentation to present to the rest of the class.

Process

Use online resources to answer the following questions:

\*What characteristics does this style of government have?

\*Who has the authority in the country?

\*How are the leaders chosen?

\*Is there a peaceful way to replace the leaders?

\*Do the leaders have to follow the same laws as everyone else?

\*What are some examples of this type of government? (This may be nations, but it could also be parts of a country, like the New England town meetings for democracy.)

\*What does this government look like in each country? How is it the same or different between the examples?

\*What are some of the advantages of this type of government? What are some of the disadvantages?

\*What other interesting things did you discover about this type of government?

(Answer these questions on the graphic organizer provided)

Evaluation

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| Section 1:  Accurate and in-depth research of government completed (4 Points)  Accurate research of government completed (3 Points)  Not always accurate research of government completed (2 Points)  Inaccurate research of government completed (1 Point)  Section 2:  Collaborates and works as a team player all of the time (4 Points)  Collaborates and works as a team player often (3 Points)  Collaborates occasionally (2 Points)  Has a hard time working in a group (1 Point)  Section 3:  Flawless presentation (4 Points)  Average presentation (3 Points)  Below average presentation (2 Points)  Poor presentation (1 Point)  Section 4:  Accurate and in-depth reflection (4 Points)  Accurate reflection (3 Points)  Reflection is missing information (2 Points)  No reflection turned in (1 Point)  TOTAL POINTS:       /16 |

Conclusion

After the presentations have been completed, write a one-page reflection on what has been presented in the past two days. You may answer the following questions:

\*What is the most significant thing you learned?

\*What did you find interesting?

\*What do you still have questions about?

\*Is there anything else you would like to share?