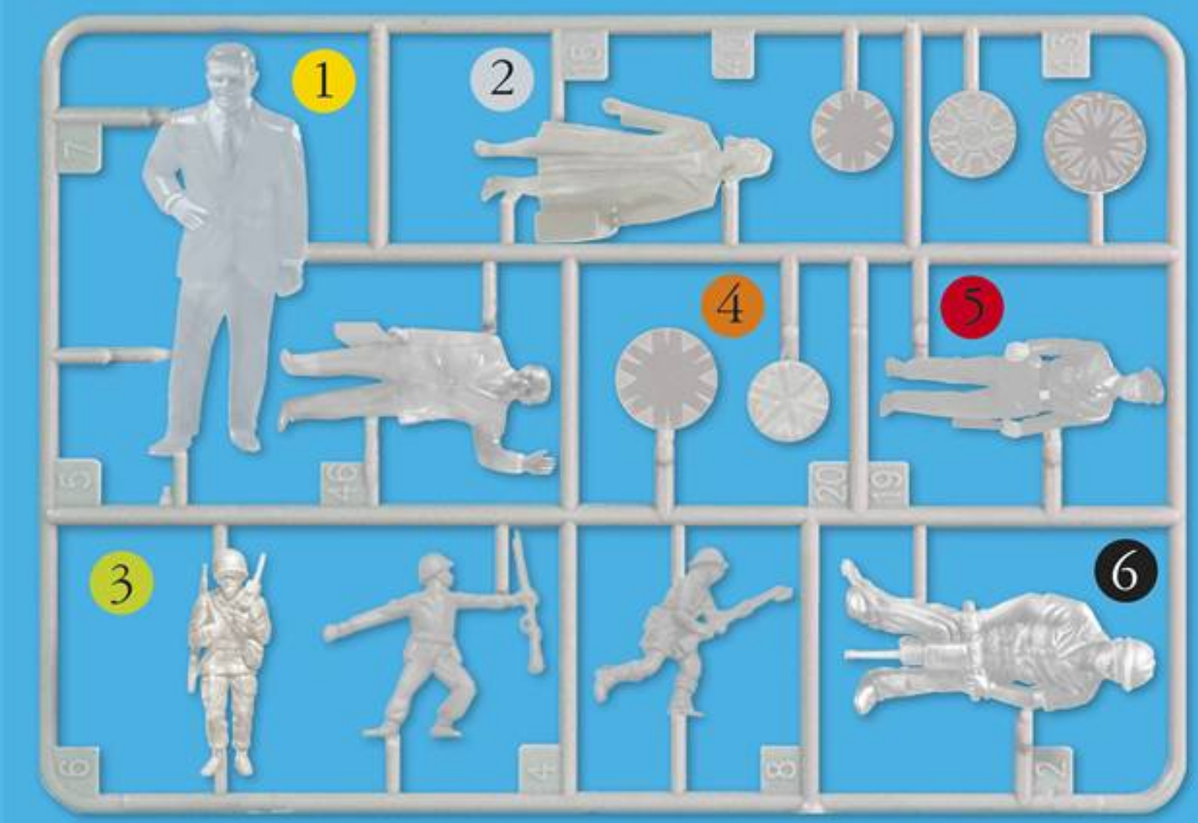
Build *your own* GOVERNMENT

A *government* is a group that has CONTROL over a *state*. There are lots of *different forms* of government in the world. They are all made from the **SAME BASIC PARTS,** but there isn't *one set* of instructions for how they fit together.



The glue that holds all the **parts together** is the government's **politics:** their ***ideas and laws.***

The way a government *rules* a state and its citizens depends on its structure, politics, and leader.

1 LEADER

= *one that* leads *or* guides

Every group needs a leader. This person has the final say to make decisions, but also takes responsibility if things go wrong. In some forms of government the leader is called a president or prime minister, but monarchs and dictators are also leaders.

2 *Politicians*

= *people who* work in politics

No leader can work alone. A government is made up of a team of politicians whose job is to make or change a state's laws. In some governments they can take advice from experts on what's best for the state. In others, politicians follow orders from the leader.

