Creating a Government

**Scenario:** Imagine that your class was crossing the Pacific Ocean on your way to vacation. However, suddenly your plane hit turbulence and crashed onto a small unknown island. You are now stranded on a small island and there is no chance of getting rescued in the near future. This realization has caused panic among the survivors and fighting over the supplies that have been recovered. It is clear that some form of government and order needs to be established.

**Directions:** Discuss with your classmates what kind of government you want to create by answering the following questions.

1. Who will be the leader(s) of the island?

1. How will you select the leader(s) of the island?

1. How will you make laws on the island?

1. What kinds of laws will you make?

1. What are the punishments if someone breaks the law?

1. How will disputes be settled?

1. Who will be in charge of the supplies?

1. How will people gain more supplies if necessary?

1. What kind of defense will you have?

1. Do you think your government will survive?
Even though Washington feared the country would not last more than 20 years, the United States is still in existence. Why do you think that is? What features of the Constitution have made it a successful government?

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“Whatever the result, I doubt the new federal government will survive twenty years.”