**CLASS SET**

Democracy

**Democracy' As defined by Webster's 3rd International Dictionary:  
n.** 1.a. government by the people: rule of the majority  
b.1. a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly (as in the ancient Greek city/states or the New England town meeting)-- called also *Direct Democracy*2. a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them indirectly through a system of representation and delegated authority in which the people choose their officials and representatives at periodically held free elections-- called also *Representative Democracy*

**de·moc·ra·cy**

*n.* *pl.* **de·moc·ra·cies**

**1.** Government by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives.

**2.** A political or social unit that has such a government.

**3.** The common people, considered as the primary source of political power.

**4.** Majority rule.

**5.** The principles of social equality and respect for the individual within a community.

democracy [Gr.,=rule of the people], term originating in ancient Greece to designate a government where the people share in directing the activities of the state, as distinct from governments controlled by a single class, select group, or autocrat. The definition of democracy has been expanded, however, to describe a philosophy that insists on the right and the capacity of a people, acting either directly or through representatives, to control their institutions for their own purposes. Such a philosophy places a high value on the equality of individuals and would free people as far as possible from restraints not self-imposed. It insists that necessary restraints be imposed only by the consent of the majority and that they conform to the principle of equality.