3 ARMY

= *making sure* the state is protected

Defending a state is dangerous but essential work – otherwise other powers could take control of the land. The government is in charge of deciding when and where its army acts, basing its decisions on what is best for the state. This may include attacking other states.

4 *Money*

= *providing* the means *to* rule

Just as you need money to buy things, so does a state. Governments raise this money through taxes and use it to provide services, to trade with other states – and of course to pay their own salaries.

5 LAW *& order*

= *keeping us* under control

Law and order exists [illegible]

6 *Services*

= *what the* citizens need

Health (hospitals), education (schools), and defence (army) are just some of the services that a government provides for the citizens that live in the state. It depends which country you live in as to how much help the government will provide.

What is anarchy?

Anarchy means "without rule". From the Greek words ***a*** **(not, without)** + ***archos*** **(ruler).**

Anarchists believe in a *stateless society* where each individual has **TOTAL FREEDOM** to do as they please. The government must be overthrown and society will be in charge of itself. There are *no rules, no laws,* and *no religion*.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD

Anarchists claim that "the state is evil", because people are not free to do what they want. They say that people are essentially good and don't need to be told what to do. If left alone, each person will naturally do what's best for society.

VIVA LA REVOLUTION

A state of anarchy can occur when a government suddenly collapses, or is overthrown, and there is no one in charge. This happened in Spain during the Civil War in the 1930s. The government was weak and there were fears of revolution, which led to a bloody war as the government collapsed. So local communities took charge and organized things without asking the government. Large parts of Spain were run by anarchic groups – at least until the future dictator Franco took charge in 1936.

Anarchic organizations helped people get on with everyday life during the war.

ELEMENTS OF ANARCHY

Anarchy stands out from other political ideologies because it has **NEVER** actually *succeeded*.

1 Absolute freedom

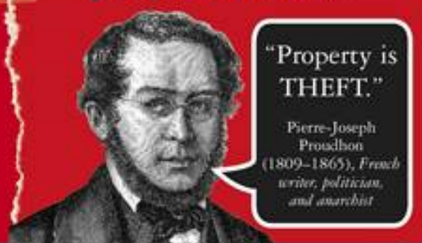
Anarchy sounds like fun, right? You can do whatever you want. It sounds great, it is what we dream of doing, but can it work in practice?

2 I don't want that!

3 No government is good government

4 What's yours is mine

Many anarchists believe in common ownership, where each person can use whatever they want because nothing belongs to anyone. Imagine how great that could be: if you found something you really wanted you could just take it! But also imagine if people had the right to take something you didn't want them to have. They would be no one to complain to because everyone is free to do as they please.



5 Lawlessness

How can you make sure that people don't misbehave, especially if there are no laws to stop people stealing or even murdering? In the anarchic days that resulted after the French Revolution of 1789, many people looted church silver and artworks, took possessions from grand homes, and helped themselves to the things that they had not been able to enjoy before.

6 All in it together

Anarchy can start by overthrowing the government in power, but anarchists need to make sure that no other person or group steps in to take charge – otherwise it's not anarchy but a coup, forcibly replacing one ruler with another.

The IDEAS RAINBOW

EVERYONE has his or her own *ideas* on how to deal with problems of the state. These opinions are known as *political ideas*, and they can all be PLOTTED across an **ideas rainbow.**

A RAINBOW OF IDEAS

The ideas rainbow shows a change in political values from an extreme left to an extreme right. The political groups that sit near each other on the rainbow hold similar ideals. A group positioned opposite will have opposing ideas.

