La Ceiba Bilingual School
Reading Comprehension

4th Grade A B C
Name: _____ #_____ Date: _____

# Democracy



A democracy is a form of government. The word democracy comes from the Greek words dēmos meaning "the people" and kratia meaning "power or rule." In a democracy, the people being governed have a direct say in what the government does. This is different from other forms of government in which all the power is concentrated with just one person, such as in a monarchy or a dictatorship.

Democracies come in two different forms. A direct democracy means each individual citizen votes on every important decision. This is the kind of democracy practiced in Athens, Greece. When a major issue needed to be decided, every citizen would come to a central location and cast their vote. A direct democracy works best with small populations. The more voters are involved, the more difficult it becomes to cast, track, and count the votes of every citizen. For this reason, the United States has what is called a representative democracy. In this form of democracy, citizens vote for people to represent them in the government. These elected representatives then vote for or against the actual issues on behalf of the citizens they represent. Elected representatives in the United States include the president, the members of congress, and the members of the senate.

Answer the questions True or False.

1. The concept of democracy comes from Greece. true false
2. Direct democracies work best for large populations. true false
3. The United States has a representative democracy. true false
4. In a representative democracy, people vote directly for the issues. true false

LIVEWORKSHEETS