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Teaching About East Asia  
Friday, July 24, 2009

Title: East Asian TIP: A Study of the Basic Forms of Government Using East Asia As The Model

Purpose: The purpose of this lesson is to explain the basic forms of government, specifically Democracy/Republic, Parliamentary Monarchy, Communism, and Dictatorship, by using the nations of East Asia as a model. Students will study the constitutions of China, Taiwan, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea, and will diagram the structure of those governments. A comparison will be made between these countries, and also between other examples of these countries in other parts of the world.

Rationale: By using the countries of East Asia as a model of the major forms of government systems found in the world today, students will get a real life example, rather than just reading about the systems from a textbook. It will also introduce students to primary reading skills, as they will be reading directly from the constitutions of these nations.

Grade level & Standards/benchmarks this would satisfy:

- New Albany Standard/Benchmark:
  - Grade/Class: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Government, Economics, and Politics
  - Standard: What are government, politics, and economics?
  - Benchmark: Students will explain the various forms of government & economic systems found in the world today.
- State of Ohio Standard/Benchmark:
  - Grade: 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Standard: Government – Systems of Government
  - Benchmark: 2. Analyze the purposes, structures and functions of various systems of government including
    - a. Absolute monarchies;
    - b. Constitutional monarchies;
    - c. Parliamentary democracies;
    - d. Presidential democracies;
    - e. Dictatorships;
    - f. Theocracies.

\*It should be noted that New Albany High School where I teach does not follow the Ohio State standards for history. Currently, the curriculum in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade specifies a teaching of government, economics, and politics as an integrated curriculum. As noted, I have listed both the State of Ohio standards, as well as my district standards.

Goals/objectives (specific to this lesson):

- Students will practice active reading skills by reading a constitution and diagramming the layout of that country.
- Students will see the basic concepts of the major forms of government in the world today.
- Students will make comparisons between how these countries demonstrate the respective systems of government, and how other countries use similar systems of governments.
- Students will make comparisons between these countries systems of government and that which the United States uses.

Essential questions:

*General Questions*

- How do countries use a system of government as a basis for an overall outline?
- What similarities or differences do you see between the different systems of government?
- Why do you think that five countries in the same region all use different systems of government?
- How did the involvement of outside nations influence the governments of East Asia?
- What similarities or differences do you see between the governments of East Asia and other governments around the world?

*Nation Specific Questions*

- What similarities or differences do you see between China and North Korea?
- What similarities or differences do you see between Japan and South Korea?
- Thinking about North & South Korea, and about China (PRC) and Taiwan (ROC), what language do you notice that hints about their trouble relationships?
- Why do you think Japan kept their Emperor, while China and Korea did not?

Materials/Resources:

- Either access to the internet and a way to provide links, or classroom copies of the constitutions of the five East Asian nations.
- Some way for students to display their government form, preferably poster board or butcher block paper (so you can keep them), but white/chalk boards will do.

Activities (by day if multiple days are used)

This lesson should be done relatively early in the study of government, as it will outline the systems of government seen around the world. I would, however, do it *after* the discussion of the American Constitution, as there are many parallels that can be made.

Before the activity

- Pre-Assessment (Optional): Prior assigning the activity, give the students the pre-assessment. (Either copy the page, or give it orally.)
- At least one day prior to the main activity, divide the class into five groups. Each group will be representing one of the five nations in East Asia. Students need to have access to the constitution of their country. If students have internet access, then they will need the links for the constitutions. If not, then a class copy will need to be provided to them.

- For homework, assign each group a nation (China, Taiwan, Japan, North Korea, South Korea).
- At the teacher's discretion, the students may either diagram the system of government on their own, or a guide can be given to help them out. They need to cite the articles that list the specific provisions of the government setup (see teacher example).
  - There are two handouts teachers may pass out. Handout A for each nation is the more general handout which allows for a more student directed assignment. Handout B has a more directed approach.
- Students should be prepared to share the diagram of their country's government with the class, after some time to confer with their group.

#### Day 1:

- Check student work for completion.
- Allow students 10-15 minutes to confer with their group to make sure all aspects are covered. Each group should compile their information into one group presentation. If poster board or butcher block paper is available, have each group diagram their form of government to be shared with the group. If white/chalk boards will be used, have students come up with a final diagram to be used as a guide when writing on the board, and also to be handed in for accuracy check (at teachers discretion).
- Once groups have finalized their diagram, each group will share. This will take the remainder of Day 1 and into Day 2.

#### Day 2:

- Complete group presentations.
- Have students point out similarities and differences between the systems of government.
- Within the country groups, have students write up a basic description of the form of government their country is based on (republic, parliamentary monarchy, dictatorship, communist). Collect these descriptions for use on Day 3.

#### Day 3:

- Using the students' descriptions of their system of government, prepare a pop quiz asking students to match the system of government with the five East Asian nations.
  - You can also use the descriptions and include more countries from around the world and see if they can accurately match them with their appropriate system of government.
- Assign the Essential Questions for homework.

#### Assessment:

- Pop Quiz on Day 3.
- Have students answer essential questions.
  - To simplify the assignment, answer
    - 3 General Essential Questions
    - 1 Nation Specific Question that includes the nation the student studied
    - 1 Nation Specific Question that includes nations the student didn't study
- Optional: additional assignment or Extra Credit:

- Have students look up the names of the people who fill the leadership positions of their country.

## Websites:

### *China*

- Constitution: [http://english.gov.cn/2005-08/05/content\\_20813.htm](http://english.gov.cn/2005-08/05/content_20813.htm)
  - <http://english.people.com.cn/constitution/constitution.html>
- Helpful information and explanations (sometimes it just repeats the constitution, but sometimes its helpful): <http://english.gov.cn/about.htm>
- Communist Party Website: [http://english.gov.cn/2007-10/22/content\\_923081.htm](http://english.gov.cn/2007-10/22/content_923081.htm)

### *Taiwan*

- Constitution: <http://www.gio.gov.tw/taiwan-website/5-gp/yearbook/appendix-3.html>
- General outline of the government by the Government Information Office: <http://www.gio.gov.tw/taiwan-website/5-gp/yearbook/ch4.html>
- General outline of the government by E-government Entry Point of Taiwan, also from the Government Information Office: <http://english.www.gov.tw/lp.asp?CtNode=914&CtUnit=334&BaseDSD=7&mp=1>

### *Japan*

- Constitution: <http://www.ndl.go.jp/constitution/e/etc/c01.html>
- Helpful information & summary of constitutional provisions: <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2136.html>
- Helpful information & summary of constitutional provisions: [http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/constitution\\_and\\_government\\_of\\_japan/fundamental\\_e.html](http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/constitution_and_government_of_japan/fundamental_e.html)