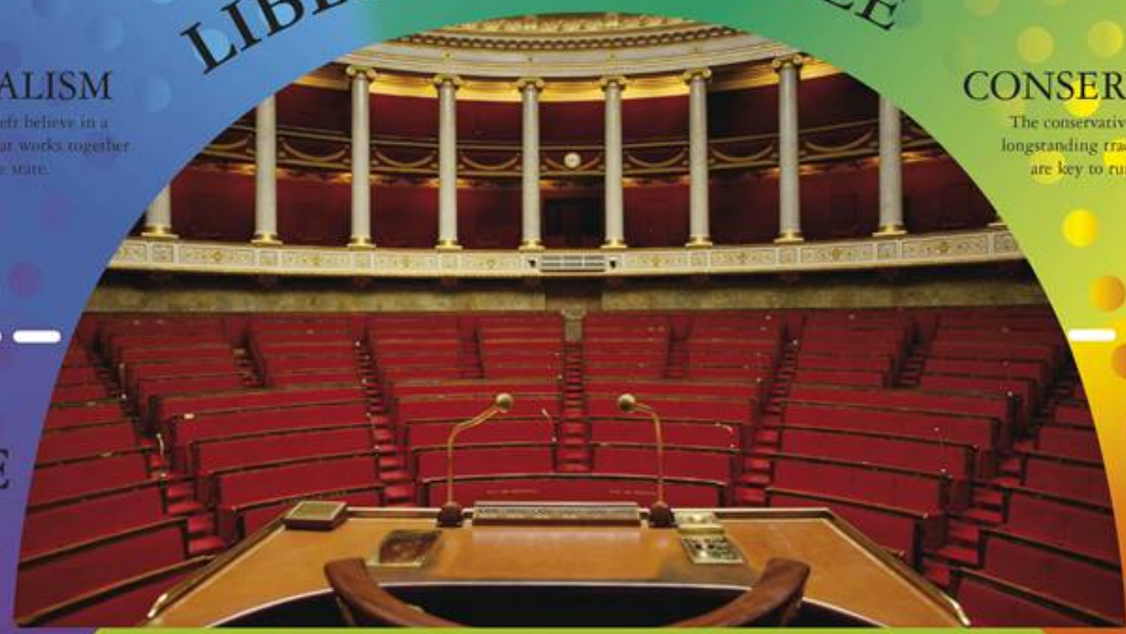
It started with a REVOLUTION

Why LEFT and RIGHT? It began after the French Revolution in 1789. When the new government sat down, the victorious revolutionaries sat on the left side of the chamber, and remnants of the defeated nobility sat on the right.

LIBERAL MIDDLE

LIBERALISM

Liberals believe everyone is individual and we all have the right to pursue our own goals. Liberalism formed the basis of modern democracy.



LEFT VALUES

FREEDOM
The citizen should have more freedom in the state.

EQUALITY
Everyone has the equal right to improve.

PROGRESS
The state should change and improve.

TOGETHERNESS
Cooperation is key to the success of the state.

SOCIALISM

The socialist left believe in a free society that works together to improve the state.

Democratic

Autocratic

EXTREME LEFT

COMMUNISM

Communism believes everyone should be equal, removing the elite and the class system. Everyone must help the state and participate equally. This requires a lot of authority and strict control.

Castro took over Cuba in 1959 and formed a communist state.

MANY GOVERNMENTS *have a seating plan that mirrors the* RAINBOW.

CONSERVATISM

The conservative right believes that longstanding tradition and hierarchy are key to running a better state.

Democratic

Autocratic

EXTREME RIGHT

FASCISM

Fascism believes in a unified national community. It values duty, honour, and war. The state has complete control and the citizens have to obey a supreme leader. Fascists see struggle and competition as a natural order of life.

RIGHT VALUES

AUTHORITY
The state should have more control over the citizen.

HIERARCHY
Everyone has a place in society – high or low.

TRADITION
Society is built on longstanding values.

DUTY
Everyone has a duty to help the state.

AN EASTERN VIEW

In Asian politics there is less of a rainbow. Instead the political ideas are based on strong family values, like wisdom, experience, and tradition. It delivers stern and supportive ideas that seek to achieve social harmony and emphasize individual responsibility.

Mussolini led a fascist Italy during the Second World War.

A *difference* of opinion

How does a citizen decide whom to *vote* for? Ideally, voters need to be well informed about the *different* ideas of each political party so that they can form an *opinion.* Differences of opinion are healthy for politics and through *debate* opposing viewpoints can be discussed.

The right to freedom of speech

Being able to speak out to share ideas and opinions with others is recognized as an international human right. Through debating ideas and voicing differences of opinion, laws can be made and changed.

