

Who Holds Power?

Read evidence to identify rule by one, few, or many.

6.10.A “identify and give examples of governments with rule by one, few, or many;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that show who makes important decisions in each country. In the margin, write 1, F, or M beside Saudi Arabia, China, and the United States to show rule by one, few, or many.

Power in Different Governments

- ① Governments organize how a community makes and carries out decisions. One way to compare governments is to ask how many people hold the most power. In rule by one, a single ruler has broad authority. In rule by few, a small group makes the key choices. In rule by many, many citizens share political power, often by voting or serving in public offices. These categories describe who holds power, not whether every decision is popular.
- ② Saudi Arabia is a monarchy in which the king is head of state and government. The king appoints top officials and has major authority over national decisions. A council can advise the king, but it does not replace the king's central role. Citizens may have views and may participate in local elections, but they do not choose the national ruler through a nationwide election for that office. The country's political structure concentrates final national authority in the king.
- ③ China is governed by the Chinese Communist Party, a single political party. Party leaders choose major national policies and select top government leaders. A limited group within the party directs the state, rather than all citizens making those choices. In the United States, eligible citizens vote for representatives and other officials. Those elected officials make many decisions under the Constitution and laws. Voters can participate in choosing national, state, and local leaders, even though they do not vote directly on every government decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which type of rule does Saudi Arabia show? Give one detail from the passage that supports your answer.

2 Which type of rule does China show? Explain who holds the key power.

3 Which type of rule does the United States show? Use voting as evidence in your answer.

4 How is choosing national leaders different in China and the United States?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a government for a new town. In 4 or 5 sentences, explain who has final power, describe how leaders or decision makers are chosen, and identify the town as rule by one, few, or many.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that show who makes important decisions in each country. In the margin, write 1, F, or M beside Saudi Arabia, China, and the United States to show rule by one, few, or many. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which type of rule does Saudi Arabia show? Give one detail from the passage that supports your answer.	Rule by one. The king has major authority over national decisions and appoints top officials.
2	Which type of rule does China show? Explain who holds the key power.	Rule by few. A limited group of leaders within the Chinese Communist Party directs the state and chooses major policies.
3	Which type of rule does the United States show? Use voting as evidence in your answer.	Rule by many. Eligible citizens vote for representatives and other officials who make decisions.
4	How is choosing national leaders different in China and the United States?	In China, party leaders select top government leaders. In the United States, eligible citizens participate by voting for representatives and other officials.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Harbor Town, 200 residents elect a council each year. The council votes on rules, such as whether to build a new playground. Because many residents can vote for the people who make decisions, this is rule by many. The mayor leads meetings but cannot make a rule alone.

Accept Saudi Arabia as rule by one, China as rule by few, and the United States as rule by many when students support each answer with passage evidence. For Your Turn, accept any logical fictional system if the explanation and classification match who holds power.