### *South Korea*

- Constitution: <http://eng.scourt.go.kr/eboard/NewsListAction.work?gubun=44&pageSize=15>
  - The National Assembly has a copy too, but it has many typos.
- Basic Info about Korea & the government: [http://www.korea.net/korea/kor\\_loca.asp?code=N01](http://www.korea.net/korea/kor_loca.asp?code=N01)
- Each branch of the South Korean government has a good description and orginazational chart on their websites:
  - Judicial Branch: <http://eng.scourt.go.kr/eng/judiciary/introduction.jsp>
  - Constitutional Court: <http://english.ccourt.go.kr/>
  - National Assembly: [http://korea.na.go.kr/int/org\\_01.jsp?leftid=AA](http://korea.na.go.kr/int/org_01.jsp?leftid=AA)
  - Executive Branch/President: <http://english.president.go.kr/government/branch/branch.php>

### *North Korea*

- Constitution: [http://www1.korea-np.co.jp/pk/061st\\_issue/98091708.htm](http://www1.korea-np.co.jp/pk/061st_issue/98091708.htm)
  - Root website: <http://www.korea-np.co.jp/pk/>
- Constitution: [http://www.novexcen.com/dprk\\_constitution\\_98.html](http://www.novexcen.com/dprk_constitution_98.html)

- Main government web page (not very helpful, but interesting): <http://www.korea-dpr.com/>
- Library of Congress North Korea page:  
<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/nations/northkorea.php>

## Pre-Assessment

Use the following options/letters to answer the questions below:

- A. United States of America
- B. People's Republic of China
- C. Republic of China
- D. Japan
- E. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- F. Republic of Korea
- G. All the above
- H. None

Bonus: In the list of nations, 3 are known by other names. Write those names next to the appropriate nations.

1. Which of these countries has a constitution that guarantees the Freedom of Speech?  
A      B      C      D      E      F      G      H
2. Which of these countries has a constitution that guarantees the Freedom of Religion?  
A      B      C      D      E      F      G      H
3. Which of these countries has a constitution that guarantees the right to an education?  
A      B      C      D      E      F      G      H
4. Which of these countries defines themselves as socialist?  
A      B      C      D      E      F      G      H
5. Which of these countries defines themselves as an empire?  
A      B      C      D      E      F      G      H
6. Which of these countries has a constitution that renounces war?  
A      B      C      D      E      F      G      H
7. Briefly define the following major types of governments:
  - a. Democracy (specifically direct democracy)
  - b. Republic
  - c. Empire
  - d. Communism
  - e. Dictatorship

Directions: As you read the Constitution of The Peoples Republic of China, draw a diagram to show how the government is organized. Use the basic information below to help you. After you have drawn your diagram, answer the questions at the bottom.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram!

Basic information you need to find:

- How many branches are there, and who is the leader of each branch?
- How are the members of the branches chosen?
- How is the leader of the branch chosen?
- What are the basic responsibilities for each branch?
- Be sure to cite the specific article each piece of information comes from!

Post Reading Questions:

1. How is the nations' economy discussed in the Constitution?
2. What is the difference between the National Party Congress & the Standing Committee of the National Party Congress?
3. Why do you think the branches all report back to the National Party Congress?
4. Who is considered the Chief of State? How is this person chosen?
5. What is the relationship between the government at the national level with those at lower levels?
6. One of the guiding principles of the Peoples Republic of China is Democratic Centralism and letting the people run the country. What role do the people play in electing their leaders?

Directions: As you read the Constitution of the Republic of China (also called Taiwan), draw a diagram to show how the government is organized. Use the basic information below to help you. After you have drawn your diagram, answer the questions at the bottom.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram! Pay special attention to the Amendments section, as many things may have changed!

Basic information you need to find:

- How many branches are there, and who is the leader of each branch?
- How are the members of the branches chosen?
- How is the leader of the branch chosen?
- What are the basic responsibilities for each branch?
- Be sure to cite the specific article each piece of information comes from!

Post Reading Questions:

1. How is the nations' economy discussed in the constitution?
2. Who is considered the leader? Who is the Chief of State? How is this person chosen?
3. What happened to the National Assembly? Why do you think they changed it?
4. Do you think they should have rewritten the constitution, or just amended it like they did?  
Explain your answer.



Directions: As you read the Constitution of Japan, draw a diagram to show how the government is organized. Use the basic information below to help you. After you have drawn your diagram, answer the questions at the bottom.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram!

Basic information you need to find:

- How many branches are there, and who is the leader of each branch?
- How are the members of the branches chosen?
- How is the leader of the branch chosen?
- What are the basic responsibilities for each branch?
- Be sure to cite the specific article each piece of information comes from!

Post Reading Questions:

1. What power does the Emperor have?
2. What is the function of the Cabinet? Is it a separate branch, or an offshoot of another branch?
3. What does the constitution say about war?
4. What does the constitution say about education?

Directions: As you read the Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (also called North Korea), draw a diagram to show how the government is organized. Use the basic information below to help you. After you have drawn your diagram, answer the questions at the bottom.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram!

Basic information you need to find:

- How many branches are there, and who is the leader of each branch?
- How are the members of the branches chosen?
- How is the leader of the branch chosen?
- What are the basic responsibilities for each branch?
- Be sure to cite the specific article each piece of information comes from!

Post Reading Questions:

1. Take note of the order of the Chapters in the constitution. What does that tell you?
2. What is mentioned about the organization of the economy in the constitution?
3. Do people have freedom of speech in North Korea? If they do, how might the constitution also limit that right?
4. Who is the person who represents Korea? Is he the highest political person in North Korea's government?
5. Why do you think all branches report back to the Supreme People's Assembly?

Directions: As you read the Constitution of The Republic of Korea (also called South Korea), draw a diagram to show how the government is organized. Use the basic information below to help you. After you have drawn your diagram, answer the questions at the bottom.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram!

Basic information you need to find:

- How many branches are there, and who is the leader of each branch?
- How are the members of the branches chosen?
- How is the leader of the branch chosen?
- What are the basic responsibilities for each branch?
- Be sure to cite the specific article each piece of information comes from!

Post Reading Questions:

1. How is the nations' economy discussed in the constitution?
2. What does the constitution say about unification? Why do you think they did this?  
According to the constitution, what is the territory of the Republic of Korea?
3. Are the branches independent of each other, or is there one branch stronger than the rest?
4. Who decides if a law is Constitutional or not?
5. What does the constitution say about education?

