Many stories are about kings, queens, princes, and princesses from times long ago. In them, the kings and queens command people to do whatever they want.

Although many countries today have governments that allow people to vote, some still have monarchs, or kings or queens, with absolute power. These monarchs are like the ones you’ve read about. They make rules, and their people must obey them.

Other countries, like Great Britain, have monarchs who lead their countries with the help of a parliament of elected leaders. A parliament is like the U.S. congress, in that voters elect people who pass laws for them.

The queen of Great Britain today is Elizabeth II. Although Queen Elizabeth is an important person, she doesn’t command people in the same way as an earlier queen, Elizabeth I, did.

When Elizabeth I was the queen, almost 500 years ago, kings and queens had absolute power. If Elizabeth I wanted to increase taxes or go to war, she did. Her power was absolute—no one could say no to her.

Eventually, people began to question rulers with absolute power. In the 1700s, King George III ruled the English colonies in America. The colonists thought he made unfair laws, so they revolted and formed their own country. That was how the United States of America was formed. The king’s power went to the people, who elected their leaders.

Today, most countries with monarchs have parliaments that are elected by the people. In Great Britain, Queen Elizabeth II signs bills of the government and attends important events, but she does not have absolute power. Instead, she rules with the advice of the people and their elected representatives.

In today’s stories, instead of commanding their people, monarchs might ask what people think about ideas and laws. Then they might try to act so that all of their citizens get what they need.
Power to the People

Write all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about government. You can reread the article before you begin, but don’t look back at it while you are working. After you’ve completed the puzzle, read it to someone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>congress</th>
<th>country</th>
<th>events</th>
<th>Great Britain</th>
<th>kings</th>
<th>need</th>
<th>parliament</th>
<th>people</th>
<th>power</th>
<th>rules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

In the United States, people vote for a president and for members of _____________________________. The U.S. congress and the president make the laws that everyone in the _____________________________ must follow. Other countries have monarchs that make their laws. Monarchs are _____________________________ and queens who lead the people in their country.

Long ago, monarchs in some countries had absolute _____________________________. The king or queen made the _____________________________, and everyone had to follow them. Today, most countries that have monarchs also have a congress or another type of ruling body, such as a _____________________________. In addition, the _____________________________ today often vote for the members of the parliament.

Elizabeth II is the queen of _____________________________. She signs the bills that parliament passes, and she attends important _____________________________. Unlike rulers from long ago, she asks people what they think and tries to have all her citizens get what they _____________________________.
REVIEW

Power to the People

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________