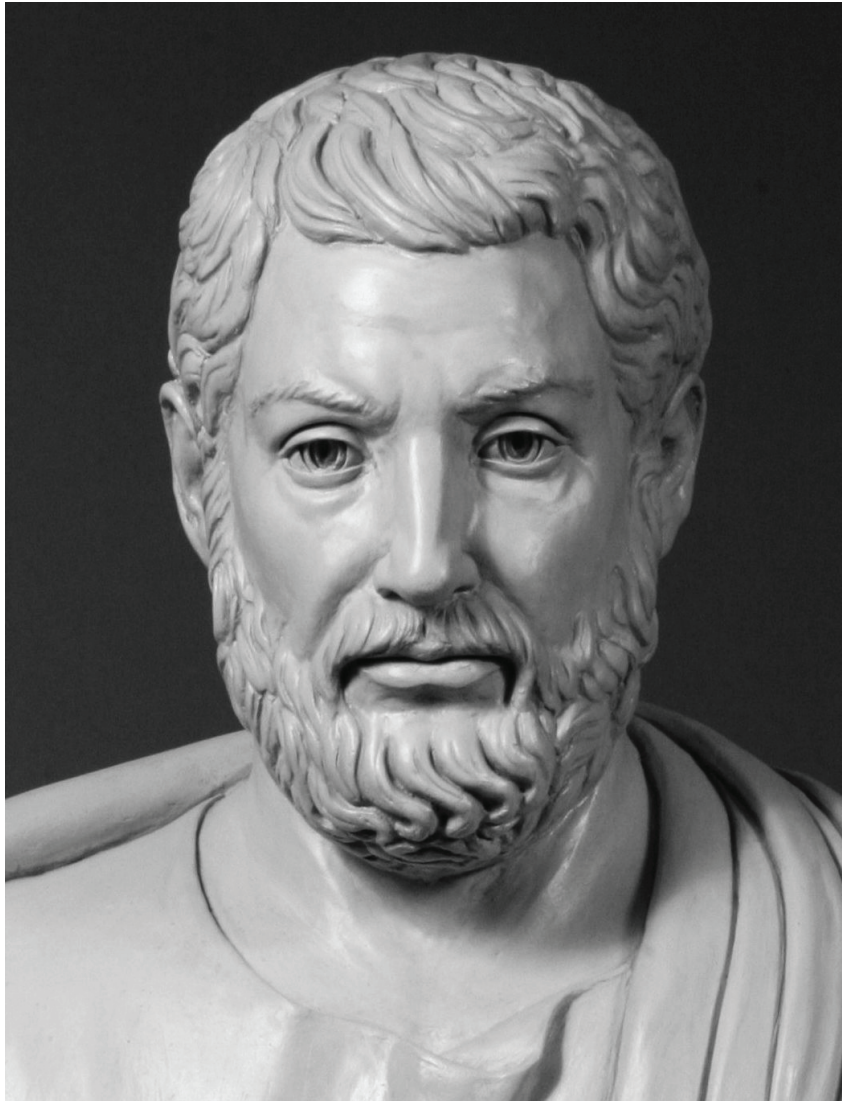


International Day of Democracy Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____



Modern bust of Cleisthenes, known as "the father of Athenian democracy", on view at the Ohio Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio

The History of Democracy

A long time ago, the first democracy was developed in Athens, a city in Ancient Greece. The term comes from "demos" the Greek word for "people." A group of people called The Council suggested the laws.

The Assembly was made up of all citizens (women and enslaved people were not included) who voted on whether the laws should or should not pass. The assembly was also responsible for electing government leaders by writing their favourite candidate on a stone or piece of wood. The candidate with the most votes won.

What makes a democracy?

A political scientist named Larry Diamond says that a government must meet four requirements to be a democracy:

1. Using a system of elections to vote for and replace government leaders.
2. Protecting the human rights of all people (such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to a fair trial).
3. All citizens must actively participate in politics and civics.
4. All laws must apply equally to all citizens.

Types of Democracy

There are two main types of democracies. There is a direct democracy and a representative democracy.

a. Direct democracy:

Every citizen votes on every important decision. The government of Athens, was a direct democracy. People had the chance to express their opinions on all laws and major choices. With a larger population, of course, this process becomes more challenging.

b. The representative democracy:

In a representative democracy, people elect representatives to run the government. They choose people whom they think will make decisions that they agree with.

The problems with democracy

Democracies are large and complex, which sometimes makes government processes slow and inefficient. Despite these issues, democracy is considered one of the fairest forms of government. People living in democracies tend to be healthier and wealthier, live longer, and have more rights and freedoms than people under other forms of government rule.

Activity on the next page.

Answer the following questions to see how much you've learned about democracy:

Activity 1.1

The History of Democracy

1. Which city was democracy developed in? (1)

2. True or False: EVERYONE was included in the assembly. (1)

3. How was the candidate winner determined? (1)

Activity 1.2

What Makes a Democracy

4. Who is the political scientist that named the requirements of democracy? (2)

5. How many requirements must be met in order for it to be considered a democracy? (2)

Activity 1.3

Types of Democracy

6. How many types of democracy are there? Name them. (2)

7. In your own words name and explain one type of democracy. (3)

Activity 1.4

Opinions

8. Do you think Democracy is fair? Explain your answer (2)

9. What makes democracy important in a country like South Africa? (1)

Total: / 15

Activity Answers

1. Athens = 1 mark
2. False = 1 mark
3. By a vote or the one with the most votes won = 1 mark
4. Larry Diamond = 2 marks
5. Four = 2 mark
6. There are two types of democracy = 1 mark
There is a representative democracy and a direct democracy = 1 mark
7. Representative/Direct democracy = 1 mark
Correct explanation (in own words) = 2 marks
8. Yes or no = 1 mark
Explanation = 1 mark
9. Relevant opinion = 1 mark