1. Classify governments according to three sets of characteristics.

2. Define systems of government based on who can participate.

3. Identify different ways that power can be distributed, geographically, within a state.

4. Describe a government by the distribution of power between the executive and legislative branch.
• **autocracy**: government in which a single person holds all political power

• **oligarchy**: government in which a small, usually self-appointed group has the sole power to rule

• **unitary government**: a government in which all power belongs to one central agency

• **federal government**: a government in which power is divided between one central and several local governments
• **division of powers**: the split of power between central and local governments
• **confederation**: an alliance of independent states
• **presidential government**: a government with separate executive and legislative branches
• **parliamentary government**: a government in which the executive branch is part of the legislative branch and subject to its control
• What are some forms of government in the world today?

  – Democracies and dictatorships are classified according to who can participate in government.

  – Unitary, federal, and confederation-style governments are classified based on how power is divided geographically.

  – Presidential and parliamentary governments are defined by the relationship between the executive and legislative branches.
Direct Democracy

• In a direct or pure democracy, the people pass laws by discussing and voting on them in meetings, such as town meetings.

• This system works only in small communities.
Indirect Democracy

- In an indirect or representative democracy, the people elect agents who make and carry out the laws.

- These representatives rule with the consent of the governed and can be removed by the people at election time.
• The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy.

• Most power lies with the Parliament, which is elected by the people.

• The queen is the head of state, while the head of government is the Prime Minister, who is the head of the leading party in Parliament.
• The United States is a constitution-based federal republic.
• The President and members of Congress are chosen by the people.
• The President is both Chief of State and Head of Government.
• Checkpoint: What is the difference between an oligarchy and an autocracy?

– In an **autocracy**, one person holds total political power, while in an **oligarchy** a small elite group shares political power.

– Both are forms of dictatorships, holding absolute and unchallenged authority over the people, who have no say in government.
• Some dictatorships are like that of China, where people can vote only for candidates from one political party and the legislature does whatever the dictatorship says.

• Other dictatorships are like the one in Myanmar, where the military rules and there are no elections.
Unitary Government

- In a unitary model, all power belongs to the central government, which may grant some powers to local governments.

- The powers of the central government may be limited or unlimited.

- Most governments in the world are unitary in form.
• In the federal model, power is divided between a central government and several local governments, usually according to a constitution.

• The U.S. and some 25 other states have federal forms of government.
A confederation is an alliance of independent governments that grant limited powers, usually involving defense or foreign affairs, to a central government.

The European Union is similar to a confederation.
A presidential government divides executive and legislative power between two branches.

The details of this separation of powers are spelled out in a constitution.
In a parliamentary government, the legislature chooses the executive, which is part of the legislature and under its control.

A majority of world governments use the parliamentary system, which lacks some checks and balances but promotes cooperation between the executive and legislative branches.
• The prime minister is the head of the leading party in Parliament and chooses cabinet members from the Parliament.

• If the Parliament loses confidence in the Prime Minister and cabinet, elections are held to form a new government.
Review

• Now that you have learned about some of the forms of government in the world today, go back and answer the Chapter Essential Question.
  – Is government necessary?