

#2
Name _____

What kind of government should the nation have?

It is 1777. You are a member of the Second Continental Congress.

The Congress is meeting to write a new charter for a government. Each of the states has its own charter, or constitution. But it is also important for the 13 states to unite and work together. We need a written plan to tell them how to work together. We need some rules.

We have many questions and many different ideas about this. What kind of a government should we have? Some of the leaders have read many books about government. They have read about governments in different countries. We have many examples to choose from.

(a) *Monarchy*: It means "one person ruling." The government is controlled by a king or queen. England has a monarchy. Most of Europe has monarchies. The ruler's child becomes the next ruler. In some countries, people believe the monarch's power comes from God. In England, the king or queen shares power with a group of representatives of the people. They are called the Parliament. They make the laws, but the monarch can veto (not approve) them. Most countries today have monarchies. We are used to kings and queens. Sometimes they are very good.

(b) *Dictatorship*: One person holds all power. Usually, she or he is supported by the

military. The dictator makes all the laws. The people have no power. Sometimes, the dictator is good to the people. Sometimes, he is cruel.

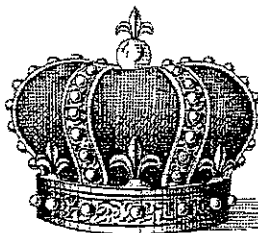
(c) *Republic*: This means "the thing of the people." A republic belongs to the people. The people elect representatives to rule the country. The representatives speak for the people. If the people are happy with them, they can elect them again. If the people do not like what the representatives do, they can choose different representatives.

(d) *Democracy*: It means "power of the people." The people hold the power to rule. They do not have representatives. The people meet to make laws. They run the country themselves.

(e) *Theocracy*: The church runs the government. The church leaders, who study God's teachings, make the decisions for the country. They pray to God for help in making decisions. They read the holy books for advice and examples of what to do.

(f) *Anarchy*: It means "rule by nobody." There is no system for ruling. There is no government to make decisions about rules, resources, and goals. Every person must look out for himself or herself.

(g) Other: _____



Crown



