

What happens when a group of frogs wishes for another kind of government? Read the selection below. Then read each question and choose the best answer. Use the provided answer sheet at the end of the workbook to record your answers.

The Frogs Who Wished for a King

by Aesop

The Frogs were tired of governing themselves. They had so much freedom that it had spoiled them. They did nothing but sit around croaking in a bored manner. They wished for a government that could entertain them. They wanted to know they were being ruled. No milk-and-water government for them, they declared. So they sent a petition to Jupiter asking for a king.

Jupiter saw what simple and foolish creatures they were, but to keep them quiet and make them think they had a king, he threw down a huge log. It fell into the water with a great splash. The Frogs hid themselves among the reeds and grasses, thinking the new king to be some fearful giant. Soon they discovered how tame and peaceable King Log was. In a short time, the younger Frogs were using

him for a diving platform. The older Frogs made him into a meeting place where they complained loudly to Jupiter about the government.

To teach the Frogs a lesson, the ruler of the gods now sent a Crane to be king of Frogland. The Crane proved to be a very different sort of king from old King Log. He gobbled up the poor Frogs right and left. Soon they saw what fools they had been. In mournful croaks they begged Jupiter to take away the cruel tyrant before they should all be destroyed.

"How now!" cried Jupiter. "Are you not yet content? You have what you asked for, and so you have only yourselves to blame for your misfortunes."

The moral is: Make sure you know what you really want before you seek change.

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1. Based on the selection, what kind of government do the Frogs want?
 - A One that provides opportunities to become wealthy.
 - B One that has fewer rules.
 - C One that has a powerful ruler.
 - D One that allows each Frog to express its views.
2. Based on the context of the first paragraph, what does the word *spoiled* mean?
 - A grew bacteria or mold
 - B became unable to appreciate things
 - C became more observant
 - D became more patriotic
3. Why does Jupiter send King Log to the Frogs?
 - A Jupiter takes the Frogs seriously.
 - B Jupiter is a harsh ruler.
 - C Jupiter believes the Frogs need a new ruler.
 - D Jupiter thinks the Frogs are foolish.
4. Based on his decisions in the selection, which statement is *most likely* true of Jupiter?
 - A He is a wise ruler.
 - B He is a reckless ruler.
 - C He is an indifferent ruler.
 - D He is a successful ruler.
5. How is the Crane different from King Log?
 - A The Crane is an indifferent ruler.
 - B The Crane is an educated ruler.
 - C The Crane is a harsher ruler.
 - D The Crane is a fairer ruler.
6. Which characteristic *best* describes what the Frogs feel at the end of the selection?
 - A generous
 - B regretful
 - C angry
 - D cruel

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7. What do the frogs mean by a "milk-and-water government"?
- A a government that charges high taxes on milk and water
 - B a government that makes sure the water is clean
 - C a government that is easy on the people
 - D a government that is cruel
8. How are the Frogs *most likely* to act the next time they feel unhappy with their government?
- A They will express their wishes more clearly.
 - B They will ask Jupiter for a king like himself.
 - C They will know to ask Jupiter if he will take back kings that are unsuitable.
 - D They will think about whether they are really unhappy before complaining.