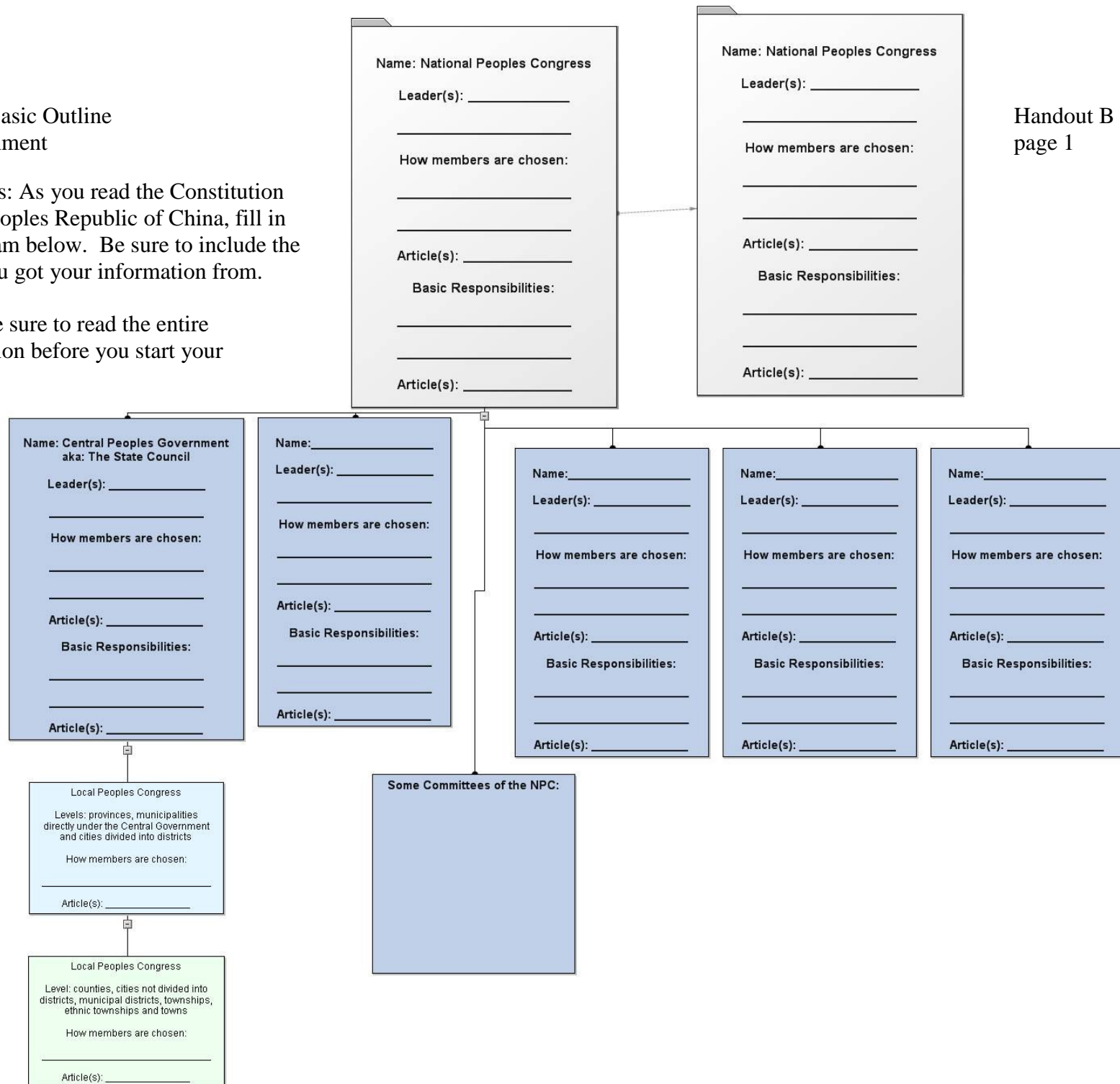


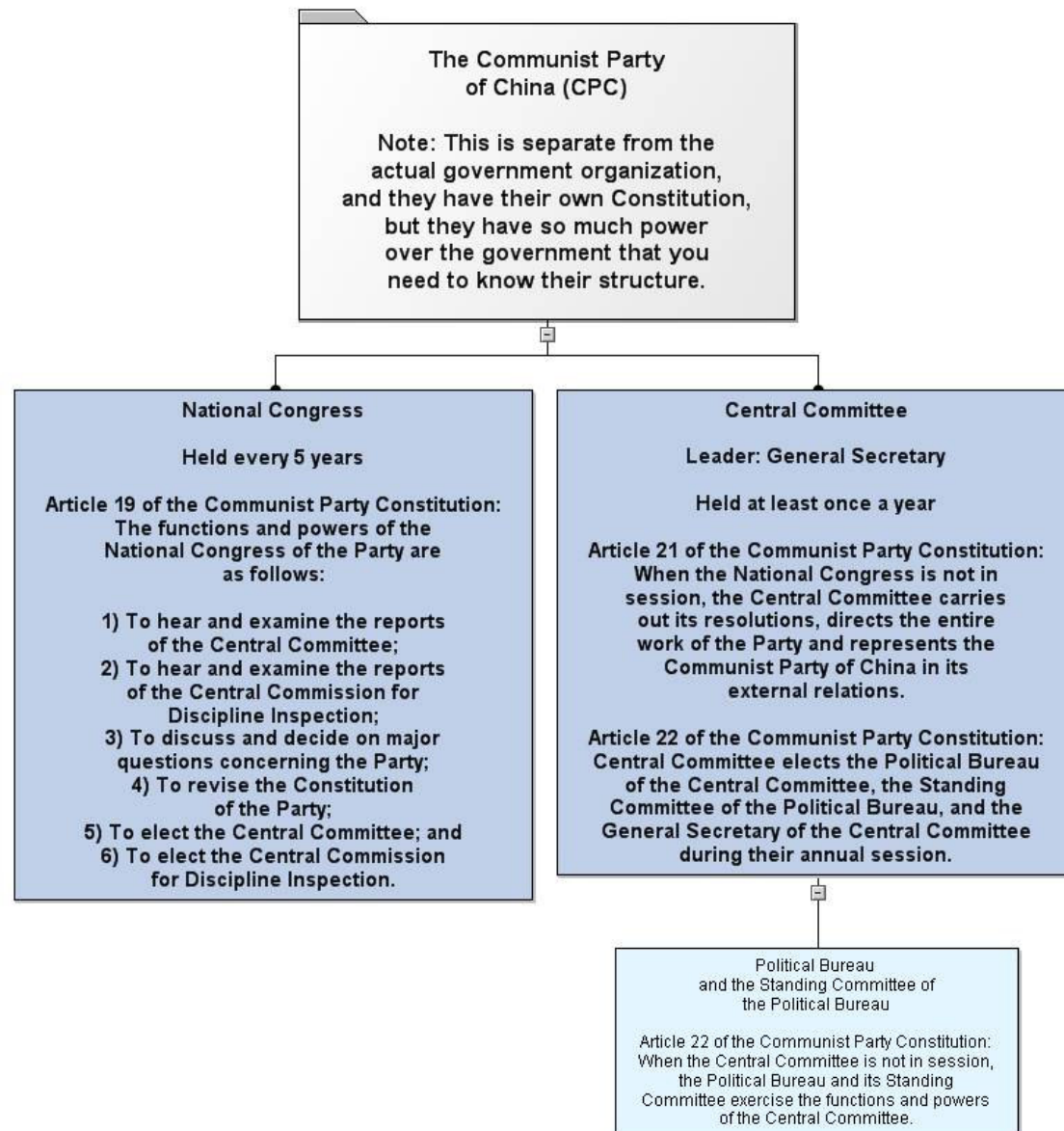
## China – Basic Outline of Government

Directions: As you read the Constitution of The Peoples Republic of China, fill in the diagram below. Be sure to include the article you got your information from.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram!

Handout B  
page 1





## Taiwan – Basic Outline of Government

Handout B

Directions: As you read the Constitution of the Republic of China (also called Taiwan), fill in the diagram below. Be sure to include the article you got your information from.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram! Pay special attention to the Amendments section, as many things may have changed!

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**How members are chosen:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Basic Responsibilities:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

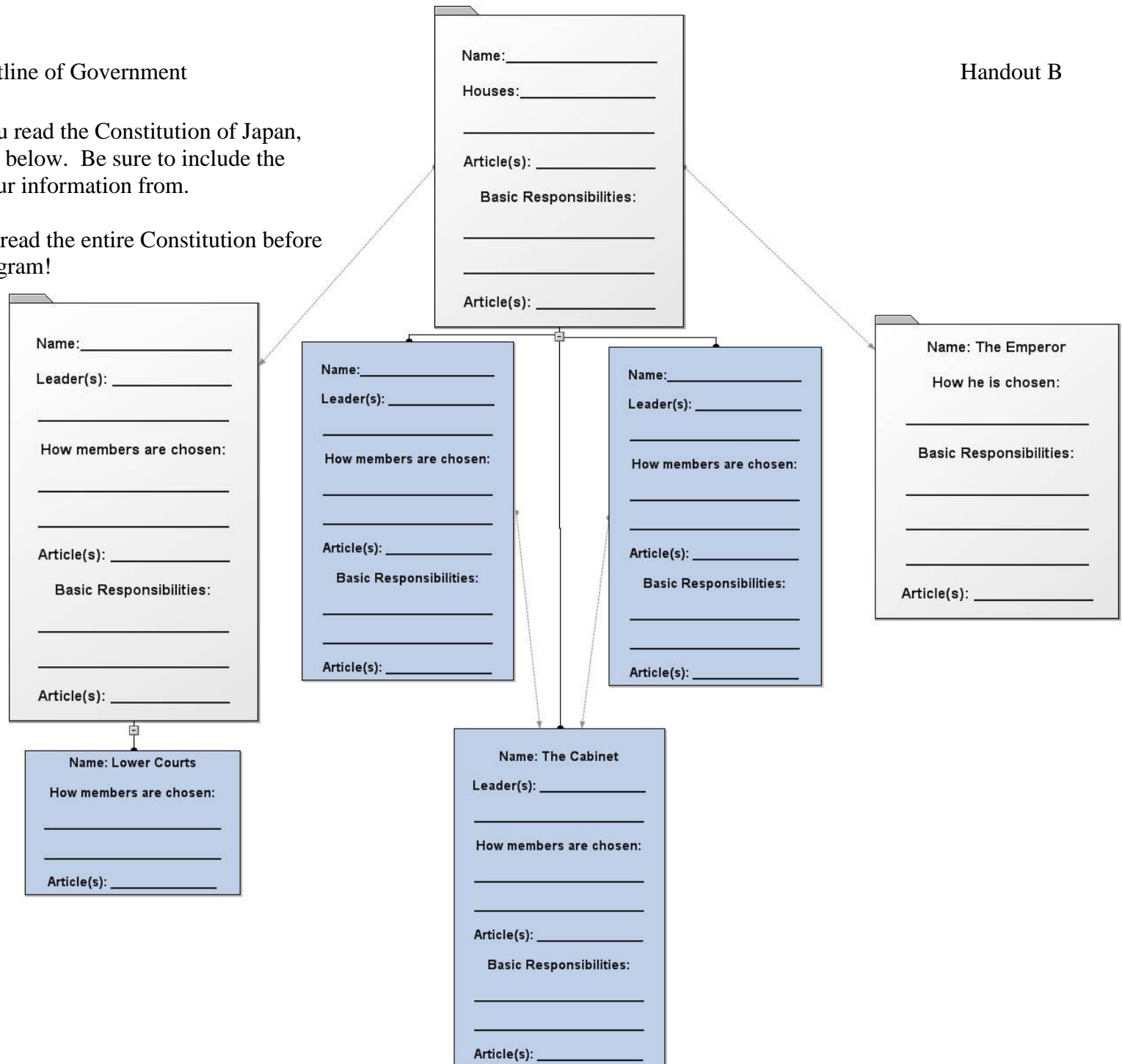
<b>Name:</b> _____ <b>Leader(s):</b> _____ _____ <b>How members are chosen:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____ <b>Basic Responsibilities:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____	<b>Name:</b> _____ <b>Leader(s):</b> _____ _____ <b>How members are chosen:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____ <b>Basic Responsibilities:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____	<b>Name:</b> _____ <b>Leader(s):</b> _____ _____ <b>How members are chosen:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____ <b>Basic Responsibilities:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____	<b>Name:</b> _____ <b>Leader(s):</b> _____ _____ <b>How members are chosen:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____ <b>Basic Responsibilities:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____	<b>Name:</b> _____ <b>Leader(s):</b> _____ _____ <b>How members are chosen:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____ <b>Basic Responsibilities:</b> _____ _____ <b>Article(s):</b> _____
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## Japan – Basic Outline of Government

## Handout B

Directions: As you read the Constitution of Japan, fill in the diagram below. Be sure to include the article you got your information from.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram!



