

SS6G11 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of Europe.

c. Explain how the literacy rate affects the standard of living in Europe.

THE LITERACY RATE AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN EUROPE

Literacy is the ability to read and write. High rates of literacy are usually found in developed or **industrialized countries** like the United States and most of Europe. Industrialized countries depend more on manufacturing than farming for their wealth. Most people in industrialized countries work in manufacturing, communication, or service industries. The increased wealth of these countries allows them to provide education, health care, and access to technology to their citizens. The standard of living is high.

Developing countries are often called **third world countries**. Third world countries do not have much industry and depend on farming for most of their wealth. There are often fewer people in these countries that can read and write. Education, health care, and jobs are not easily available. When education is available, it may be restricted to allow only boys to attend school. People work in low-paying jobs and live in crowded cities. Without the skills of reading and writing, workers cannot get better jobs. Developing countries are poor, and their people are uneducated. It is difficult to pay for education when there is little money for food.

Russia is somewhat unusual in Europe. It has a high literacy rate, but a lower **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita** (the total value of the final goods and services produced in a country in one year divided by the total population) than countries with the same percentage of people who can read and write. The government of Russia has always required education. Now the government is finding ways to bring more manufacturing and communication jobs to the country. Poverty is declining and Russia's economy is growing.

Literacy and Per Capita GDP

Country	Literacy Rate	Per Person Gross Domestic Product
United Kingdom	99%	\$35,100
France	99%	\$33,000
Russia	99%	\$14,700
Germany	99%	\$33,200
Italy	98%	\$30,400

- _____ 342. People in third world countries have
- A. the best jobs.
 - B. little education.
 - C. a higher literacy rate.
 - D. a greater standard of living.
- _____ 343. Why does Russia have such a high literacy rate but such a low Gross Domestic Product?
- A. Russians do not want a higher standard of living.
 - B. Education is only required for boys, but girls may attend.
 - C. There are too many jobs in manufacturing and not enough schools.
 - D. The government has always required the children to be educated, but the economy is not as productive.
- _____ 344. A literate person in a developed country is most likely to have all EXCEPT which item?
- A. health care
 - B. technology
 - C. a high-paying job
 - D. uneducated children

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CIVICS/GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDINGS

SS6CG4 The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.

a. Describe the ways government systems distribute power: unitary, confederation, and federal.

UNITARY, CONFEDERATION, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

Each country must decide how to set up its government. Countries must decide how to organize and how to distribute power. Governments can have all the power held by one central government, or they can spread out the power to lower levels of government. Governments may be unitary, confederation, or federal.

In a **unitary** government, the central government has all the power. This type of government has a constitution that outlines the duties, powers, and people of the central government. The central government can give power to or create lower levels of government, like states or communities. This power may be changed or taken back at any time. France has a unitary form of government.

A **confederation** is a group of states or communities that come together to support each other and to work on common problems. A confederation is usually formed by a treaty, which may be replaced later with a constitution. In a confederation, the participants are voluntary, equal members. They have to meet with each other before taking action on an issue. Confederations are usually just the first step toward creating a more powerful government. They can also replace central rule. The **British Commonwealth** was formed after the British Empire broke up. When the British Empire lost governing power over its colonies, the **Commonwealth of Nations** was formed. Membership is voluntary. Countries in the Commonwealth work together on common problems. The Commonwealth countries cannot force members to take actions they do not want to take, however.

Like the unitary system, the **federal** system has a constitution. This constitution explains the rights, responsibilities, and duties of the central government and the states. In this way, the power is divided between the central government and the lower levels of government. Unlike the unitary system, the central government cannot take back the power of the states, choose the state's leaders, or do away with these lower levels of government. The United States is an example of a federal government with its constitution and state and federal governments. Germany is an example of a European country that is a federal system. Germany has a federal central government. The country is divided into sixteen federal states. The document that divides and explains the powers of the central government and of the state governments is called the Basic Law.

