**Social Studies Home Learning Activities**

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| **Standard Benchmark** | Students will analyze the ways in which the structure and purposes of different governments around the world reflect differing ideologies, cultures, values, and histories. |
| **Grade Band** | 9-12 |
| **Vocabulary/Key Concepts** | Structures of Government, Ideologies, Culture, Values  |

***Which Structure is Best?***

**Focus Question**: Why might different countries have different structures of government?

**Activity 1** How Power Might Flow in Different Family Structures

 Consider the different ways that authority or power might flow within a household. For example…

* Family Structure 1: The parent/guardian is in total control and has all authority.
* Family Structure 2: The parent/guardian shares control and authority with the children..
* Family Structure 3: The children have all of the authority.

**Activity 2** Diagram each of the four family structures described in Activity 1.

**Activity 3** List some advantages and disadvantages of each “structure”.

**Activity 4** Transfer of Understanding

 Look back at Activity 1.

1. Substitute “**Government Structure”** for Family Structure
2. Substitute “**Central government**” and “**Local Governments”** for Guardians and children.

Now, rewrite the four bullets in Activity1 but replace Family Structure and Guardians with Government Structure and Central/Local governments. For example…

* Government Structure 1: The central government is in total control and has all authority.
* Government Structure 2: The central government \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Government Structure 3: The local governments \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Activity 5**: List some advantages and disadvantages of each government structure.

**Activity 6**: Draw illustrations on a piece of paper that show the different ways that authority or power might flow within different countries that might be similar to, but not the United States.

**Activity 7:** In columns 2-4, explain why each structure of government would be “**good**” or “**bad**” for each country. Then, decide which structure of government described in Row 1 would be **best** for each context described in Column 1. Draw a star in the cell for that structure.

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|  | **Structure 1**All power exists in one central government | **Structure 2**All power exists in the state governments | **Structure 3**Power is shared between the national and state governments |
| **Context 1:** A pandemic once killed thousands of this country’s citizens. |  |  |  |
| **Context 2:** The most important value shared by citizens of this country is freedom. |  |  |  |
| **Context 3:** This country was once colonized and controlled by a foreign power. |  |  |  |
| **Context 4:** The citizens of this country strongly believe that everyone should practice the same religion.  |  |  |  |
| **Context 5:** The citizens of this country seceded or broke away because the leader of the country was taking away their property.  |  |  |  |

**Draw Your Conclusion:** how does this exercise help illustrate why different countries around the world have different structures of government?