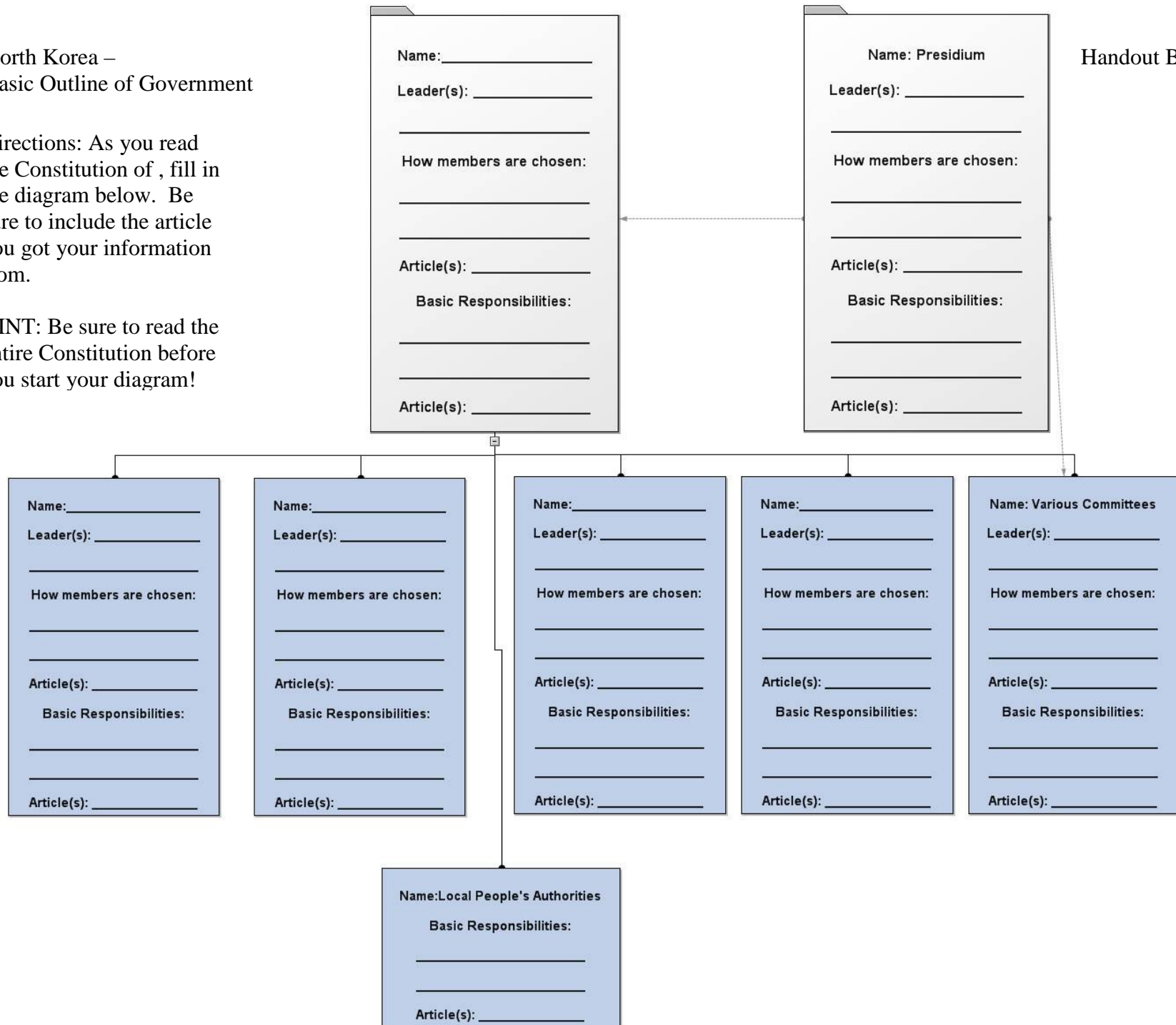


# North Korea – Basic Outline of Government

Directions: As you read the Constitution of , fill in the diagram below. Be sure to include the article you got your information from.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram!

Handout B



## South Korea – Basic Outline of Government

## Handout B

**Name:** Supreme Court

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Responsibilities:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Responsibilities:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Responsibilities:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Responsibilities:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Lower courts

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Responsibilities:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Responsibilities:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Responsibilities:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Advisory Council of Elder Statesmen

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Responsibilities:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Other Specific Councils

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How members are chosen:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Responsibilities:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Other Ministries

**Leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

Some current examples:

- Ministry of Unification
- Ministry of Education, Science, & Technology
- Ministry of National Defense
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
- Ministry for Health, Welfare & Family Affairs
- Ministry of Labor
- Ministry of Gender Equality

Directions: As you read the Constitution of the Republic of Korea (also called South Korea), fill in the diagram below. Be sure to include the article you got your information from.

HINT: Be sure to read the entire Constitution before you start your diagram!

