

# ROOTS OF DEMOCRACY

Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## News! Ancient Greece Influences USA



Top Photo: Parthenon

Bottom Photo: U.S Supreme Court

**Look how similar these two buildings are! They both are built with beautiful columns. The Parthenon has Doric columns, but the U.S. Supreme Court building has Corinthian columns. Can you find anything else similar?**

**Do you know where Greece is on a world map?** You should because Ancient Greece was a big influence on the United States government, the architecture for our government buildings (see the pictures on the left), and the present day Olympics.

Many, many years ago, this all started in an ancient city known as **Athens, Greece. This is where democracy began.** A democracy is where citizens can have a voice (citizens vote) in who their government leaders are, the laws, and how the government operates. Although Ancient Greece was a direct democracy, the United States became a representative democracy. **Both types allowed their citizens to vote!**

Where did the Olympics come from? Ancient Greece! The Olympics happens every four years, just like it did in Ancient Greece. **Back then, they had sports like running races and the discus throw.** Today, these are both sports still played in the Olympics.



## Important Words

### **Representative Democracy**

Citizens vote for people to decide how the government should run

### **Direct Democracy**

Citizens decide how a government should run

### **Constitution**

A document stating how a government should work

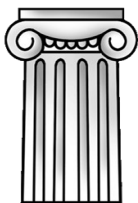
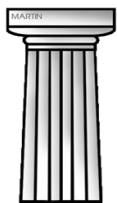
### **Vote/Voting**

A process where citizens have a voice in their government leaders and laws

## Ancient Architecture...FOUND!

These three columns used in Ancient Greek buildings are also used on many of our government buildings. This is done to serve as a symbol of our similar governments...DEMOCRACY!

### **Doric Ionic Corinthian**



White House



U.S. Supreme Court



U.S. Capitol

Many government buildings in the United States were modeled after the architecture found in Ancient Greece. You can find these columns in many United States government buildings, such as **the White House, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the U.S. Capitol Building.**



# Branches and Levels of Government



## Executive

Laws are approved or vetoed, and laws are carried out



### Local

Mayor

### State

Governor

### National

President  
Vice President  
Cabinet

## Legislative

Makes the laws



### Local

City Council

### State

General Assembly

### National

CONGRESS:  
House of Representatives  
Senate

## Judicial

Interprets the laws and makes sure they obey the Constitution



### Local

Municipal/City Courts

### State

State Supreme Court

### National

U.S. Supreme Court  
9 Justices (judges)

## Separation of Power

Separation of power is a system to make sure that no one branch of the government becomes too powerful or more powerful than the other branches. When it comes to creating, approving, and interpreting laws, each branch checks the other branches to make sure the power is balanced.

