

Democracy

Democracy is a way of allowing everybody in an area to have a say in who runs it. When we hold elections in Britain, that is a form of democracy because nearly everybody gets a vote. Some countries don't have democracy - the leaders of the country decide who rules, and the people don't have a say.

Ancient Greece was the birthplace of democracy. The first examples were in Athens. This began around 500 BCE. Nowadays, people have to put themselves forward to run for parliament. In Ancient Greece, all adult citizens had to take part.

In most modern countries, men and women can vote once they are adults. In Ancient Greece, only adult men could vote, and not if they were slaves. Each year, 500 of these free men were chosen at random to take part in the parliament. They had to serve for one year and were responsible for making new laws, amongst other things.

Vocabulary

Which word means that democracy began in Ancient Greece?

Which word means something that is from the current time period?

ancient modern citizen

Infer

Why might women prefer democracy today?

Retrieve

How many people in Ancient Greece were elected to parliament each year?

How long did they serve for?

