



“The government is us;  
we are the government, you and I.”

President Theodore Roosevelt, 1902

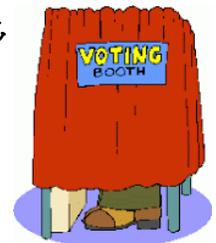
\* What do you think President Roosevelt meant when he made that statement? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* Popular sovereignty and limited government were very important to the Founders. Popular sovereignty is one of our core democratic values, and limited government is an important constitutional principle.

\* **POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY** is the idea that a \_\_\_\_\_ is created and ruled by the \_\_\_\_\_. One way that people rule their government is by having the power to elect their leaders.



\* **LIMITED GOVERNMENT** is the idea that the \_\_\_\_\_ can only do what the \_\_\_\_\_ give it the \_\_\_\_\_ to do. The government must also obey the laws. This was not the case in most countries when our Founders were trying to establish ours. Most countries in Europe had kings who ruled with unlimited power. The Founders knew that they did not want that kind of government.



## Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag  
of the United States of America,  
and to the \_\_\_\_\_ for which it stands,  
one nation under God, indivisible,  
with liberty and justice for all.

\* Fill in the missing word in the Pledge of Allegiance above.

A \_\_\_\_\_

Characteristics of a \_\_\_\_\_:

- \* Heredity or birthright does not decide who will rule in our country.
- \* It is based on the core democratic value of popular sovereignty. This means the people hold the power of government.
- \* Since we all cannot make decisions on a daily basis for our government, we have a representative government. This means the people choose representatives to make decisions for them.

Advantages of a \_\_\_\_\_:

- \* Representatives are chosen to serve the common good.
- \* Representatives help everybody, not just a favored group.
- \* Having representatives make laws and decisions is a more efficient system than having everybody make them.
- \* The people maintain a say in their government through their representatives.
- \* The representatives listen to the people or the people will vote them out of office.

## Constitutional Government

Remember, a constitution is a plan that explains how a government is organized and how it works.



A country can have a constitution but not a constitutional government where people have the power. For example, a country could have a constitution that gives all the power to a single leader. In this case the leader would be a dictator and the country would be a dictatorship.

In order to have a constitutional government like we have, there must be limits on the powers of the government. A limit is a point beyond which someone or something cannot go. For example, our Constitution places limits on what the President can do.

## Our Federal Government

|                                | A Republic  | A Constitutional Government  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Characteristics                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* _____ hold the power of government</li> <li>* _____ are chosen to make decisions for the people</li> <li>* _____ are responsible to help all the _____</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* a _____ explains how the government is organized and run</li> <li>* _____ on the power of the government</li> <li>* _____ has to obey the laws, even people running the government</li> </ul> |
| Democratic Values & Principles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* _____ sovereignty</li> <li>* representative government</li> <li>* the common _____</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* _____ government</li> <li>* individual rights</li> <li>* rule of law</li> </ul>   |
| Strengths                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* representatives serve the _____ good</li> <li>* more _____ than having everybody try to make decisions</li> <li>* the people maintain _____ through their representatives</li> <li>* people can _____ out representatives who don't listen to them.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* _____ on the power of government helps to protect individual rights</li> <li>* a clear plan for how the _____ will run</li> </ul>   |