



Osnovna škola Bartola Kašića, Vinkovci

Erasmus+ project 2020-2022

**How Roman are you?**

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### **Democracy, lesson plan**

Language: English

Age: 14-16 years (pupils from 6 partner countries, meeting in Portugal)

Level: intermediate

Teacher: Gordana Maršić

Essential question: What makes a country a democracy?

Learning objectives:

- pupils will learn about origins of democracy
- pupils will know the difference between direct and representative democracy
- pupils will be able to understand and explain the 4 Rs of democracy
- pupils will learn that it is important to be an active citizen

Grammar: simple past tense, simple present tense, modals CAN, MUST

Key vocabulary: democracy, citizens' assembly, right to vote, rights, responsibilities, universal suffrage, pass laws, equal rights, majority, minority

Grouping: whole class, individual work, group work

Time: 90 minutes

Preparation: find an educational video about democracy, prepare quotes

Sources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-feDZRxJKw&t=97s>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy>

<https://en.unesco.org/courier/novembre-1992/what-democracy>

<https://www.history.com/news/what-is-the-worlds-oldest-democracy>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/democracy>

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/democracy-quotes>

## Procedure:

### Introduction, 7'

Which country are you from?

Is your country a democracy?

What is a democracy in your opinion?

### Learning about democracy, 20'

Pupils watch Youtube video: Democracy, educational videos for kids (5 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-feDZRxJKw&t=97s>

#### 1st viewing

Watch the video and answer the questions:

Where does the word *democracy* come from?

Who could not vote in ancient Athens?

Who could vote in ancient Rome?

Did democracies exist in medieval times?

*Answering the questions*

#### 2nd viewing:

Watch the video again and answer the questions:

At what age can people vote?

who were the members of the citizens' assembly in Athens?

How were they chosen?

How were laws passed in ancient Rome?

Who made all the decisions in the Middle Ages?

What happened in Europe in 1789?

What is the right of universal suffrage?

Do only majorities have rights?

Do people in democracies only have rights?

*Answering the questions*

As a summary, teacher repeats information about democracy: 5'

The word democracy comes from the Greek words "demos", meaning people, and "kratos" meaning power; so democracy is "power of the people": a way of governing which depends on the will of the people.

New facts:

**Direct democracy:** The people meet to decide about new laws and changes to existing ones (example of direct democracy is a referendum)

**Representative democracy:** The people elect their leaders. These leaders take this decision about laws. The process of choosing is called election. Elections are held periodically.

**Referendum:** Sometimes people can propose new laws or changes to existing laws. Usually, this is done using a referendum, which needs a certain number of supporters.

**Selection by lot:** The people who make the decisions are chosen more or less at random. This is common, for example when choosing a **jury** for a trial. This method is known as sortition or allotment. In a trial, the jury will have to decide the question whether the person is guilty or not. In Europe, trials with a jury are only used for serious crimes.

Questions: **10'**

How often do you have a referendum on an important question in your country?

Do you need more referendums/referenda?

Is representative democracy always good?

What can be its disadvantages?

Do elected representatives always keep their promises?

How does population education affect democracy?

**The 4 R' of democracy 10'**

- 1 Majority **R**ules – the will of majority of voters wins
- 2 **R**ight to free and fair election – when they come of age, all citizens can vote
- 3 Use of **R**eadon– decisions are made after debates
- 4 **R**espect for human rights and for the law – human rights must be respected and everyone must respect the law, no one is above the law

**Group work – democracy quotes 20'**

- pupils are divided into groups, each group gets a card with 3 democracy quotes, chooses one and answers the questions:

Do you agree with the quote?

If not, why not?

Is the quote, and in what way, related to the situation in your country?

*Discussion*

**Final part: 15'**

Design an image or symbol which can represent democracy  
(pupils show their designs to others and explain the meaning)

All designs are exhibited in the classroom – we make a poster

**Evaluation 3'**



## DEMOCRACY QUOTES

The great thing about democracy is that it gives every voter a chance to do something stupid.

*Art Spander*

Democracy is supposed to give you a feeling of choice, like painkiller x and painkiller y. But they're both just aspirin.

*Gore Vidal*

Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people.

*Abraham Lincoln*

I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong.

*Mohandas K. Gandhi*

In a democracy, the individual enjoys not only the ultimate power but carries the ultimate responsibility.

*Norman Cousins*

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Democracy: The state of affairs in which you consent to having your pocket picked, and elect the best man to do it.

*Benjamin Lichtenberg*

Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve.

*George Bernard Shaw*

Democracy is 51% of the people taking away the rights of the other 49%.

*Thomas Jefferson*

Democracy does not guarantee equality of conditions - it only guarantees equality of opportunity.

*Irving Kristol*

Democracy consists of choosing your dictators, after they've told you what you think it is you want to hear.

*ALAN COREN*

The road to democracy may be winding and is like a river taking many curves, but eventually the river will reach the ocean.

Chen Shui-bian

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Democracy is not the law of the majority  
but protection of the minority.

