

History 304 Review Activity: Government Structures

Introduction

Governments are the method that populations make decisions for the whole group. So far this year we have looked at three government structures: The structure of Canada's government today during the October election, the traditional governments of the Indigenous populations, and the government structure of New France.

Guiding Question

How do different populations make decisions affecting the whole group and its territory?

Goals

1. Review the definition and meaning of government- what is it?
2. Review and describe the functioning of the three type of government.

Instructions

1. Read the definition of government below.

Government / Power

The person or group of people who have the ability to make decisions for a specific territory and its population.

- **Government Power:** the ability to make decisions [control what happens] for a population and territory.
OR
- The ability to influence the decisions that governments make.
- **Political:** Having to do with government and decision-making.

2. Examine the structure of each type of government in the **Document File in Appendix 1**.

Reading organizational Charts of government:

- i. Read the title
- ii. Read the legend
- iii. Pay attention to the arrows
- iv. Read the descriptions of each government position
- v. Decide what the chart is communicating to you about how decisions are made.

3. Describe each type of government by completing the table in the **Student Answer Sheet in Appendix 2**.

Appendix 3 Student Answer Sheet- Correcting Guide: Review of Government Structures

| | Indigenous Traditional Governments | The Government of New France | Canada's Government Today |
|---|---|---|---|
| Main Idea behind decision making: | <i>Collective or group decision making. Idea that individuals are equal.</i> | <i>Absolutism/Divine right of kings: the King has all the power . This was supported by the claim that this power came from God.</i> | <i>Liberalism: Belief in human freedom. Since humans are born free each individual has right to participate in decision making.</i> |
| Government position with most decision making authority: Which position has the most decision making power? | <i>The Chiefs and councils at each level of decision making. Or The Population: Chiefs could not impose decisions, they had to persuade the population.</i> | <i>The King: the king held all the power. Decisions could be imposed on the population without restriction.</i> | <i>The Cabinet: the prime Minister and cabinet decide the main actions the government will take. Or The House of Commons: Cabinet members must be elected to the House of Commons. The House of Commons must approve of Cabinet decisions by voting. Or The population: the population approves or disapproves of government action by voting in elections.</i> |
| Direction of Authority: where does the power to make decisions come from? | <i>Authority comes from the population: the government cannot impose decisions.</i> | <i>Authority comes from the King: belief that power was bestowed on the King by God.</i> | <i>Authority comes from the population: the government must gain the approval or disapproval of its decisions from the population in regularly scheduled elections.</i> |
| Role of the Population: What role do the common people have in making decisions that affect them? | <i>The population engages in decision making at each level.</i> | <i>The population has no role in decision making.</i> | <i>The population approves or rejects government decisions regular elections.</i> |
| Legitimacy of Government decisions: why are the decisions followed by the population? | <i>The population follows the government decisions because they have been persuaded that it is the correct course of action.</i> | <i>The population follows the government decisions because they are imposed on them. Severe punishments enforce government decisions.</i> | <i>The population follows the government decisions because they have given their approval to the government to make those decisions in an election.</i> |