The right to freedom of speech allows citizens to protest, such as these Australian aboriginal children are doing.

How a debate works...

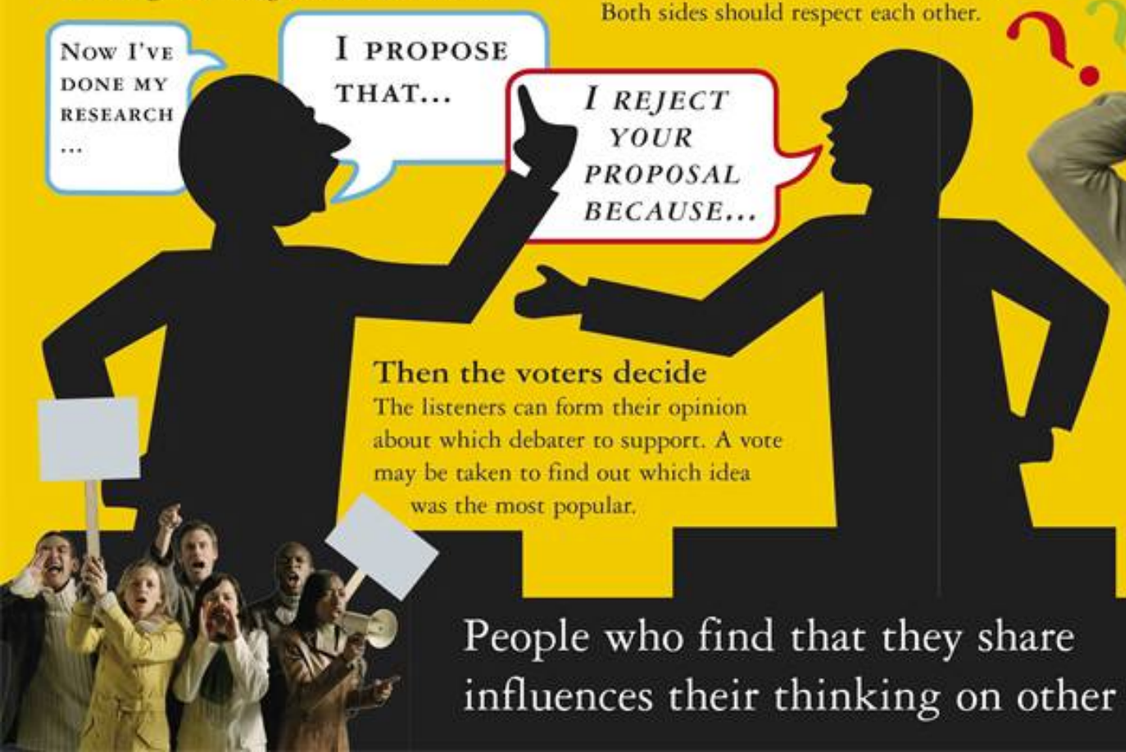
A statement, or motion, is made that can be agreed or disagreed with.

Good preparation is everything...

The debaters research information about the issue and form their arguments to either agree or disagree with the motion.

The debate begins

The debaters present their arguments to persuade others to agree with them. Both sides should respect each other.



Then the voters decide

The listeners can form their opinion about which debater to support. A vote may be taken to find out which idea was the most popular.

What's your opinion?

Think about the argument for and against each of these motions:

MOTION 1. Recycling should become a law.

MOTION 2. Keeping animals as pets should be banned.

MOTION 3. Everyone should be required to carry identity cards.

For example, you could argue *against* the motion by saying...

- that animals should live in the wild.
- that pets in a house are unhygenic because they carry pests and diseases.

Or *for* the motion by saying...

- pets provide companionship.
- owning a pet teaches someone responsibility and caring.

THE BIG ISSUE

Your opinion in one subject can influence your views in other subjects. For example, do you worry about the environment and the survival of the planet? If so, does this effect what you think about air travel, mining, deforestation (cutting down forests), and vegetarianism?

People who find that they share common views on the BIG issues, which then influences their thinking on other issues, may join together and form political parties.