

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	 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]



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.]



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

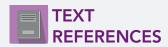
- To the left of the map, click Details and then click the Show Contents Of Map button.
- Turn on the layer whose legend you want to view.
- At the top of the pane, click the Show Map Legend button.
- Note: You can view the legend for multiple layers at one time by turning on layers in the Contents pane 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.
- $\bullet \ Create \ a \ Map \ Journal \ highlighting \ five \ to \ seven \ countries \ with \ the \ same \ type \ of \ government.$



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



