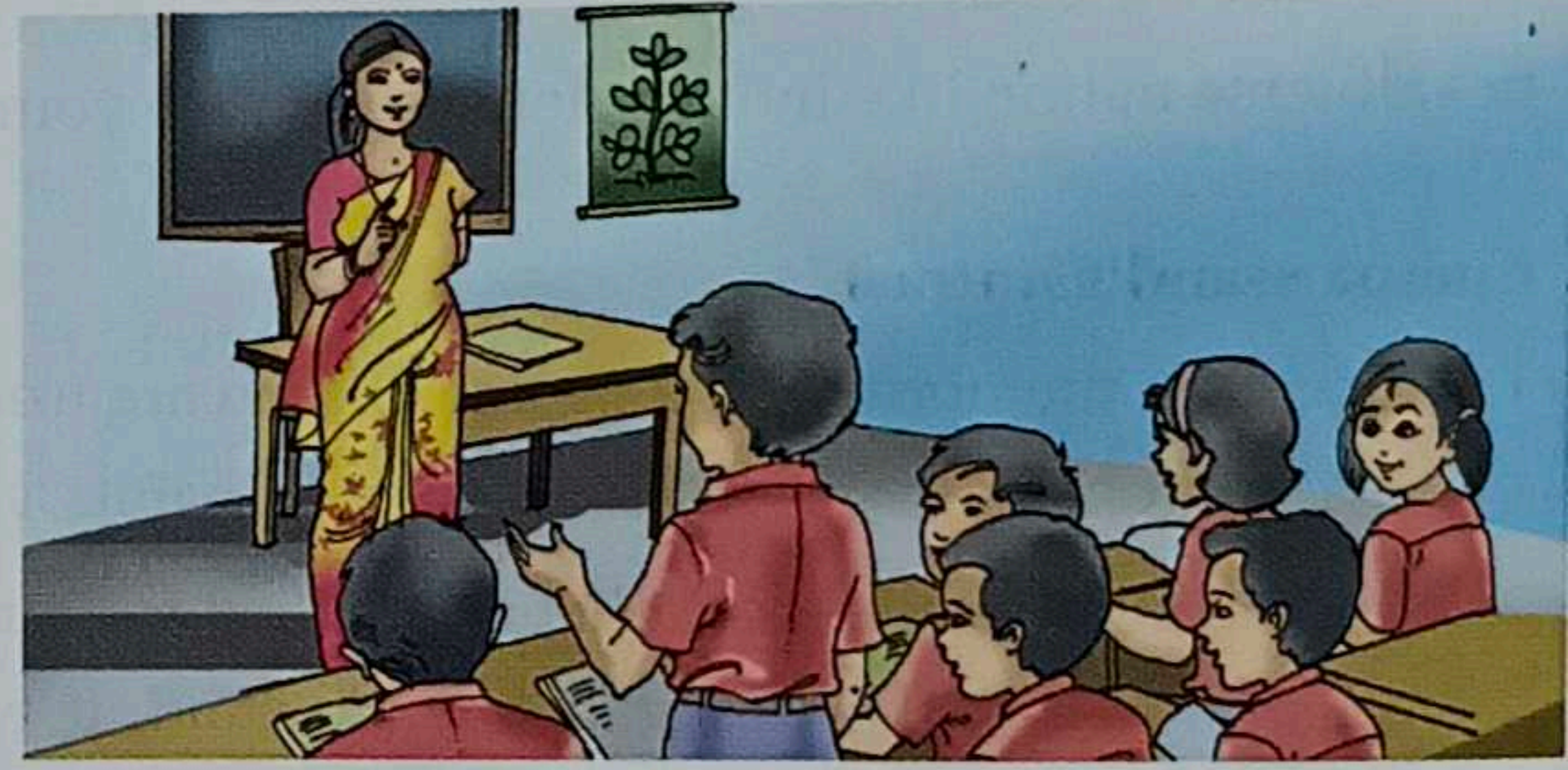


GOVERNMENT

What happens when a teacher is not present in the classroom? Students tend to get indisciplined. Right? One student may get up from the seat and start playing with paper planes; another may pull out the lunch box and start eating from it; a student sitting behind may demand for a bite and a fight may ensue. There is total confusion and chaos in the classroom. Then, the teacher arrives and there is pin-drop silence. You must have experienced this. So the teacher appoints a monitor to maintain order in class in her absence. The monitor is one amongst you. The other students need to obey the monitor, or else get punished.



A chaotic classroom in the absence of a teacher



A disciplined classroom

What is one thing that is common in everyday newspaper headlines? It is the term 'government', written as Govt in short form. You have heard this word many times from the mouth of elders, over the radio and on television. You have also read it in the newspapers and magazines. What is a government? What does it do? Why do we need a government? Why does our country have a government? Who makes up the government? We will read about all this in this chapter.

GOVERNMENT

At home when you and your sister fight over a dress or a toy, who resolves the conflict and brings peace? It may be either of your parents or grandparents. So you see, we need a person who commands and the other needs to obey. Only then there is peace and things work well.

Similarly, to live peacefully and work successfully in a community, we need a person or a group of persons who can govern and protect us. We need to follow the rules and regulations set by these persons. This body of persons which governs is called **government**. The word 'government' comes from the Latin word *gubernare*, which means *to steer a ship or to rule*.

Q Why is it important to have government? What will happen if there will be no government?

One of the earliest forms of government was **monarchy**, where the kings looked after the needs of the people and maintained law and order in the kingdom. The modern-day governments are mostly democratic in form. They comprise leaders who run the affairs of the country according to set principles and

Match the following:

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (e) | 2. (f) | 3. (d) | 4. (a) |
| 5. (h) | 6. (g) | 7. (c) | 8. (b) |

Fill in the blanks:

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|
| 1. laws | 2. local | 3. Nepal | 4. Freedom and equality |
| 5. Suffragette | | | |

Short-answer questions:

1. Functions: frames laws, executes them and protects them, builds the infrastructure of the country, works for the welfare of the people, protects the state from attacks by other countries, maintains law and order, registers births, deaths, etc.
2. Legislature, Executive, Judiciary.
3. Freedom and equality.
4. No, it cannot be successful because freedom and equality are the key elements of a democracy.

Long-answer questions:

1. Men and women, rich and poor, all are treated equally, anyone over 18 years of age can cast a vote regardless of caste, religion or gender and the judiciary, an organ of democracy ensures that we obey the laws. It punishes those who try to break the laws.
2. A person or a small group of people who rule without the collective approval of the people. There have been revolts against this form because absolute power lies with the dictator and the common people have no say in such a government. Also, people have no freedom of expression under this system of governance. Example: people's revolts overturned the military dictatorship in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya in early 2011.
3. Universal Adult Franchise also called universal adult suffrage extends the right to vote to all adults. In India, anyone more than 18 years of age has the right to cast vote. Two instances—Anti-Apartheid Struggle and the Suffragette Movement. (Refer to the chapter for detail)