_____ 345. Which phrase **BEST** describes a confederation?

- A. partners
- B. divided power
- C. a strong federation
- D. a strong central government

_____ 346. What country in Europe has a federal government?

- A. France
- B. Germany
- C. Great Britain
- D. United States

_____ 347. One reason that the British Commonwealth is called a confederation is that member countries

- A. are voluntary members.
- B. must have a constitution.
- C. have strong central governments.
- D. must do what the majority of the members want to do.

SS6CG4 The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.

b. Explain how governments determine citizen participation: autocratic, oligarchic, and democratic.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN AUTOCRATIC, OLIGARCHIC, AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS

People have different rights when it comes to participating in government. In some countries, people hold the power and elect their leaders or rulers. They vote on their laws. Because many people are involved in making decisions, solving a problem or responding to a crisis often takes a long time.

In other countries, a small group of people holds power. Those that have wealth, own lots of land, or have military support may form this group. If needed, these groups select one of their own to be the leader.

There are also those countries that have only one ruler. This type of ruler may come to power through family bloodlines, like a king or queen, or may be a dictator in power because of military strength.

Citizens in countries with these last two types of government have no say in the laws or the government. Such rulers often do not do what is best for their country and its people.

Use the text and the following table to answer questions 348-351.

Comparison of Citizens' Rights in Different Governments

	Type of Rule	Who Holds the Power	Who Can Be Elected	Who Can Vote
- Autocratic – Czarist Russia was an autocratic government.	Single ruler	Unlimited power for the ruler	No one – citizens have no choice in selecting a ruler	No citizen participation – no elections are held
Oligarchic – Many medieval governments were oligarchic.	Small group of people	Group answers only to each other	No one outside the ruling group – the rulers are selected by the group	No citizen participation – leaders are chosen from within the ruling group and by the group
Democratic – France is an example of a democratic country.	Citizens of the country	The voters	Any citizen (with some restrictions like age, not in jail, etc.)	Any citizen (with some restrictions like age, not in jail, etc.)

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348. In which types of government do citizens have no voting rights?

- A. an autocracy and a democracy
- B. an oligarchy and a democracy
- C. an oligarchy and an autocracy
- D. any of the three types of government

349. An autocracy puts the power of the government into the hands of

- A. the citizens.
- B. a single person.
- C. the representatives.
- D. a small group of people.

350. How can autocratic rulers come to power?

- A. by voter election
- B. by legislative election
- C. through their bloodline
- D. by representative appointment

351. Which statement is TRUE about an oligarchy?

- A. Anyone can lead.
- B. Leaders are elected.
- C. Laws protect the citizens.
- D. A small group of people govern.

SS6CG4 The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.

b. Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential.

PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

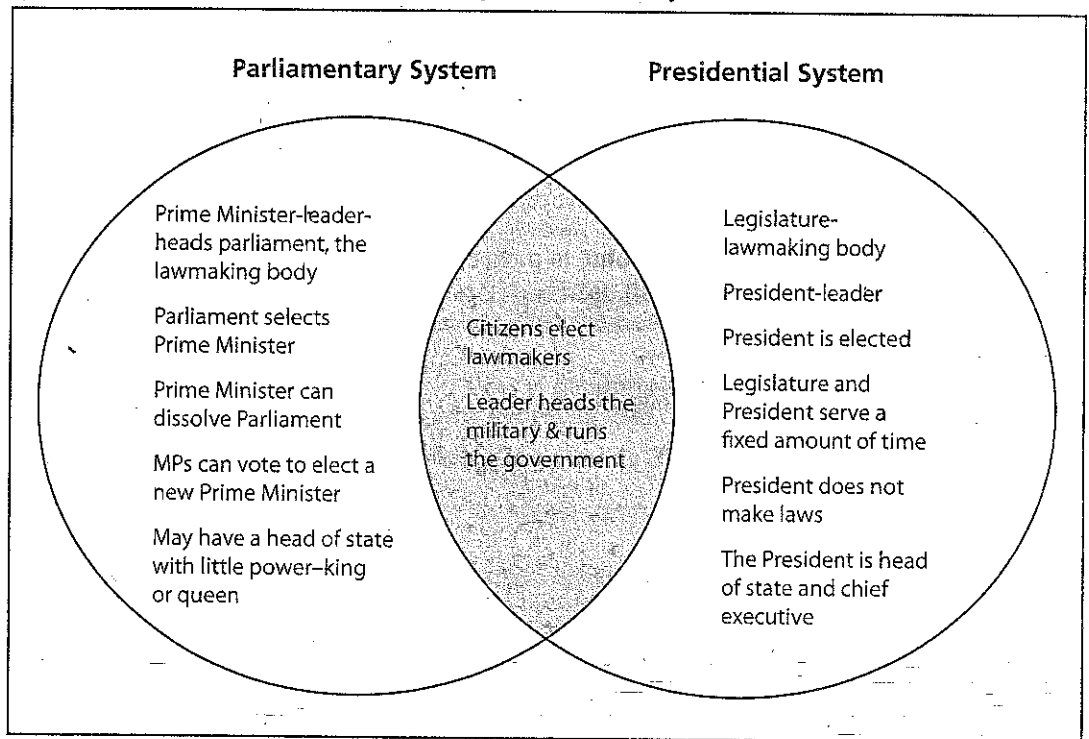
In Europe, there are two main types of democratic government. These are parliamentary government and presidential government. The **parliamentary system** is common in Europe. **Presidential democracies** are common in the Americas. Europe's presidential democracies are often organized differently than the U.S. model.

