

Name _____

What Does Government Do?

What is the function of a government? One of the most important functions of a government is to **retain in power**. A government relies on the **following** of its people and strives to prove its **legitimacy** in their eyes. This may be done by identifying with and showing an understanding of the people's various customs and cultures and a shared hope for the future. Or, a government may foster a fear of a common enemy. Most governments will strive to never lose their power in the world.

Another function of a government that is aimed to people is to **protect** and to **serve**. A **democratic** government is one where the people **ARE** the government. Leaders are elected by citizens from their own states and towns. Other governments have leaders that are born into royal positions. And, in some other countries, government positions are taken by force.

Our US Government provides us protection from other countries who may wish to harm us. Our government also provides services to many people so that lives can be lived more safely and healthily. However, unlike many countries, our government does not own all of the services it provides. Our freedom of commerce and right to choose gives us options some other countries do not have.

Directions: Discuss and record examples of services our government provides to its citizens. Are there any new ones you'd like the government to consider?