## Essential Questions

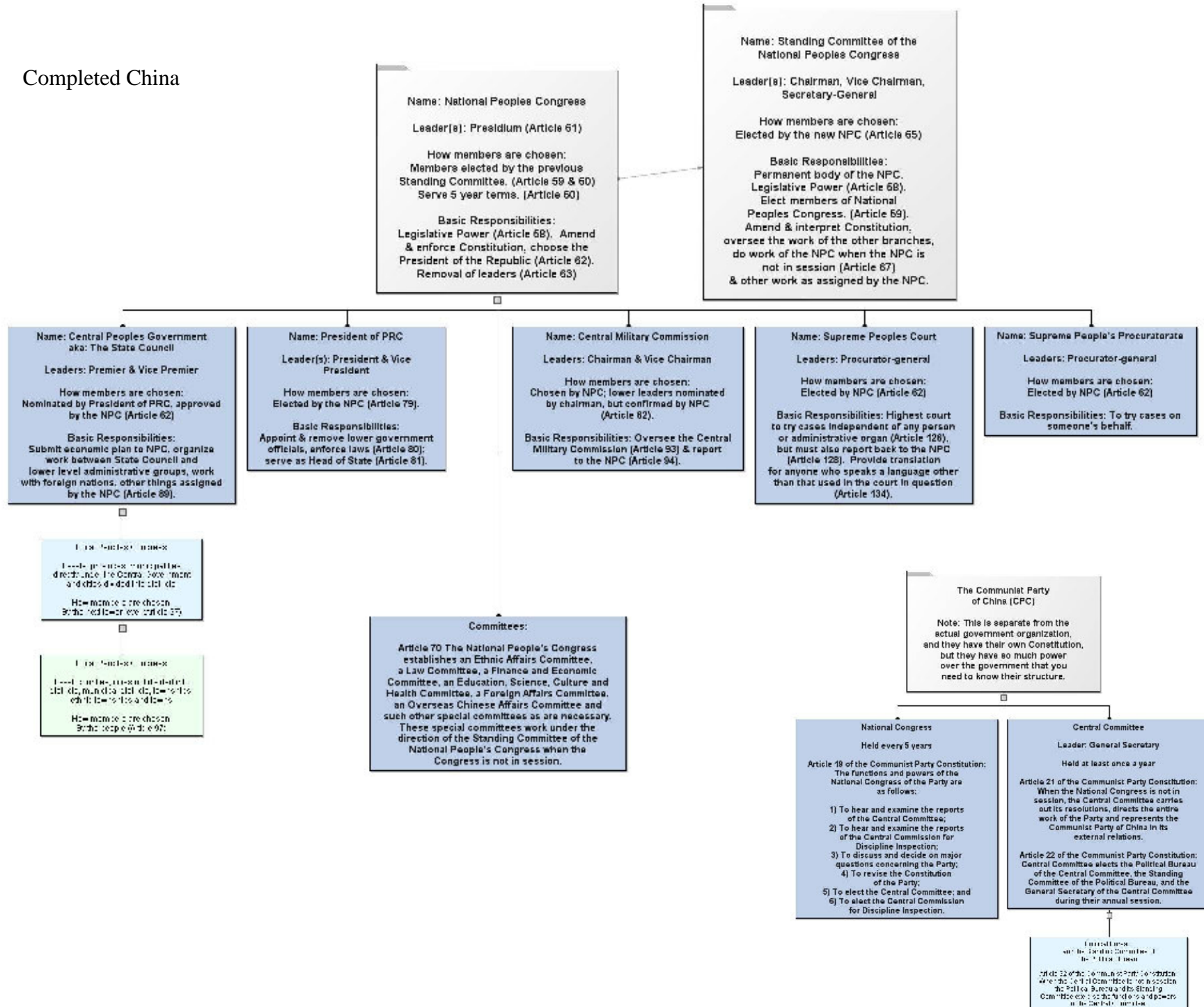
*General Questions: Choose 3 General Questions and answer them.*

1. How do countries use a system of government as a basis for an overall outline?
2. What similarities or differences do you see between the different systems of government?
3. Why do you think that five countries in the same region all use different systems of government?
4. How did the involvement of outside nations influence the governments of East Asia?
5. What similarities or differences do you see between the governments of East Asia and other governments around the world?

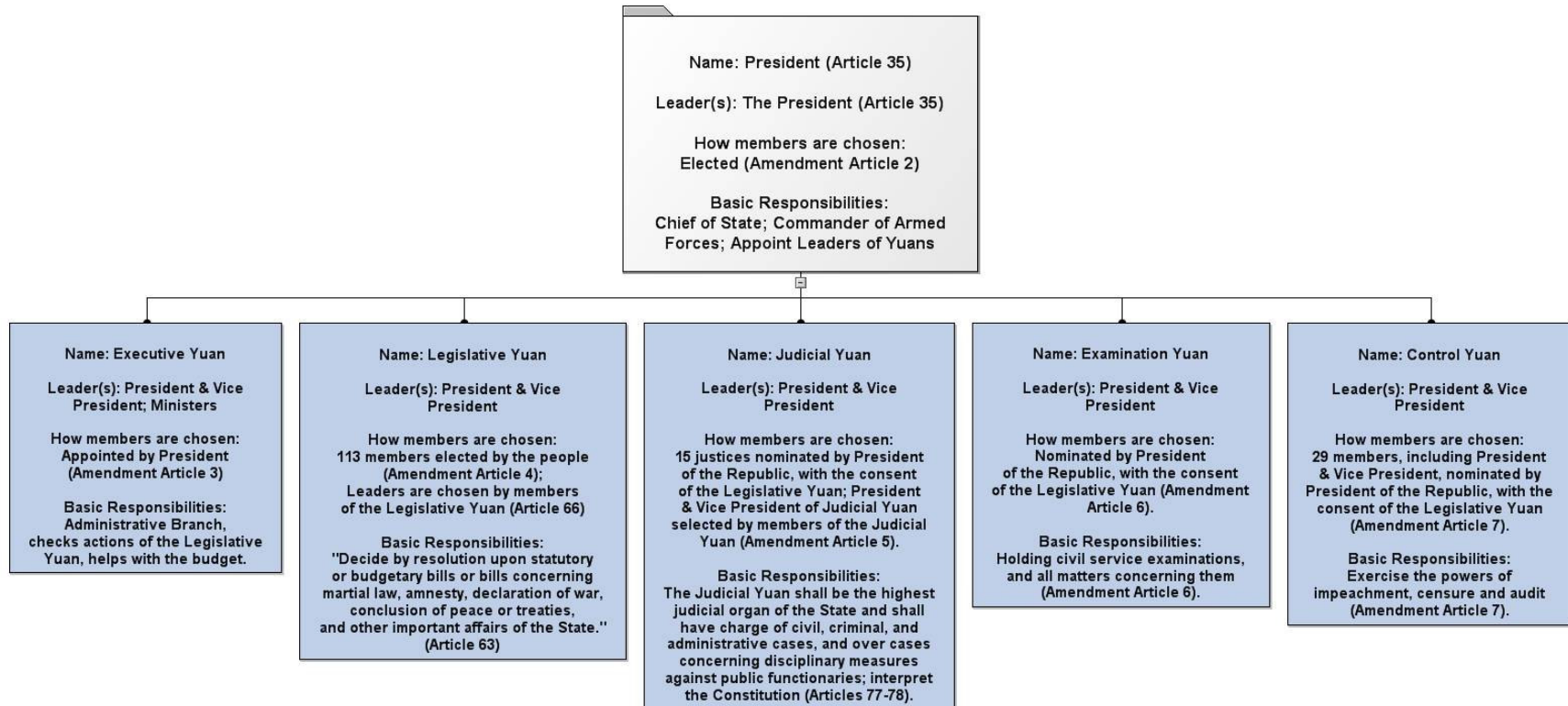
*Nation Specific Questions: Answer 2 of the Nation Specific Questions from below. I needs to include the nation that you studied with your group, the other should include nations that you didn't study.*

1. What similarities or differences do you see between China and North Korea?
2. What similarities or differences do you see between Japan and South Korea?
3. Thinking about North & South Korea, and about China (PRC) and Taiwan (ROC), what language do you notice that hints about their trouble relationships?
4. Why do you think Japan kept their Emperor, while China and Korea did not?