The head of state is different in these forms of government. The head of state is the chief representative of the country to other countries. This person has ceremonial duties and serves as a symbol for the country. The monarch of the United Kingdom is an example. She serves as the symbol for the United Kingdom and is officially "The Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Realms." The U.K.'s **prime minister** is responsible for the day-to-day operations in the country. The prime minister serves as chief executive. In Germany, the person most like a prime minister is the **chancellor**. The members of the legislature choose the chancellor. Representatives of the legislature and representatives of the states choose the president of Germany. The president's role is to be the ceremonial head of state.

In the United States, the president serves as head of state and chief executive. The president is the symbol of the country and serves as a ceremonial leader in dealing with other countries. The president also has the job of running the U.S. government on a day-to-day basis. In France, the prime minister runs the government but is chosen by the president. The president is elected by the people to serve as head of state and has the power to deal with other countries.

Study the following Venn diagram to locate some of the key differences in the two forms of democratic government. Pay attention to the part of the diagram where the circles overlap. This shows the ways in which the two forms of democracy are *alike*.

Comparison of Parliamentary and Presidential Systems of Government



352. In what way are the prime minister and the president alike?
- The lawmaking body appoints them.
 - They make the laws for their countries.
 - They can dissolve the lawmaking body.
 - They are in charge of the military and control the government.
353. Which statement about the executive is TRUE?
- The president cannot make laws.
 - The prime minister is the head of state.
 - The president can dissolve the legislature.
 - The members of the legislature choose the president.
354. Legislature is to parliament as a president is to
- dictator.
 - monarch.
 - patriarch.
 - prime minister.

355. Who has the most government power in the parliamentary system?

- A. a citizen
- B. the monarch
- C. the prime minister
- D. a member of parliament

356. Why is the president of France more powerful than the prime minister?

- A. The French monarch chooses the president.
- B. The president chooses who will be prime minister.
- C. The prime minister has no real power in the government.
- D. The citizens vote for the prime minister but not for the president.

SS6CG5 The student will explain the structure of modern European governments.

- a. Compare the parliamentary system of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom), the federal system of the Federal Republic of Germany (Germany), and the federation of the Russian Federation (Russia), distinguishing the form of leadership and the role of the citizen in terms of voting and personal freedoms.

PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Parliament is the lawmaking body of the United Kingdom. It is composed of the *House of Lords* and the *House of Commons*. The monarch is considered a part of Parliament too.

In the past, a seat in the House of Lords was passed down through aristocratic families. Today, Lords are elected by the House or are appointed to office by the monarch. The House of Lords has little power. Instead, it can make suggestions of ways to improve a bill that is on its way to becoming law.

