

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Ruling the World: A 5th Grade Global Leader Challenge

Imagine you're a diplomat comparing how Japan, Switzerland, and Mexico make laws so you can help your own community thrive.

1. In a direct democracy like the Swiss 'Landsgemeinde' assembly, how do citizens participate in making laws?

Answer: B) They vote directly on specific laws in public meetings.

Direct democracy allows citizens to vote on the policies themselves rather than just electing representatives to do it for them.

2. In Japan's constitutional monarchy, the _____ is the head of state but has no powers related to government operations.

Answer: C) Emperor

Japan's Emperor serves as a symbol of the state and unity, while the Prime Minister and Diet (parliament) handle the actual governing.

3. In a unitary system like the one used in Norway, the central national government has the power to create or abolish local government units.

Answer: A) True

In a unitary system, the central government is supreme and provides only the power it chooses to local regions.

4. Imagine a country where the leader is chosen from the political party that wins the most seats in the legislature. Which system does this describe?

Answer: D) Parliamentary System

In parliamentary systems, like in Australia or Japan, the executive branch (Prime Minister) is part of and dependent on the legislature.

5. Mexico is a _____ republic, meaning power is shared between the national government and several state governments.

Answer: B) Federal

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Federalism is a system that divides or shares power between a central authority and constituent political units like states.

6. In an absolute monarchy, the ruler's power is limited by a written constitution and a group of elected officials.

Answer: B) False

In an absolute monarchy, the ruler has total authority; it is in a 'constitutional monarchy' where their power is restricted.

7. Which of these is a major difference between a President and a Prime Minister?

Answer: B) A President is usually elected separately from the legal-making body.

In presidential systems (like Mexico or the U.S.), the executive branch is independent of the legislative branch.

8. A system where a small group of powerful people, such as wealthy land owners or military leaders, rule a country is called an ____.

Answer: B) Oligarchy

Oligarchy comes from Greek words meaning 'few' and 'rule,' referring to government by a small elite group.

9. In a 'Theocracy,' the legal system is based entirely on religious laws and beliefs.

Answer: A) True

A theocracy is a government where a deity is recognized as the supreme ruling authority, implemented by religious leaders.

10. If a country has a high level of 'Rule of Law,' what does that mean for the leaders?

Answer: C) Even the most powerful leaders must obey the country's laws.

Rule of Law is a foundational principle of many governments ensuring that no one, including the government, is above the law.