

The First Democracies

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Summary

This book is about early democracies and how those ideas have, in modern times, spread to the rise of democratic nations worldwide.

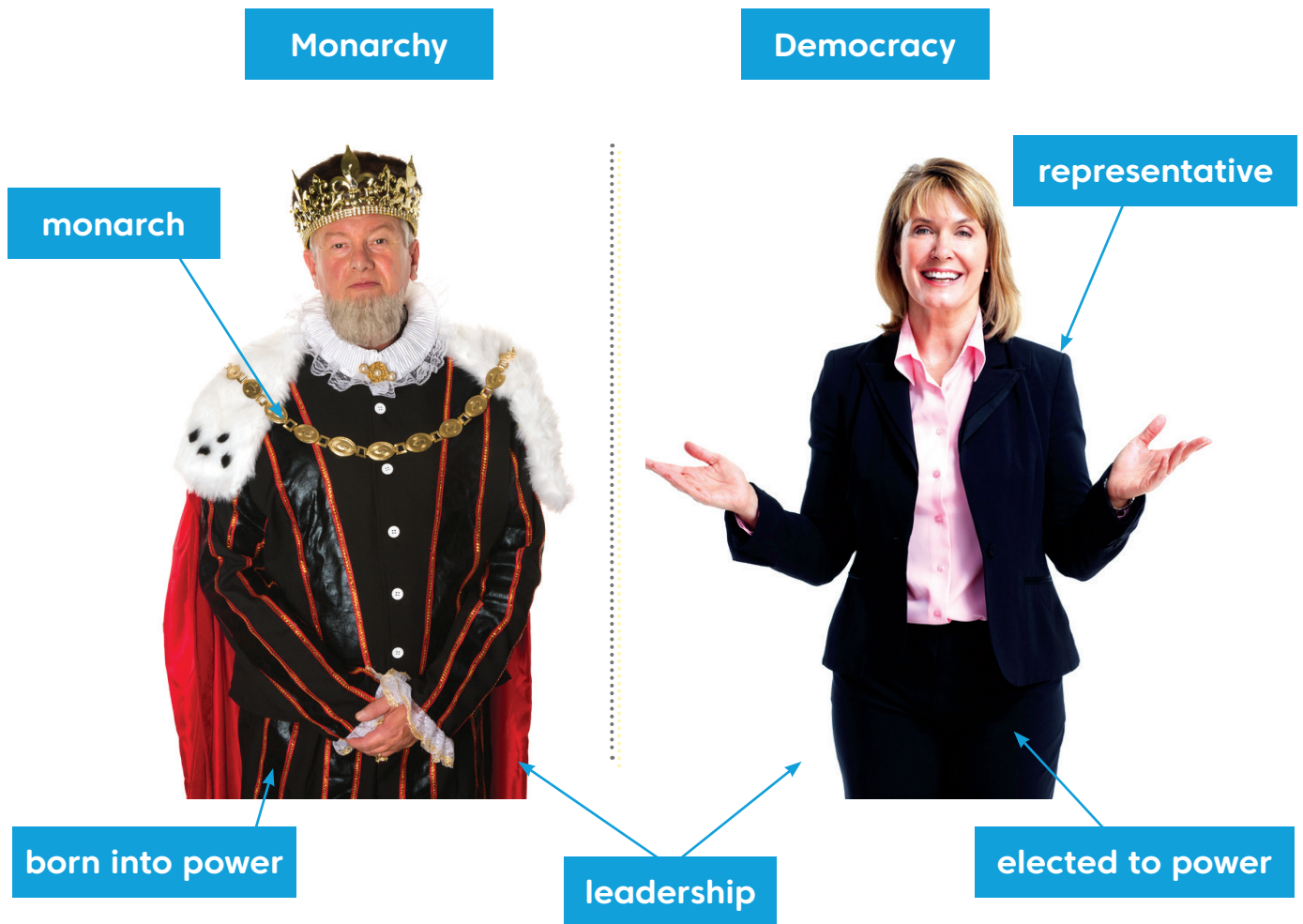
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Before Reading

Think Ahead

Look at the pictures and answer the questions.



