



Moving On

Sample lesson from
"I Think: Connections - Dictators"
Correlates to Common Core
Standards!!

Springboard:

Students should read "Easier Said than Done" and answer the questions

Objective: The student will be able to explain why moving from dictatorship to more democratic forms of rule is so difficult.

Materials: Easier Said than Done (Springboard handout)
Breaking the Chains Game Board (per pair)
Breaking the Chains Game Cards (one cut-out set per pair)
Understanding the Issues (handout)
coins

Terms to Know: **grassroots** - organized and run by ordinary people in the community

Vocabulary
development
always an
emphasis!

Procedure:

- After reviewing the Springboard, tell the student(s) that *in this lesson, they will play a game that demonstrates how difficult it is for people to get rid of dictators.*
- **For group instruction** group students in pairs. **For individualized instruction** the teacher or parent can play the game with the student.
- Distribute the following to each pair of students: one game board, one set of cards and three different coins. (One coin will be used as dice: heads = one space and tails = 2 spaces. The remaining two coins should be used as pawns.)
- Tell the student(s) "*You are the leader of a revolutionary group in your country, which is presently ruled by a ruthless dictator. The first person to make it to the end of the board will lead his or her people to freedom from the horrible rule of the dictator.*"
- Have the student(s) play the game until one wins.
- Distribute "Understanding the Issues." The student(s) should work individually or in pairs to complete the chart.
- Have them share and compare their answers.

Easy-to-follow teacher instructions
and important points of emphasis!

Lesson-specific warm-ups
introduce students to the topic
and maximize on-task time!



EASIER SAID THAN DONE



Throughout history it has been easier for dictators to rise to power in countries where the people have little to no experience with self-rule. People under the control of (and often oppressed by) their government become used to such treatment. This was especially true in the twentieth century in countries, which had been ruled as colonies of powerful nations, after they achieved their independence. For generations their people had been told where to go, what to do, and how to do it, so they were accustomed to being told how to live their lives. It was natural for them to respond to a dictator who exercised similar control over their lives.

Dictators come and go; sometimes one is overthrown only to be replaced by another. What is not as common is for a dictator to be overthrown and replaced with a democratic government. The shift from rule of one to more representative and democratic rule is a long and difficult road.

Democracy requires organization at the local level and active participation by citizens. It is based upon the value and rights of the individual, rather than the state and the ruler. Democracy usually runs on majority rule, but there must also be a respect for minority rights. All of these requirements of democracy are complicated, complex, and hard to achieve in countries that have no understanding of them. When people are used to being told what to do by a dictator or an oppressive government, they have little opportunity to develop the skills necessary to make these changes. Of course a successful shift from dictatorship to democracy can happen, but it is very rare.

According to the passage, it was easy for dictators to come to power in former colonies because the people

- A. didn't know about democracy.
- B. were used to dictators and tyrants.
- C. had little experience with self-rule.
- D. achieved their independence easily.

Moving from dictatorship to democracy is rare because

- A. the skills necessary are complex and complicated.
- B. democracy requires majority rule with minority rights.
- C. dictators do not allow people to develop free thought.
- D. it's easy for dictators to rule when there is no democracy.

Based on what you learned from the passage, explain why people rarely rebel against brutal dictators.

Questions require critical reading for test
preparation within the context of the lesson!



EASIER SAID THAN DONE ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Throughout history it has been easier for dictators to rise to power in countries where the people have little to no experience with self-rule. People under the control of (and often oppressed by) their government become used to such treatment. This was especially true in the twentieth century in countries, which had been ruled as colonies of powerful nations, after they achieved their independence. For generations their people had been told where to go, what to do, and how to do it, so they were accustomed to being told how to live their lives. It was natural for them to respond to a dictator who exercised similar control over their lives.

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According to the passage, it was easy for dictators to come to power in former colonies because the people

- (The first paragraph explains*
- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. didn't know about democracy. B. were used to dictators and tyrants. C. have little experience with self-rule. * D. achieved their independence easily. | <p><i>that after generations of
oppressive rule, the people were
used to being told what to do,
having had no other experience.)</i></p> |
|--|--|

Moving from dictatorship to democracy is rare because

- (Choices B, C, and D*
- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. the skills necessary are complex and complicated. * B. democracy requires majority rule with minority rights. C. dictators do not allow people to develop free thought. D. it's easy for dictators to rule when there is no democracy. <i>A explains it.)</i> | <p><i>are true, but are not
reasons why the
shift is difficult.</i></p> |
|---|---|

Based on what you learned from the passage, explain why people rarely rebel against brutal dictators:

(While answers may vary, it is important to recognize that rebellion requires not only organization, but an understanding of the alternative to oppressive rule. If people have no experience with democracy or representative rule, they have little or no motivation to demand it.)

