



DEMOCRACY: WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

(35 minutes: 5 minutes one day, 30 another)

OBJECTIVE

Students investigate questions about their government and other governments around the world.

MATERIALS

Democracy: Who? What? Where? handout

GET READY

- ✓ Duplicate the page of questions and cut them into fortune cookie-sized strips.
- ✓ Duplicate a copy of your class roster to record which question went to which student.
- ✓ Pair students.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Place the slips face down. Let each pair select a question and read it aloud to the class.
- ✓ Once every pair has a question, tell the students to study their questions very carefully.
- ✓ Say, *As partners, examine the question. Brainstorm: What would you expect the answer to be? What are some possibilities for finding the answer? Write down these first guesses.*

- ✓ Give students several days to determine the answers. Provide students with some clues about how to find answers. For example, some answers may be found in the school library. You may want to provide additional paper resources (books, magazines, etc.) and/or access to the Internet.
- ✓ Have students present their answers as oral reports of no more than one minute.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What answers were not at all what you expected? Explain.*
- ★ *Did anyone already know the right answer to their question? How did you know that?*
- ★ *Did anyone find out any other interesting information they wish to share?*

MORE!

Students can write thank you letters to the contacts that helped them find their answers: people at City Hall, the school librarian, etc.



DEMOCRACY: WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

- 1. What ancient nation first practiced democracy? What are some things we know about the way their government worked?
- 2. Name five democracies besides our own. How are these countries' governments different than our own?
- 3. Name the leader of another democracy. What is his or her title? What are his or her responsibilities?
- 4. How many countries in the world are democracies? About how many countries were democracies 100 years ago?
- 5. What is the largest democracy on earth? How many people live there?
- 6. What are the names of our senators? What political parties do they belong to?
- 7. What are the names of our representatives? What political parties do they belong to?
- 8. What are the three branches of the American government? What do the different branches do?
- 9. What cities have been our nation's capital? When did Washington, D.C. become the nation's capital.
- 10. Name the guarantees protected by the Bill of Rights? Why was the Bill of Rights created?
- 11. Who first settled the community we live in? What was the date of incorporation of our town/city?
- 12. How many employees work directly for our local government? What are some of the jobs they have (name five)?
- 13. What did our mayor do before becoming mayor? Is it a full-time job? What are some of the mayor's responsibilities?
- 14. Where are our city offices located? How many people work there?
- 15. Where and how do you register to vote in our town?