

# OUR DEMOCRATIC HERITAGE

## UNIT 1: ROOTS OF OUR DEMOCRACY





# Key Vocabulary

- **Democracy**
- **Monarchy**
- **Direct democracy**
- **Representative democracy**
- **Athens, Greece**
- **Architecture**



# What is Democracy?



*Picture taken from Google images*

Democracy is a form of government in which people share power.



# Democracy vs. Monarchy

## Democracy

- Citizens select their leader through voting.
- Leaders are elected and may only serve as a leader of our country no more than 8 years.

- Kings – the idea that one believes God has given them the right to be leader.
- The country is controlled by one leader.
- The leader remains in control until death or war removes them.

How are a democracy and a monarchy similar?

## Monarchy



# The Beginning of Democracy



- Democracy began in Athens, Greece, in 510 B.C.  
<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/government/dmocracy.htm>
- The citizens in Athens were the first to take part in their government.



Image taken from wikipedia.com

# ATHENS, GREECE

1. Athens, Greece is located on the continent of Europe.
2. Athens is the capital city of Greece.
3. Today, Athens has a population of over three million people.





# Greek Architecture



Parthenon



Supreme Court Building  
United States of America



Jefferson Memorial



Bureau of Engraving and Printing

How are these buildings alike?

How are they different?

*So, how did Greek architecture influence our modern-day buildings?*



# Direct Democracy/Representative Democracy

Democracy means “the rule of the people” (in Greek).

## Direct Democracy (Athens, Greece)

*A direct democracy is a government in which people vote to make their own rules and laws. Each person has a direct vote.*

## Representative Democracy (United States)

*A representative democracy is a government in which people elect representatives. These representatives make rules and laws that govern the people and themselves.*

<http://greece.mrdonn.org/athensdemocracy.html>

# What can I do to take part in democracy?



- **Speak Out**

*I can write my representatives and say what I believe. I can also write letters to the editors of newspapers.*

- **Vote for Leaders**

*I can vote for my leaders as a citizen of the United States. There are leaders in my city and my state, also.*

## **Take Part**

*If I don't like something such as a law, I can write my leaders and ask for changes.*

# WHAT DID WE LEARN?



1. What is a democracy?
2. How is a democracy different from a monarchy?
3. How did Greek architecture influence American architecture?
4. How is a direct democracy different from a representative democracy?
5. What can I do to take part in democracy?
6. Where is Greece located?

# CCGPS

## History

**SS3H1 The student will explain the political roots of our modern democracy in the United States of America.**

A. Identify the influence of Greek architecture (columns on the Parthenon, U.S. Supreme Court building), law, and the Olympic Games on the present.

B. Explain the ancient Athenians' idea that a community should choose its own leaders.

C. Compare and contrast Athens as a direct democracy with the United States as a representative democracy.

## Geography

**SS3G1**

D. Locate Greece on a world map.

# Sources

- <http://www.greekembassy.org/Embassy/content/en/Article.aspx?folder=95&office=3&article=12221>
- <http://greece.mrdonn.org/athensdemocracy.html>
- <http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/government/dmocracy.htm>