WORLD BOOK® WEB

Democracy Scavenger Hunt

The word democracy means "rule by the people" and it is a philosophy that has shaped the governments of many countries around the world. Learn more about democracy on the World Book Web and then find the answers to the following questions!

Find It!

1. What is the difference between a direct democracy and an indirect democracy?
2. What rights to democracies guarantee cannot be taken away from their citizens?
3. Why is citizen participation important in a democracy?
4. Why is education so important to a democracy?
5. What is one way democracy in Athens was different than democracy today?
6. What influence did the Magna Carta have on the development of democracy?
7. Which philosopher is considered the father of the English Revolution?
8. What ideas did the French Revolution contribute to democracy?
9. What are some countries that had difficulties creating democracies in the twentieth century?
10. What challenges does globalisation present to democratic governments?

Did You Know?

♦ Voltaire, a French philosopher and poet, was exiled and imprisoned at different times throughout his life because of his ideas supporting democracy.
♦ Voting machines are used in many democracies because they speed up the process of counting citizen votes. But they also have disadvantages as was shown in the U.S. presidential election of 2000 when large groups of votes had to be recounted by hand to determine the true winner.
♦ In 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document was designed to protect people around the world from the abuse of power. It has helped foster independence and democracy in many regions of the world.

Learn More!

♦ Read some famous quotations about democracy.
http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/media?id=ta153840a
♦ See how ancient Greeks used to vote
http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/media?id=pc316700
♦ Click here to see a photo of the Magna Carta
http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/media?id=pc323683

Answer Key

1. In a direct democracy, the people all meet together to make rules for the community. In an indirect democracy, citizens elect people representatives to make decisions for them.
2. Freedoms of press, speech, assembly, and religious worship
3. Participation of citizens helps form society, governments and juries as well as helping fight corrupt and inefficient governments.
4. A citizenry that is well-educated is able to make good decisions for their democracy.
5. Every male citizen was required to be part of the assembly, there was no division between the legislative and executive branches, and slaves and women were not allowed to vote.
6. The Magna Carta restricted royal power and insisted that even the king had to obey the law.
7. John Locke
8. The French ideas of liberty and equality were large contributions to the development of democracy.
9. Germany, Russia, Italy, Spain
10. Decisions that are good for international business and trade can sometimes be at odds with what is best for the citizens of the democracy. Additionally, some international organizations are not part of any country, and are thereby free from any authority of the people.