



* Social Studies

Democracy, Monarchy, and Freedom

The question is, "Could the kingdom in which *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.* resides exist within the United States of America?" Perhaps not, as the kingdom is an absolute monarchy ruled by a sultan. A sultan that has absolute and total control over the land, the people, his daughter Jasmine and Aladdin, so he thinks!

Kentucky Social Studies

Government and Civics (2.14 & 2.15) Grades 4-6

Academic Expectations:

2.14 Students understand the democratic principles of justice, equality, responsibility, and freedom and apply them to real-life situations.

2.15 Students can accurately describe various forms of government and analyze issues that relate to the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

Ohio Social Studies Standards: Government

Benchmarks Grades 4-5

A. Identify the responsibilities of the branches of the United States government and explain why they are necessary.

B. Give examples of documents that specify the structure of state and national governments in the United States and explain how these documents foster self-government in a democracy.

Grade 6

C. Compare the defining characteristic of democracies, monarchies, and dictatorships.

Objective

Students will:

- Compare and contrast the three forms of government --democracy, monarchy, and dictatorship.
- Understand the impact on the degree of personal freedoms within each form of government.

Assessment

Students will be able to:

- Determine if the character, Aladdin, lives in a democracy, a monarchy or a dictatorship and provide evidence supporting the conclusion.
- Demonstrate how rules and laws within a government impact personal freedoms.
- Design new rules and laws for Aladdin's community so that is there equity and freedom for all.

Sample selected response items to gauge student understanding.

1. Define the following terms.

Democracy _____ (*Key concept: a system of government in which political control is exercised by all the people, either directly or through elected officials*).

Dictatorship _____ (Key concept: a system of government in which those who rule acquire and maintain complete authority by force.)

Monarchy _____ (key concept: a system of government headed by a monarch, such as a king or queen, shah or sultan, whose position is most likely inherited.)

2. Based on your opinion, which is best, to have only one ruler who makes all of the rules and decisions, or several rulers? Explain below.

Answer: Individual student response. Emphasis on the degree of fairness and equity for all, and too the concern for the will of the people.

3. Provide evidence for how the setting of Aladdin, Jr. is one of the following—democracy, monarchy or dictatorship.

Answer: Individual student response. Emphasis on characteristics of a monarchy.

Vocabulary

- Democracy
- Dictatorship
- Monarchy
- Absolute monarchy
- Representative monarchy

Materials

- Handout
- An open space for role-play

Activity

Where Does Freedom Ring?

Teacher will:

1. Introduce the three forms of government--monarchy, dictatorship and democracy, to facilitate a discussion on the degree of freedom found within each. (* Include in the discussion of democracy examination of the roles and functions of the three branches of government, and specific documents that grant American citizens rights.)
2. Distribute Handout, "Vocabulary List," to each student. Have students complete the assignment by correlating people, places and things with the appropriate type of government. Debrief through class sharing.
3. Have students reflect upon the production of *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.*, to consider the type of government in which the play was set. (*Absolute Monarchy*)
4. Discuss the characteristics of an absolute monarchy as compared to representative monarchies, democracies, and dictatorships.
5. Facilitate discussion for how the concept of an absolute monarchy plays into the plot of the story of *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.* Have students

identify those specific things for which the Sultan had complete control over, and those things he did not, and why not.

6. Conduct a role-play scenario in which students act out Jasmine's marriage dilemma. Explain that Jasmine's choice of candidate for a husband is impacted by the fact that one lives in a democracy, one a dictatorship and one a monarchy.
7. Have pairs of students role-play the decision making that takes place between the Sultan and Jasmine. Emphasis is on how Jasmine's choice and that of the Sultan's choice for her would change her life and perhaps his authority over the kingdom.
8. Facilitate further discussion on the fairness of Jasmine being able to choose her own husband. Emphasis on how the rules and laws of government dictate this option.
9. Challenge students with a final task to change and design new rules and laws for Aladdin's community so that there is equity and freedom for all, as indicated in the final scenes of *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.*



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Handout: Vocabulary List

Directions:

Write the appropriate word under the type of government that exemplifies its meaning. Use a dictionary for assistance on word meaning.

- Sultan
- Princess
- Rights
- Grand Vizier
- President
- Prime Minister
- United States
- Tyrant
- Absolute Power
- Status quo
- Liberty
- Candidate
- Privilege
- Despot
- Your highness
- Adolf Hitler
- Saddam Hussein
- George Bush
- Nobility
- Representation

Democracy	Dictatorship	Absolute Monarchy

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Handout: Vocabulary List Answer Key

Democracy	Dictatorship	Absolute Monarchy
Rights	President	Sultan
President	Tyrant	Princess
Prime Minister	Absolute Power	Grand Vizier
United States	Despot	Status quo
Liberty	Saddam Hussein	Privilege
Candidate		Your Highness
George Bush		Sultan of Brunei
Representation		Nobility