



Why a Constitutional Republic?:
 SS.7.CG.3.2
Systems of Government
READING #4

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.3.2 Benchmark Clarification 4: Students will analyze scenarios describing various systems of government.

System of Government	Example
Federal	The United States is an example of a country with a federal system of government. The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law and describes power as being shared between the national and state governments. For example, the federal government provides funds to help build the interstate highway system (roads and highways), while state governments own and operate the roads and issue driver licenses.
Confederal	The United States, under the Articles of Confederation, is an example of a country with a confederal system of government. The Articles of Confederation left sovereign power to the state governments rather than one central government. This power shift was evident when laws needed to be amended or changed because unanimous approval from the states was required, as well as approval by 9 of the 13 states to pass all major laws.
Unitary	Japan is an example of a country with a unitary system of government because the central government has ultimate (total) power. In Japan, the government in Tokyo is the central authority on all policy areas. As a result, one could travel from the very south of Japan (Kagoshima) to the very north of Japan (Oma), and never experience a change in driving rules, food regulations, or criminal statutes.

confederal system - a system of government where power is located with the independent states and there is little power in the central government

federal system - a system of government where power is shared between a central government and states

unitary system - a system of government where almost all power is located with the central government