



WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

WORKSHEETS

POWERPOINT

QUIZ

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

Elected Representatives

Elected representatives in all forms of government should listen to the views of their constituents and respond to their needs and wishes.

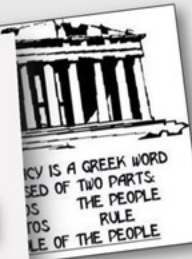
People are free to criticise and look closely at how they govern.

Elected leaders and representatives

What Does Democracy Mean?

Democracy and Voting

- Australia is a democratic country.
- This means that people choose or vote for people in elections. These people, called politicians, represent the most popular opinion of the people.
- In Australia, everyone who is 18 years or older is required by law to vote for people to govern them.



DEMOCRACY IS A GREEK WORD
COMPOSED OF TWO PARTS:
DEMOS - THE PEOPLE
KRATOS - RULE
THE PEOPLE

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT



Our democracy is a system of government with four special features:

- It allows people to choose and replace their representatives through free and fair elections.
- It protects the human rights of all citizens.
- It depends on laws, which apply equally to all citizens.
- It encourages citizens to participate in politics and community life.



Voting

Every citizen should listen to the views of the different parties and candidates and then make their own decision about who to vote for.

People must be aged 18 years or over to take part in an election.

Each person (voter) votes (casts a ballot) for the candidate of their choice.



Voting

People cast their ballots in a booth so that no one can see who they are voting for.

At the end of the election day, the votes are added up and the result is calculated.



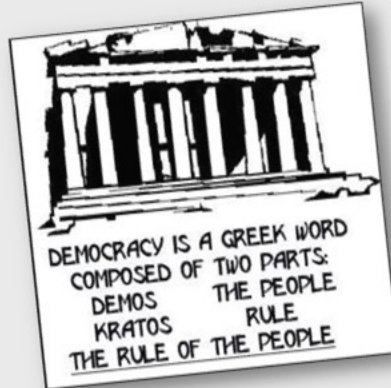
- PowerPoint presentation
- Worksheets (PDF and EASEL)
- Quiz

What Does Democracy Mean?

We have a system of government called democracy.

Democracy means 'rule by the people'. It comes from the Greek words *Dēmos*, which means people, and *Kratos*, which means rule or strength.

This is because the idea of democracy developed in Greece about 500BC.



Basic Rights

You can read, listen to and watch all kinds of news and opinions in the newspapers, on the radio and on television.

You have the right to join organisations, including trade unions.

You are free to travel around the country and to go overseas if you want to.

You have the right to gather with other people and to protest about what the government is doing.

However, everyone must exercise these rights peacefully, with respect for the law and the rights of others.



- Low Prep resource

Who Makes the Decisions?

In our democracy, we have the opportunity to elect representatives at more than one level of government.

These levels are:

Local Government

State and Federal
Government

Federal Government

An elected representative's job is to represent the people living in their constituency (local area) and to debate and vote on important issues.

Each of the three levels of government in Australia are different and are responsible for different services. Some services, like health and education are shared across two or three levels of government.



Main Political Parties



Australian Labor Party



Liberal Party of Australia



The Nationals

- Suggested discussion topics



Democracy is the government
of the people, by the people,
for the people.

Think/Pair/Share:

Look at the poster above and discuss between yourselves
what this means to you.

Be prepared to share your opinions with the class.

Discussion topic

Do You Think Voting Is Necessary?

- Do you think 18 is the right age to allow people to vote? Why?
- Do you agree with some people who say the voting age should be 16?
- If not, what age do you think people should be allowed to vote?



- Prior knowledge
- Glossary of terms

activity 2

K	W	L	H
What do I know?	What do I want to know?	What have I learnt?	How will I find out?

activity 3: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

WORD	MEANING
democracy	
fair vote	
fair trial	
election	
undemocratic	
politics	
rights	
citizen	
government	
rights	
values	
decisions	

activity 4: CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

1. Use words from the glossary to write 5 sentences.
2. Make your own crossword puzzle or word search.

• Scaffolded activities

Representative Democracy
 In Australia we have something called a representative democracy. That means that unlike in ancient Greece where everyone went to meet and vote on laws, we elect a representative to do that for us. They're our politicians and they represent us in parliament. It's their responsibility to keep in touch with their voters and make sure their voices are heard on a national level.

What makes a good representative?
 What do you think makes a good representative? Brainstorm and list what a good representative 'is', 'does', 'does not' and 'says'.

Record your ideas on the class whiteboard. For example:

- honest
- good at communicating
- confident
- has a positive attitude
- commitment
- creative
- inspiring

What are some examples of good representatives in politics? Can you name a good representative at the local, state/territory or national level?

Who represents you in your electorate?
 Find out which electorate your school is in and who represents you in your local area.

- Go to the [Australian Electoral Commission](#) website to [find your electorate](#).
- Find more information on the electorate that your school is situated. On a map locate your school and draw the boundary of your electorate.

Find a profile on your local Member of Parliament, using this [template](#). Who is the current member for this electorate? What political party do they represent? Do you find out who else is 'running' for this electorate? Is it a safe or marginal seat? Watch this [BIN story to learn more about Marginal Seats](#).



What makes a good Representative?



A good representative is...	
A good representative does ...	
A good representative says ...	
A good representative does not ...	

- Suggested Teaching strategies and activities for this topic

1 Name	2 Electorate	3 Achievements	4 About you	5 Work History
Tell us a little about yourself	How long have you been leader of this electorate? What political party do you belong to?	What have been some of your greatest achievements as a representative?	What makes you a good representative?	What motivated you to become a politician? Tell us a bit about yourself
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

Activity 5- INTERVIEW WITH YOUR LOCAL MP

- Interview your local Member of Parliament Imagine if you were given the opportunity to interview your local Member of Parliament (MP) on behalf of your school. Your task is to write a list of interview questions that you would like to ask the MP. Remember to write open-ended questions. Open-ended questions have no right or wrong answer and can't be answered with a 'yes' or 'no'. Before writing your questions, you will need to think about the following:
 - What do you want to find out about your local MP?
 - Find out what they like about their job and what characteristics they think make a good representative.
 - What are their viewpoints on issues important to your community?
 - What issues would you like to ask about?
 - Choose a topic that is important to you and your school community. What do you want your local representative to do about it?

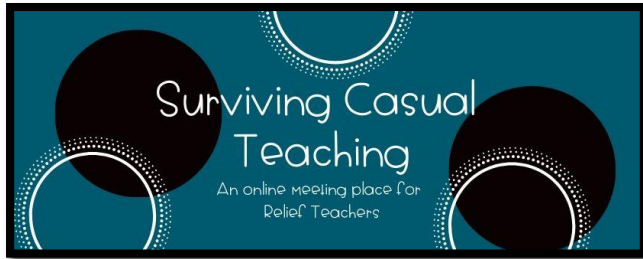
If an interview is not possible, students can use the questions to help write a letter to their local representative.





CREDITS

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