Functions of Government & Types of Government

How does government work for us?

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How do different governments work?
What are the Functions of Government?

- The purpose of government is to protect the natural rights of its citizens.

- So how does government do this? What are its FUNCTIONS?
Functions of Gov’t

Governments offer citizens many benefits:

1. Keep Order & Provide Security
2. Provide Public Services
3. Guide the Community
Keep Order & Provide Security

- **Gov’t makes laws & enforces laws**
  - For example, gov’t makes traffic laws and police officers enforce the law by issuing tickets or arresting violators.
  - Community Security – defending citizens and their land from enemies
    - Gov’ts set up armed forces & agencies that watch for threats to our national security, such as Dept. of homeland security.
Provide Public Services

- Gov’t creates & manages many national and local services: libraries, schools, hospitals, and parks.
- Gov’t develops systems to provide mass transit & supply water to homes and businesses
- Gov’t workers build and repair streets, bridges, and deliver the mail
Provide Public Services, con’t

- Many of the services keep the public healthy & safe: fire dept, and EMS.
- States license drivers & doctors
- Other Gov’t agencies protect us from dangerous drugs or spoiled food (FDA)
- Gov’t inspectors check for safety probs in factories, day care centers and amusement parks
Provide Public Services, con’t

- Gov’t also provide help to needy people: poor families and people out of work can receive food aid or cash (Food Stamps and Unemployment Benefits)
- Gov’t also supply affordable housing, healthcare, jobs training, and special programs for people with disabilities.
Guide the Community

- Formulate Public Policy – laws or developed guidelines that help reach community goals, especially creating budgets.

- Gov’t also arrange for international trade, travel, military agreements.
How do different types of gov’ts work?

- Our gov’t is divided into 3 main levels:
  1. **National** - the president, congress and supreme court. Handle law that deals with the entire nation
  2. **State** - governor, state representatives. Maintain laws of the state such as education
  3. **Local** - Can be in many forms, deals with laws that pertain only to your community. Speed limits, Wet vs. Dry, etc.
How do different types of Gov’ts work?

- **Totalitarian Dictatorship** - government that is controlled by a single person. (this can include monarchy)
- This is the Earliest and most common type of government in history
- Examples: Hitler, Castro, Me
How do different types of Gov’ts work?

- **Monarchy** – king, queen, or emperor exercises the supreme powers of gov’t. (usually and inherited position)
  - **Absolute Monarchy** – complete and unlimited power (very rare today)
  - **Constitutional Monarchy** – share gov’t powers with elected lawmakers; monarchs are ceremonial leaders.
How do different types of Gov’ts work?

- There are 2 types of Democracy: In a democracy the citizens hold the power to rule and make laws.
  1. **direct democracy** - every citizen vote on every issue. This is a good way to let all sides be heard but takes too long.
  2. **representative democracy** - citizens choose representative who represent their wishes in government.
Civics – What is it?

- **Civics** is the study of the rights & duties of citizens; how citizens interact with their gov’t.

- **Civic Virtue** - The qualities all citizens need to have for democratic governments to work.