# OUR DEMOCRATIC HERITAGE

### UNIT 1: ROOTS OF OUR DEMOCRACY

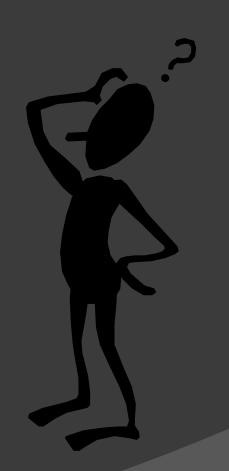


# ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is a democracy?
- How does a direct democracy differ from a representative democracy?
- How is Athens, Greece, a model for our country's democracy?
- How is Greek architecture evident today?
- How can the location of Greece be described on a world map and a globe?

### **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?





# The Beginning of Democracy



 Democracy began in Athens, Greece, in 510 B.C.

http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/government/d mocracy.htm

The citizens in Athens were the first to take part in their government.



## ATHENS, GREECE

Image taken from wikipedia.com

- 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



How are they different?



Supreme Court Building United States of America





Jefferson Memorial



Bureau of Engraving and Printing

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



### 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