Albert Camus

In a democracy the poor will have more power than the rich, because  
there are more of them, the will of the majority is supreme.

Aristotle

The primal principle of democracy is the worth  
and dignity of the individual.

Edward Bellamy

It is my principle that the will of the majority should always prevail.

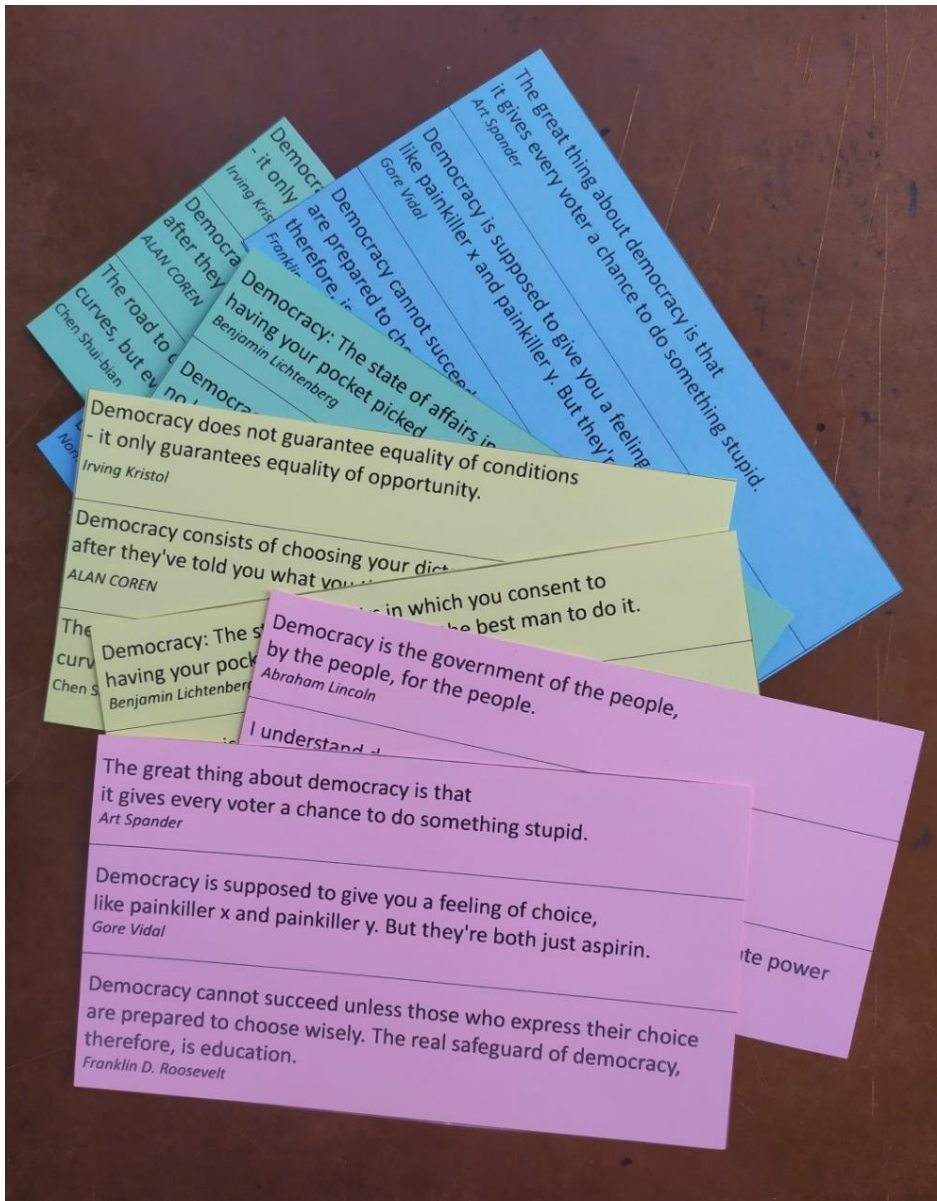
Thomas Jefferson

The lesson of history is clear: democracy always wins in the end.

Marjorie Kelly

Democracy is never a thing done. Democracy is always something  
that a nation must be doing.

Archibald MacLeish



The great thing about democracy is that it gives every voter a chance to do something stupid.  
*Art Spander*

Democracy is supposed to give you a feeling of choice, like painkiller x and painkiller y. But they're both just aspirin.  
*Gore Vidal*

Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.  
*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Democracy: The state of affairs in which you consent to having your pocket picked.  
*Benjamin Lichtenberg*

Democracy does not guarantee equality of conditions - it only guarantees equality of opportunity.  
*Irving Kristol*

Democracy consists of choosing your diet after they've told you what you can eat.  
*ALAN COREN*

The road to democracy is paved with good intentions, but even good intentions can lead to a dead end.  
*Chen Shui-bian*

Democracy: The state of affairs in which you consent to having your pocket picked.  
*Benjamin Lichtenberg*

Democracy: The government of the people, by the people, for the people.  
*Abraham Lincoln*

The great thing about democracy is that it gives every voter a chance to do something stupid.  
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