

Who Holds Power?

Compare monarchy and representative government in early colonies.

5.13.A “compare the systems of government of early European colonists, including representative government and monarchy; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show a monarch or appointed official holding power. Circle details that show colonists electing representatives or having a voice in government.

Colonial Choices

- ① In the 1600s, European countries claimed land in North America. Colonists brought ideas about government from their home countries. England was a monarchy, so a king or queen held the highest power. Spain and France were also monarchies. Their rulers appointed officials to govern distant colonies, and colonists usually had little say in major decisions.
- ② Some English colonies used representative government alongside the monarchy. In Virginia, qualified male colonists elected members of the House of Burgesses, which began in 1619. These representatives helped make local laws and decisions about taxes. The English king still had authority over the colony, but the assembly gave some colonists a voice in local government there.
- ③ In Spanish and French colonies, governors and other officials answered mainly to monarchs in Europe. Colonists might serve on local councils, but these councils did not have the same elected lawmaking role as Virginia's assembly. Both systems had rules and leaders. The key difference was who chose decision makers: monarchs appointed officials, while eligible Virginia colonists elected representatives.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

Which European countries does the passage name as monarchies, and how did their rulers govern distant colonies?

2

How did the House of Burgesses give some Virginia colonists a role in government? What power did the English king still keep?

3

What was the key difference between the way monarchies and Virginia's representative government chose decision makers?

4

Which system gave some colonists more of a voice in local government? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent one rule for a fictional colony under a monarchy and one rule for a fictional colony with representative government. For each system, explain who makes the decision and how colonists can influence it.

GOVERNMENT SYSTEM	RULE AND DECISION MAKER	COLONISTS' INFLUENCE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show a monarch or appointed official holding power. Circle details that show colonists electing representatives or having a voice in government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which European countries does the passage name as monarchies, and how did their rulers govern distant colonies?	England, Spain, and France were monarchies. Their rulers appointed officials to govern colonies.
2	How did the House of Burgesses give some Virginia colonists a role in government? What power did the English king still keep?	Qualified male colonists elected Burgesses, who helped make local laws and tax decisions. The English king still had authority over Virginia.
3	What was the key difference between the way monarchies and Virginia's representative government chose decision makers?	Monarchs appointed officials, while eligible Virginia colonists elected representatives.
4	Which system gave some colonists more of a voice in local government? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.	Virginia's representative government gave some colonists more of a voice because qualified male colonists elected members of the House of Burgesses.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GOVERNMENT SYSTEM	RULE AND DECISION MAKER	COLONISTS' INFLUENCE
Monarchy	The king appoints a governor who sets a grain tax.	Colonists cannot vote for the governor or the tax rule.
Representative government	Eligible colonists elect assembly members who vote on a school tax.	Colonists can vote for representatives who help make the rule.

Accept reasonable fictional rules that correctly show appointed authority in a monarchy and elected representatives in representative government. Colonist influence should match each system, with less direct influence under monarchy and voting for representatives under representative government.