

# Forms of Democracy

Read the text and answer the questions.

<p><b>DEMOCRACY</b> In a direct democracy, power is held by all citizens. People make decisions and laws for the country by voting. Democracies often have a constitution, or set of laws that outline the powers of the government and the rights of the people.</p>	<p><b>DIRECT DEMOCRACY</b> In a direct democracy, the people directly write the laws that govern their society. All citizens are responsible for voting each time an important decision or law is made.</p>
	<p><b>REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY</b> In a representative democracy, the citizens vote to elect leaders to government. These leaders are given power from the people to make laws for the public good. These leaders write laws and vote as representatives for the citizens</p>

1. Why is democracy called a “government by the people”?
2. Who makes the laws in a direct democracy?  
Who makes the laws in a representative democracy?
3. For each item or action listed, identify its purpose in a democracy:

Item / Action	Purpose in a democracy
Voting	
Citizens	
Representatives	
Constitution	

4. Compare and contrast citizens’ participation in a direct democracy to citizens’ participation in a representative democracy.
5. Based on what you know and read, which type of democracy is the United States? Explain your reasoning.
6. Why is it important for citizens to participate in a democracy?

## PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

# Name that Government!

Read each quote and complete parts A and B.

- 1) Mao Zedong: "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."
- 2) Henry David Thoreau: "That government is best which governs least."
- 3) Henry Clay: "Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are the trustees. And both the trust and trustees are created for the benefit of the people."
- 4) Andrew Jackson: "It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their own selfish purposes."
- 5) Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: "The best government is that which teaches us to govern ourselves."
- 6) John I of England: "It is treason [for citizens] to dispute what a king may do..."

**PART A:** Match the letters of the quotes with the name of the form of government it represents.

_____ anarchy	_____ oligarchy
_____ dictatorship	_____ representative democracy
_____ monarchy	_____ democracy

**PART B:** Write the form of government represented by each image.

