






Principles of Democracy

What does democracy mean for me and where can I see it in action?



Each title and emblem on the left does not match the information on the right. Cut out each piece and rearrange them to match the correct information to the heading. Then glue them together on a separate piece of paper.

 <p>The Rule of Law</p>	<p>Citizens have a responsibility to participate in elections and a right to become their community's representative in government. They can do this by running for office, voting in elections, being an informed citizen, debating issues, attending community meetings, paying taxes, serving on a jury, and protesting. Citizen participation builds a stronger democracy.</p>
 <p>Human Rights</p>	<p>All people are accountable for their actions, including elected representatives of government. Officials are expected to perform their duties and make decisions as directed by the wishes of those who elected them; the people.</p> <p>The media is an important part of this process as their job is to keep the people informed of all decisions made and any actions that are taken by the government.</p>
 <p>Economic Freedom</p>	<p>Democracy depends on the peaceful transfer of power from one party to the next. The losing party and its supporters must accept their defeat and determine how they can work together for the benefit of the people.</p>
 <p>Electing Representatives</p>	<p>Democratic procedures and processes ensure that governments are structured to limit the powers of government officers and those who work for them. This limits officials from using public money for their own benefit or exercise power in their own way. When abuse of power occurs, it is called <i>corruption</i> and must be stopped.</p>
 <p>Choice of Parties</p>	<p>More than one political party participates in elections and plays a role in government. This is to give the citizens choice and equal representation, as well as the government providing different viewpoints on issues.</p>



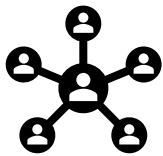
The government should allow private ownership of property and businesses, where people choose their own work and join a work union. The government should not control the economy – they should always encourage people to work where they want and provide opportunities for a free market.



Everyone is equal before the law and entitled to equal protections of the law without discrimination. No one is above the law – including elected officials, the police and members of the military. Laws are enforced equally and fairly without bias or prejudice.



A healthy democracy values diversity in society. The voices of people from different backgrounds and interests help to provide different points of view, which in turn enables societies to become more tolerant and accepting. Examples of diversity can include people from different cultural backgrounds, gender, religious beliefs, and people with disability.



The people must choose their own representatives in a free and fair manner, without fear of the threat to personal safety. Elections are held every few years. Adult citizens have the right to vote and run for office regardless of gender, background, or economic status. There should be no intimidation or obstacles to stop citizens from making their vote.







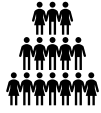


Each person is valued equally and must have equal opportunities. No one should be discriminated against because of their race, religion, ethnicity, or gender. The human rights of all citizens are protected. Some articles in the Declaration of Human Rights include:

- Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression
- Everyone has the right to life and liberty
- Everyone has the right to live in whatever country they want



Judges and law enforcers must have the freedom to act without influence or control from any level or legislative departments of government. They should also not be corrupted or influenced by other individuals, businesses or political groups. The courts and judicial system must remain *impartial* to avoid any type of corruption.

TEACHER ANSWERS

 <p>The Rule of Law</p>	<p>Everyone is equal before the law and entitled to equal protections of the law without discrimination. No one is above the law – including elected officials, the police and members of the military. Laws are enforced equally and fairly without bias or prejudice.</p>
 <p>Human Rights</p>	<p>Each person is valued equally and must have equal opportunities. No one should be discriminated against because of their race, religion, ethnicity, or gender. The human rights of all citizens are protected. Some articles in the Declaration of Human Rights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression ○ Everyone has the right to life and liberty ○ Everyone has the right to live in whatever country they want
 <p>Economic Freedom</p>	<p>The government should allow private ownership of property and businesses, where people choose their own work and join a work union. The government should not control the economy – they should always encourage people to work where they want and provide opportunities for a free market.</p>
 <p>Electing Representatives</p>	<p>The people must choose their own representatives in a free and fair manner, without fear of the threat to personal safety. Elections are held every few years. Adult citizens have the right to vote and run for office regardless of gender, background, or economic status. There should be no intimidation or obstacles to stop citizens from making their vote.</p>
 <p>Choice of Parties</p>	<p>More than one political party participates in elections and plays a role in government. This is to give the citizens choice and equal representation, as well as the government providing different viewpoints on issues.</p>
 <p>Civic Duty</p>	<p>Citizens have a responsibility to participate in elections and a right to become their community's representative in government. They can do this by running for office, voting in elections, being an informed citizen, debating issues, attending community meetings, paying taxes, serving on a jury, and protesting. Citizen participation builds a stronger democracy.</p>
 <p>Accepting the Results</p>	<p>Democracy depends on the peaceful transfer of power from one party to the next. The losing party and its supporters must accept their defeat and determine how they can work together for the benefit of the people.</p>
 <p>Being Accountable</p>	<p>All people are accountable for their actions, including elected representatives of government. Officials are expected to perform their duties and make decisions as directed by the wishes of those who elected them; the people.</p> <p>The media is an important part of this process as their job is to keep the people informed of all decisions made and any actions that are taken by the government.</p>



Controlling Abuse of Power

Democratic procedures and processes ensure that governments are structured to limit the powers of government officers and those who work for them. This limits officials from using public money for their own benefit or exercise power in their own way. When abuse of power occurs, it is called corruption and must be stopped.



Accepting Diversity

A healthy democracy values diversity in society. The voices of people from different backgrounds and interests help to provide different points of view, which in turn enables societies to become more tolerant and accepting. Examples of diversity can include people from different cultural backgrounds, gender, religious beliefs, and people with disability.



Independent Judiciary

Judges and law enforcers must have the freedom to act without influence or control from any level or legislative departments of government. They should also not be corrupted or influenced by other individuals, businesses or political groups. The courts and judicial system must remain impartial to avoid any type of corruption.