

# Comparing Forms of Government

**NOTE:** This is an ongoing activity which will culminate at the end of the year. As students study different civilizations, have them keep a chart and fill in the information for each type of government (see sample below). Keep the charts in room or have students keep their chart in student notebooks. At end of year, look at the charts students have completed and summarize the information looking for comparisons. This can be accomplished by creating a collage, a large T chart, a Venn diagram, etc., based on the information contained in the charts. This is one way to determine student understanding of all (or several) types forms of governments studied.

<b>Name of Country</b>	<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Form or Type of Gov't</b>	<b>Source of Power or Authority Head of Government &amp; Power Structure</b>	<b>Role/Task The Function that leader(s) or branches perform</b>
United States of America	1776-current	Democracy	3 branches: Legislative — Congress Executive — headed by the president, many departments and agencies Judicial — court system	Legislative — Senate and House of Representatives make and pass laws Executive/President — chief executive, chief diplomat and commander-in-chief Judicial — carries out laws, makes sure all laws are legal

## Questions

*This is a writing opportunity to compare/contrast two types of government from those studied.*

1. What is the form or type of government for the country, nation, region?
2. Who leads the government?
3. How are the powers of government divided among the rulers?
4. What are the duties, responsibilities of executive leadership?
5. Who makes the laws and rules?
6. Who carries out the laws and sees that the laws are upheld?
7. Who judges whether laws are fair?
8. Are the rules / laws just for all people?
9. How does each form of government organize the powers of government to fulfill the roles of government?