The citizens of the United Kingdom elect the members of the House of Commons in a general election. There are 646 members: 529 from England, 40 from Wales, 59 from Scotland, and 18 from Northern Ireland. The power in the House of Commons comes from its control of the budget.

After the election, the leader of the political party with the most members in the House of Commons is asked by the queen to become prime minister. The prime minister is the head of the government, or chief executive, and runs the government on a day-to-day basis.

The monarch is the official head of state. The monarch is a symbol of the country. The monarch is sometimes referred to as "the crown." The monarch's duties are mostly ceremonial. The monarch's role is restricted by the constitution of the United Kingdom.

Citizens in the United Kingdom have personal freedoms like those in the United States. All citizens are treated equally and have the right to worship as they choose. British citizens have freedom of speech, the right to a fair trial, the right to own property, and the right to security.

357. Which representative body of Parliament has the most power?

- A. Monarch
- B. Prime Minister
- C. House of Lords
- D. House of Commons

- _____ 358. To be prime minister, a person must first be elected to which governing body?
- A. Congress
 - B. Privy Council
 - C. House of Lords
 - D. House of Commons
- _____ 359. Which part of government is responsible for making the laws for the United Kingdom?
- A. Congress
 - B. Monarchy
 - C. Parliament
 - D. High Court

FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GERMANY

The German parliament is made up of two houses: the **Bundestag** and the **Bundesrat**. The more powerful of the two is the lower house, called the Bundestag. The citizens of each German state elect its members. The Bundestag also selects the chancellor. The chancellor is the chief executive of the German government and head of the military. The president is the head of state. The president's role is mostly ceremonial and symbolic.

The **Bundesrat**, the upper house of parliament, represents the interests of the state governments. Each state government selects representatives for the Bundesrat. The sixteen states each have differing numbers of representatives, depending on their population. The Bundesrat is mainly concerned with law that affects the states, such as education and local government issues.

The constitution of Germany is called the **Basic Law**. Germany is a representative democracy and operates under the federal system. Power is divided between member states and the central government. Citizens have freedom of religion and expression. All are viewed as equal before the law. Germans have the same basic freedoms as citizens of the United Kingdom. They have equality, freedom of the press, and protection of the family. The Basic Law also states that Germany is a **welfare state**. This means that the government guarantees people certain benefits when they are unemployed, poor, disabled, old, or sick.

- _____ 360. The United Kingdom is to House of Commons as Germany is to the
- A. Basic Law
 - B. Bundesrat
 - C. Bundestag
 - D. Parliament
- _____ 361. How are members in the Bundestag selected?
- A. elected by the voters
 - B. elected by the Bundesrat
 - C. half through election and half appointed by the chancellor
 - D. half are selected by the president and half selected by the chancellor
- _____ 362. In the German welfare state, who receives guaranteed benefits?
- A. college students
 - B. unemployed citizens
 - C. government workers
 - D. Bundestag representatives

FEDERATION SYSTEM OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Russian Federation is governed under a constitution. The head of state is the president, who is elected by the people. The president selects the prime minister. The president can also disband the legislature, or Federal Assembly. The Federal Assembly is divided into two parts: the **Federation Council** and the **State Duma**.

The Federation Council has two representatives from each of the states. The states appoint the council's members; they are not elected directly by the people. So, the Council represents the government of the states. One of the Council's important duties is to approve the president's choices of people to fill different government jobs.

The State Duma is larger than the Council. It has 450 members, who are elected by the people. This group controls the budget and makes the laws. They approve the president's choice for prime minister. The day-to-day running of the government is split between the prime minister and the president of Russia.

Russia's constitution guarantees human and civil rights for its citizens. All people are equal in the eyes of the law. Russians have the right to life and dignity, freedom of speech, and the right to privacy.

_____ **363. In the Russian Federation, which office do the people elect?**

- A. President
- B. Prime Minister
- C. Public Chamber
- D. Federation Council

_____ **364. Who is the Russian head of state?**

- A. President
- B. Prime Minister
- C. Deputy of the State Duma
- D. Federation Council Member

_____ **365. How is the Russian prime minister selected?**

- A. by a vote of the citizens
- B. by a vote of the State Duma
- C. by appointment of the Federal Assembly
- D. by appointment of the president with approval of the Duma

Use the statements in the box to answer question 366.