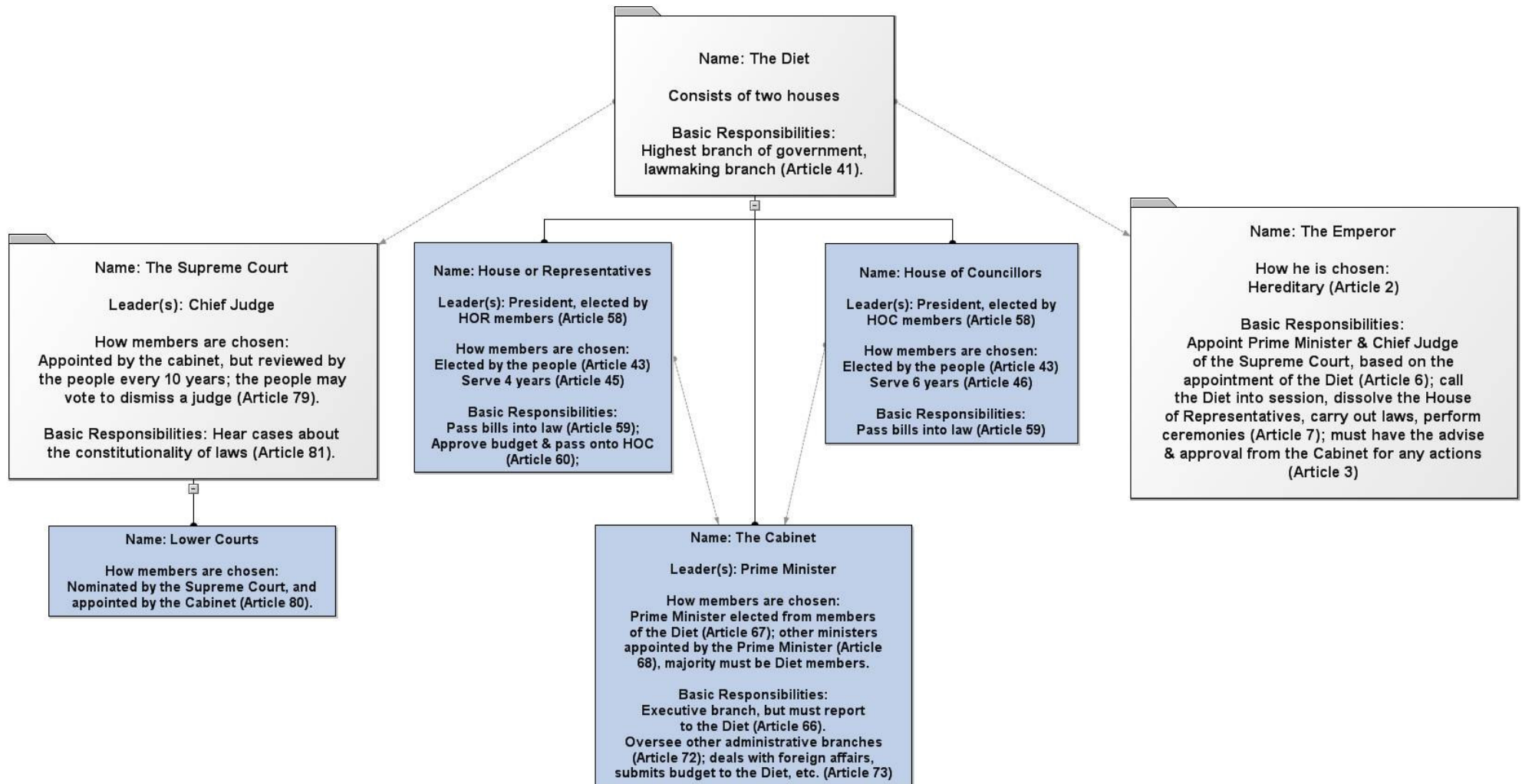
## Completed China



## Completed Taiwan

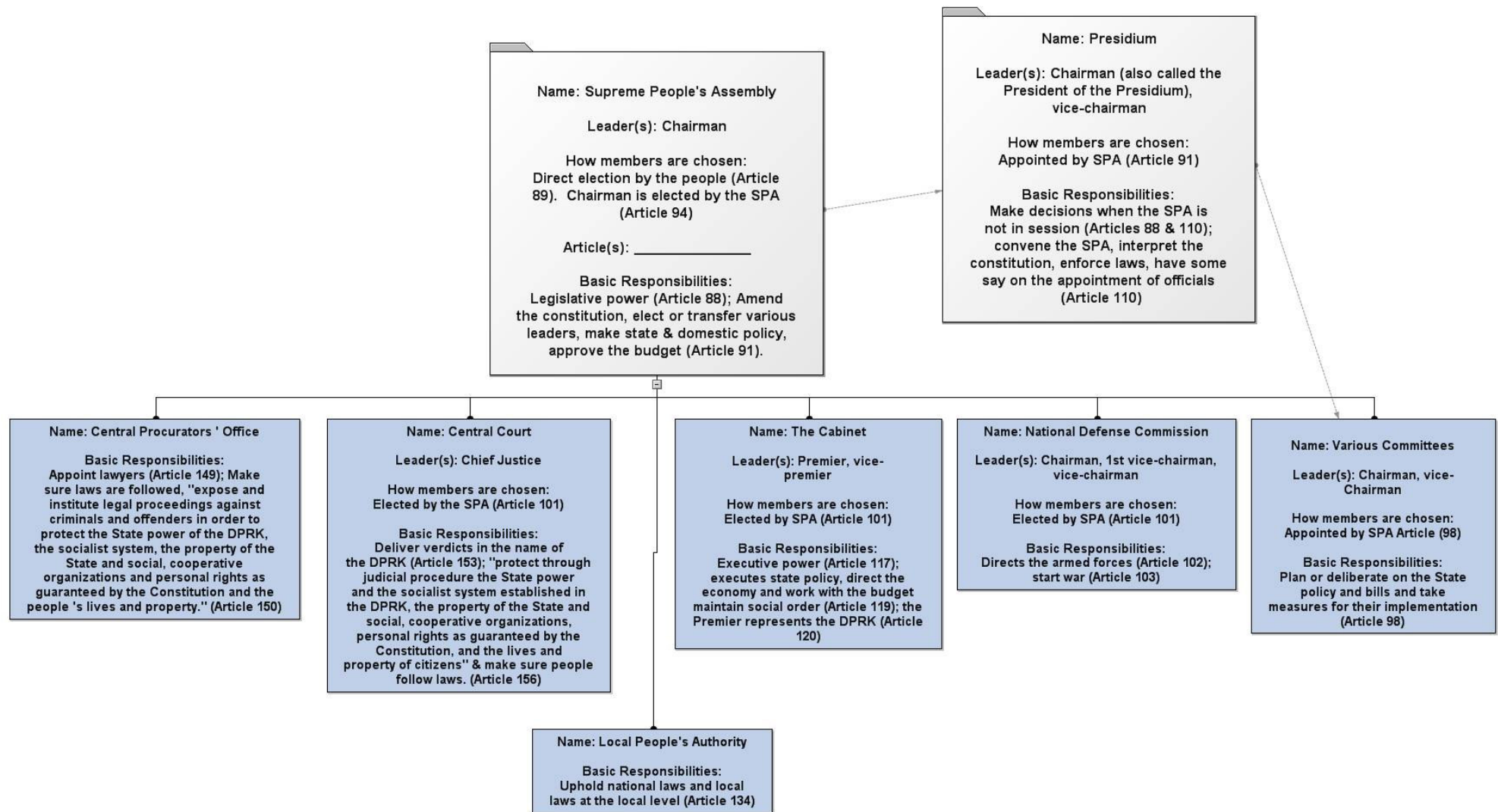


## Completed Japan

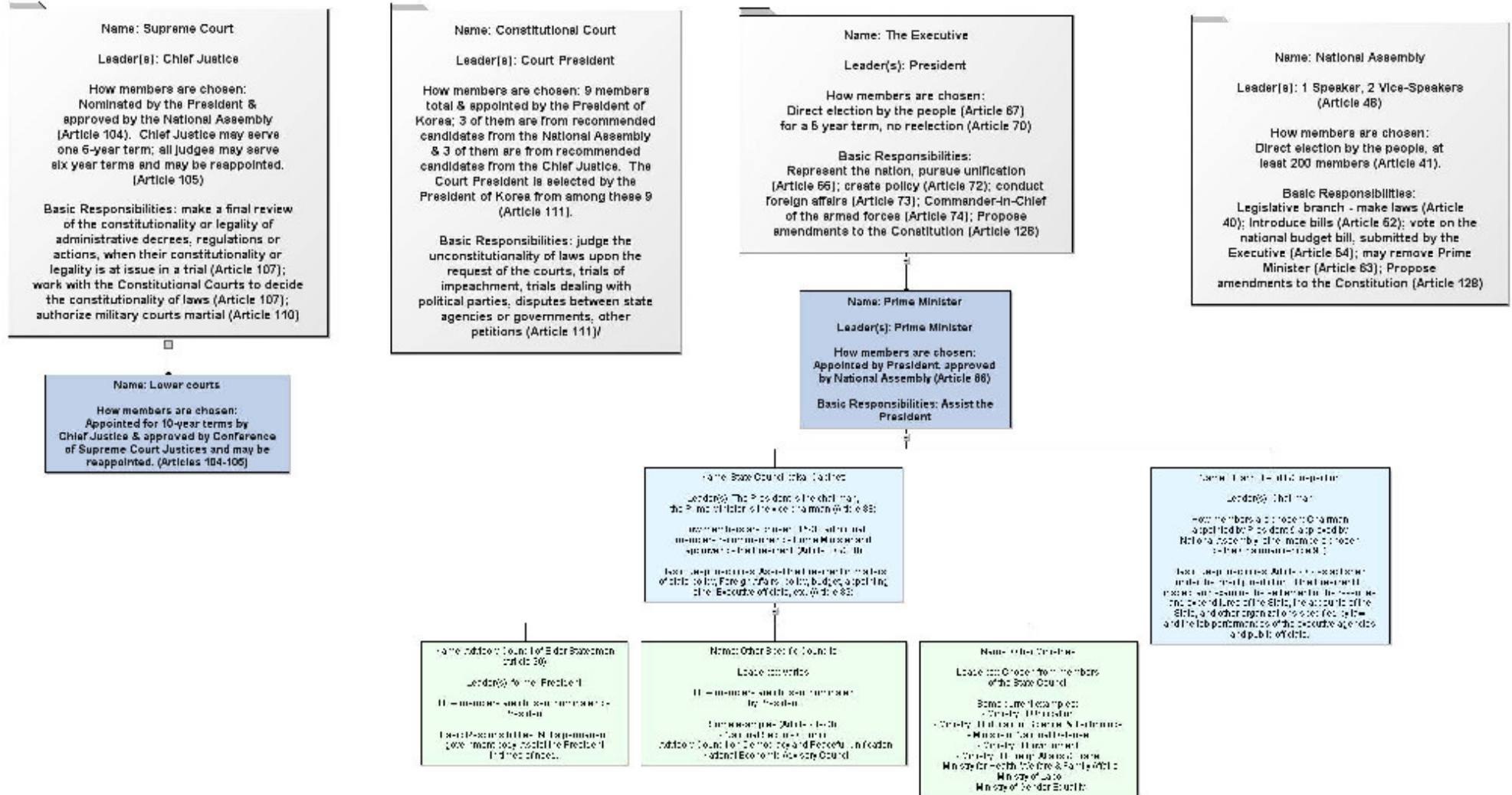




## Completed North Korea



## Completed South Korea





## Pre-Assessment - Answers

Use the following options/letters to answer the questions below:

- A. United States of America
- B. People's Republic of China
- C. Republic of China
- D. Japan
- E. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- F. Republic of Korea
- G. All the above
- H. None

1. Which of these countries has a constitution that guarantees the Freedom of Speech?

A      B      C      D      E      F      **G**      H

2. Which of these countries has a constitution that guarantees the Freedom of Religion?

A      B      C      D      E      F      **G**      H

3. Which of these countries has a constitution that guarantees the right to an education?

A      **B**      **C**      **D**      **E**      **F**      G      H

4. Which of these countries defines themselves as socialist?

A      B      C      D      E      F      G      H

5. Which of these countries defines themselves as an empire?

A      **B**      C      D      **E**      F      G      H

6. Which of these countries has a constitution that renounces war?

A      B      C      **D**      E      F      G      H

7. Briefly define the following major types of governments:

f. Democracy (specifically direct democracy)

g. Republic

h. Empire

i. Communism

j. Dictatorship