



Governments around the world

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for Government

Target audience – Government learners

Time required – 15 minutes

Activity	Identify and explain how various types of government systems are distributed around the world.
Social Studies Standards	C3:D2.Civ.1.9-12. Distinguish the powers and responsibilities of local, state, tribal, national, and international civic and political institutions. C3:D2.Civ.3.9-12. Analyze the effect of constitutions, laws, treaties, and international agreements on the maintenance of national and international order.
Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will identify and define the various types of government systems around the world.• Students will identify the most prevalent type of government in the world today.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/govgeoinquiry6>

Ask

What are the types of government systems in other countries?

- Click the link to launch the map.
- With the Details button underlined, click the button, Show Map Legend.
- ? What colors represent which governments? *[Answers should align with the legend.]*
- ? Which color is the United States, and what form of government does this color mean the U.S. has? *[Blue; presidential democracy]*

Acquire

What is the distribution of governments around the world?

- ? What is the most common form of government? *[Presidential democracy]*
- ? What do the gray-colored countries have in common? (Hint: Click the In-Transition countries to open a pop-up for more information.) *[They are identified as “in transition” or no formal government identified.]*
- ? Why do some countries not have a form of government listed? *[Answers will vary.]*
- ? Most countries around the world have a form of democracy. What is the difference between parliamentary and presidential democracy? *[One has a parliament and the other has a president.]*

Explore

When did countries around the world gain their independence?

- With the Details button underlined, click the button, Show Contents of Map
- Turn off the layer, Types Of Government.
- Turn on the layer, Independence By Year.
- Press the button, Show Map Legend to see the categories of years.
- ? What international organization was first formed in 1920? *[League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations]*

more 

Analyze

What has occurred since the 1920s?

- Look for the **coordinating** color on the choropleth map to identify 1940–1960.
- ? How was the world divided after World War II? [*Countries were divided; new countries were created.*]
- Look for the color that represents 1960–1979 and 1980–1999.
- Click Bookmarks and choose the Eastern Hemisphere bookmark.
- ? How did the end of colonization affect the world map? [*Many countries gained their independence, especially in Africa.*]
- ? What trends might help explain why some areas gained independence later than others? [*Answers will vary.*]
- ? Have new countries been created since 2000? [*Yes, South Sudan, for example.*]

Act

How have world events affected the distribution of government types globally?

- Turn on the layer, Types Of Government.
- Toggle the layer on and off, so that you can see both layers.
- ? How did the world change after the end of the Cold War? (Hint: Pay attention to western Asia after the collapse of the USSR.) [*Former Soviet countries became independent.*]
- ? What pattern do you see when comparing the two layers? [*As countries gained their independence, most chose a democracy government model.*]

TURN A MAP LAYER ON AND OFF

- Make sure that the Details pane is selected, and click Show Contents Of Map.
- To show individual map layers, select the check boxes next to the layer names.
- Hint: If a map layer name is light gray, zoom in or out on the map until the layer name is black. The layer can now be turned on.

SHOW LAYER LEGEND

- To the left of the map, click Details and then click the Show Contents Of Map button.
- Turn on the layer whose legend you want to view.
- At the top of the pane, click the Show Map Legend button.
- Note: You can view the legend for multiple layers at one time by turning on layers in the Contents pane first.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- Explore the *The Two Koreas* story map (<http://esriurl.com/Geo430C>) to contrast different governments.
- Create a Map Journal highlighting five to seven countries with the same type of government.

TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *Magruder's American Government* by Pearson — Chapter 1
- *Government Alive! Power, Politics, and You* by Teachers' Curriculum Institute — Chapter 1