1. Who rules in a monarchy? _____
2. How are representatives brought to power in a democracy? _____
3. What role do both monarchs and representatives share? _____
4. In which form of government are the people most represented? _____

Vocabulary

A Read and match.

1.



•

• a. suffragettes

2.



•

• b. assembly

3.



•

• c. elder

4.



•

• d. Bill of Rights

5.



•

• e. merchant

6.



•

• f. slavery

7.



•

• g. prison

8.



•

• h. partial

B Write the word for each definition.

restrict

council

nationwide

amendment

unusual

1. _____ covering an entire country
2. _____ a change or changes made to the words of a text
3. _____ a group of people formed in order to advise
4. _____ to limit something
5. _____ different; out of the ordinary

C Choose the word that means about the same as the underlined words.

1. Most countries were once led by a monarchy—a king, queen, emperor, or female emperor.
 a. umpire b. empress c. assembly d. suffragette
2. The Macedonians replaced the political system in Athens with a(n) small number of people or families.
 a. oligarchy b. slavery c. jail d. constitution
3. “Communes” in Italy were loyal groups run by a town council of elected members.
 a. assemblies b. monarchs c. elders d. allegiances
4. The American document describing the main laws was the first formal document outlining democracy.
 a. leadership b. Bill of Rights c. Constitution d. merchant

Comprehension

A Match the pictures with the correct sentences.

- a. In a democracy, leaders are chosen by voting in an election.
 b. Early parliaments were typically made up of noble families or church leaders.
 c. The suffragettes were not afraid to break the law or use violence.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____

B Choose the best answer.

1. How many men served as Spartan ephors?

a. 2	b. 5
c. 30	d. 60

2. What did the Magna Carta do?

a. Protected the population from abuse	b. Formally outlined democracy
c. Guaranteed more power to the king	d. All of the above

3. In 2000, how many of the world's 192 nations were democratic?

a. 16	b. 53
c. 120	d. 192

C Choose the correct phrase for each picture. One (1) choice will not be used.

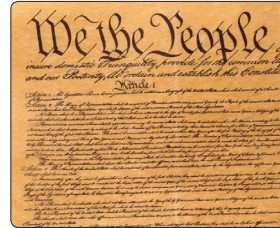
- a. Voting by a show of hands
- b. Wise men leading a government
- c. The Constitution of the United States
- d. Alexander the Great on horseback
- e. the Isle of Man where women were first given voting rights



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____

D Read each sentence. Write "T" if it is true or "F" if it is false.

1. _____ Winning candidates in an election should follow the will of the people.
2. _____ The experiment to form the first democracy took place in Rome.
3. _____ The Magna Carta of 1215 was an Italian document.
4. _____ The Bill of Rights is a list of 10 amendments to the US Constitution.
5. _____ Many Suffragettes went to jail in their fight for equality.

E Complete the sentences with the correct words.

1. In the Middle East, some forms of government included _____ by groups of elders.
leadership amendment
2. The Athenian democracy had a _____ of 500 citizens to make emergency decisions.
monarchy council
3. Merchants came to power in Italy returning the leadership to a(n) _____.
oligarchy democracy
4. The Suffragettes fought for voting rights at the same time as people fought to end _____.
slavery assembly
5. Women were given the right to vote _____ in America in 1920.
constitution nationwide

F Number the events in order from 1=first to 5=last.

- a. _____ The American Constitution created the presidency, the Senate, and the House of Representatives.
- b. _____ In the Roman republic, citizens elected representatives.
- c. _____ The main democratic body of Athens was the assembly.
- d. _____ Sparta did not have a true democracy, but it was a step in the right direction.
- e. _____ In the beginning, Italian male citizens could vote in the “arengo.”

Think About It

A Look in the reader to write the answers to the following 5-W questions.

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	Why?
A winning _____ in an election will assume the position to which they were elected.	A _____ is a system of decision-making in an institution, organization, or country.	In the _____, in Athens, there was an experiment to form the first democracy.	The idea of a _____, which comes from a French word meaning “a place of speaking,” appeared in the 12 th century in Europe.	The end of World War II planted the seeds for democracy in many countries because many countries gained their _____.

B Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

From this book, I learned _____

_____.

Before I read this book, I knew _____

_____.

Now I also know _____

_____.