Teacher answers model critical thinking and test-taking strategies!

BREAKING THE CHAINS

Student games are just one of a multitude of ways InspirEd lessons get content across!



PICK A CARD

You get a million dollars from a sympathetic human rights group.

Move up one space!

The dictator has you arrested and put in jail for 6 months.

Lose a turn!

The Dictator rigs national elections!

Move back two spaces!

PICK A CARD

Dictator loses support from the military

Move up one space!

PICK A CARD

Dictator allows elections of local officials

Move up one space!

PICK A CARD

Dictator opens a new political prison camp!

Move back two spaces!

PICK A CARD

Dictator abolishes private business!

Move back one space!



Move back ONE space and pick a card, for old time's sake.

PICK A CARD

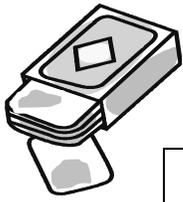
You are temporarily exiled!

Lose a turn!

Dictator's health is failing!

Move up one space!

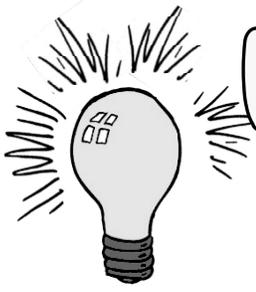
PICK A CARD



BREAKING THE CHAINS GAME CARDS

<p>Your country was previously ruled by a king. You have no experience in self-rule.</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>	<p>Your country was colonized by a stronger nation. You have no experience with self-rule.</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>
<p>The educated people in your country ran away to escape persecution from the dictator.</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>	<p>The post-independence leader cannot meet the needs of the people and is overthrown by the dictator.</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>
<p>The dictator is a former military hero and comes to power with a lot of support.</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>	<p>Communication (telephones, radios, computers, etc) is poor in your country, so it is difficult to organize.</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>
<p>The dictator has banned all press and media.</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>	<p>Colonialism left your country in financial ruin.</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>
<p>The dictator's control of the country has resulted in food shortages. Millions are starving.</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>	<p>Thousands of intellectuals are jailed, or exiled! Who's going to lead?</p> <p>Move back one space!</p>
<p>An underground newspaper has appeared, criticizing the dictator!</p> <p>Move ahead one space!</p>	<p>The dictator has allowed private businesses to re-open.</p> <p>Move ahead one space!</p>
<p>International pressure has led the dictator promising free elections in two years!</p> <p>Move ahead one space!</p>	<p>Secret political groups have organized on the local level!</p> <p>Move ahead one space!</p>
<p>Grassroots organizations begin to form!</p> <p>Move ahead one space!</p>	<p>A ban on books is lifted!</p> <p>Move ahead one space!</p>
<p>Sympathetic countries have smuggled money to rebels that oppose the dictator!</p> <p>Move ahead one space!</p>	<p>Educated leaders have been released from political prison camps!</p> <p>Move ahead one space!</p>
<p>Widespread and open criticism of the dictator arises after rigged elections!</p> <p>Move ahead one space!</p>	<p>Another military hero begins to organize against the dictator!</p> <p>Move ahead or back one space. Your group decides!</p>

"Game Cards" are a fun and engaging way to illustrate important lesson ideas and content!



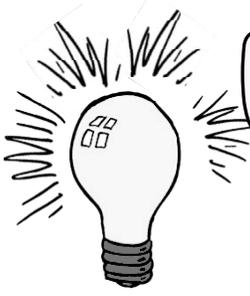
Understanding the Issues

Complete the graphic organizer, based on what you learned about dictatorial rule from the game.

What does a country need to break free from dictatorship?

What types of factors can keep a country under dictatorship?

Graphic organizers help students organize and analyze what the students learn from the game!



Understanding the Issues

Complete the graphic organizer, based on what you learned about dictatorial rule from the game.

What does a country need to break free from dictatorship?

- *Money*
- *Free and fair elections*
- *Education*
- *Free press*
- *Open criticism*
- *Private business*
- *Grassroots organizers and organizations*
- *International support*
- *Leadership*

What kinds of things can keep a country under dictatorship?

- *Arrests, detentions, exile of potential leaders*
- *Military support of a dictator*
- *Rigged elections*
- *No experience among the masses with self-rule*
- *Poor living conditions (hunger, disease, etc.)*
- *Financial problems*
- *No free press or access to information*

Teacher answers help "fill in the gaps" during review and discussion!