

Lesson Plan

Building Vocabulary

Book: *Europe*

Series: World Studies

Level: Voyager

Objective

To help students define and understand vocabulary related to government.

Supplies

- *Europe* book
- Whiteboard
- Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read *Europe* as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own. Write these terms on the whiteboard, numbering them like this:

1. republic
2. citizen
3. parties
4. state
5. federal
6. representative
7. monarchy
8. parliament
9. democracy
10. president

Activity

Chapter 6 (“Government and Politics”) describes different types of governments in European countries. Have students copy the list of words from the whiteboard onto a piece of paper. Students will write a definition for each word. They can use the chapter, the book’s glossary, and the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary for help, but the definition should be in their own words. Underneath each definition, students should write a sentence using the vocabulary word.

Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to give each student up to 20 points: 1 point for defining each word and 1 point for using it correctly in a sentence.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grades 5 and 6 (RI 5.4, 6.4), and the National Council for the Social Studies standard 6.

Answer Key

Sentences and definitions will vary, but the following definitions can be used as a guide:

1. republic: "A government having a chief of state who is not a monarch and who in modern times is usually a president." (MW Online)

- "In a republic, citizens elect many of the representatives who run the country." (*Europe* p. 35)

2. citizen: "An inhabitant of a city or town; a member of a state." (MW Online)

- "Citizens can move and live freely in any country in the EU. They can also vote in local elections." (*Europe* p. 38)

3. parties: "Groups of persons organized for the purpose of directing the policies of a government." (MW Online)

- "His government has cracked down on opposing parties." (*Europe* p. 36)

4. state: "A politically organized body of people usually occupying a definite territory." (MW Online)

- "These countries are made up of states. Each state has some power to govern itself." (*Europe* p. 35)

5. federal: "Of or constituting a form of government in which power is distributed between a central authority and a number of constituent territorial units." (MW Online)

- "A federal government leads the group of states." (*Europe* p. 35)

6. representative: "One that represents a constituency as a member of a legislative body." (MW Online)

- "In a republic, citizens elect many of the representatives who run the country." (*Europe* p. 35)

7. monarchy: "Undivided rule or absolute sovereignty by a single person." (MW Online)

- "For example, the UK and Belgium have monarchies." (*Europe* p. 36)

8. parliament: “The supreme legislative body of a usually major political unit that is a continuing institution comprising a series of individual assemblages.” (MW Online)

- “A group of people who make laws.” (*Europe* p. 47)
- “Parliaments make most of the laws and rules[, and] citizens elect most members of these parliaments.” (*Europe* p. 36)

9. democracy: “A government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.” (MW Online)

- “Russia is also attacking democracies online.” (*Europe* p. 36)

10. president: “The presiding officer of a governmental body; an elected official serving as both chief of state and chief political executive in a republic having a presidential government.” (MW Online)

- “Citizens elect their president.” (*Europe* p. 36)