- The lawmaking bodies are divided into two houses.
- All have some part of their lawmaking body elected by the people.
- Each divides the jobs of head of state and head of government (chief executive).

_____ **366. Which statement BEST explains what these sentences are about?**

- A. They describe the governments of European countries.
- B. They tell how the countries of Europe choose their leaders.
- C. They explain how the EU countries must set up their parliaments.
- D. They are ways that governments of Germany, Russia, and the United Kingdom are alike.

367. Which BEST describes the rights of the citizens in Germany, Russia, and the United Kingdom?

- A. They are very similar.
- B. They are nothing alike.
- C. They only include religious freedom.
- D. They make no mention of human rights.

SS6CG5 The student will explain the structure of modern European governments.
b. Describe the purpose of the European Union and the relationship between member nations.

THE PURPOSE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF ITS MEMBERS

Twenty-seven countries are members of the *European Union*, or *EU*. The purpose of the EU is for its members to work together for advantages that would be out of their reach if each were working alone. The EU nations believe that when countries work together they are a more powerful force in the world because they involve more people, more money, and more land area. This helps make the smaller countries of Europe more competitive in the world market. Look at the table. Notice that together the EU has more people and a greater Gross Domestic Product than the United States. (The GDP is the combined value of the goods and services produced in a country each year.) The United States is much larger than the separate EU countries. When the EU countries combine, they have more people and a larger economy.

Comparing the EU and the United States

	EU	United States
Land area -- (approximate square miles)	1,500,000	3,700,000
Population (approximate)	500,000,000	305,000,000
Gross Domestic Product (total)	\$14 trillion	\$13.5 trillion
Gross Domestic Product per Capita (person)	\$28,213	\$43,444

One result of the EU is the creation of the *euro*. Just as the United States has dollars (\$), the European countries have their own currencies. The euro is the currency of most of the EU. Member countries can choose to give up their own currencies and exchange them for euros (€). France used to have French francs as currency. Germany used to have German marks. Today, both countries use the euro. This makes trade between the countries much easier and less expensive. The United Kingdom uses the *British pound* (£), however. Citizens in the U.K. have decided to keep their own currency even though they are in the EU. Twelve EU countries do not use the euro.

The EU does not handle all the government business for the member countries. Each country still makes its own laws, has its own military, and elects its own leaders. The EU works to improve trade, education, farming, and industry among the members. For example, there are no tariffs between countries in the EU. This makes a large **free-trade zone**. Citizens of one country can freely move to another country. They can live and work in any other EU nation. They can even vote in local elections even if they aren't citizens of the country.

- ___ 368. **The European Union was created to**
- A. practice reaching consensus.
 - B. isolate Russia and make it work alone.
 - C. promote the French franc as the money unit.
 - D. make Europe more competitive in world markets.
- ___ 369. **Which problem is handled by individual EU member countries instead of the EU government?**
- A. training the country's army
 - B. trade issues between two EU countries
 - C. one country's farmers selling grapes at lower prices than another country's farmers
 - D. making sure that gasoline sold in one country will work in cars from another country
- ___ 370. **What is the currency for MOST EU countries?**
- A. euro
 - B. franc
 - C. dollar
 - D. pound
- ___ 371. **Which statement is a correct comparison between the EU and the United States?**
- A. The United States has fewer people and less land than the EU.
 - B. The United States has more people and more land than the EU.
 - C. The EU has more people and a higher total Gross Domestic Product than the United States.
 - D. The EU has fewer people and a lower value on goods and services produced each year than the United States.

Use the following map to answer questions 372-374.



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372. Which part of Europe has the most EU territory?
- A. western
 - B. eastern
 - C. northern
 - D. southern

_____ 373. Which is the largest country trying to gain membership in the EU?

- A. Bosnia
- B. Russia
- C. Turkey
- D. Ukraine

_____ 374. How many countries have applied for EU membership and are waiting for approval?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4