

Topic: Systems of government

Lesson 1: Democracy	KS or Year Group: KS 3
<p>Resources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resource 1 - Definitions 2. Resource 2 – 2007 Index of democracy table 3. Resource 3 – Circle time instructions 4. Resource 4 - 10 countries 5. Resource 5 - 10 stories 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are able to discuss the definitions of ‘democracy’ and ‘democratic’. • Students are able to compare some democratic countries to some non-democratic countries. • Be able to understand how the ‘index of democracy’ works.

National Curriculum

Key Concepts: 1.1a, 1.1c & 1.1d.

Key Processes: 2.1.a

Range and Content: 3a, 3d, 3e & 3g

Curriculum Opportunities: 4c

Lesson 1

In the course of this lesson, students learn that not all countries are run in the same way. For instance, they find out what words such as ‘communist’, ‘totalitarian’ and ‘monarchy’ mean. They then access the ‘2007 index of democracy’ and compare the experiences of teenagers living in ten different countries (the idea being to grasp the fact that democracy is not a worldwide phenomenon). At the end of the lesson, students consider if democracy is essential in the modern world.

Starter

- Share objectives and outcomes with students.
- Each child receives a copy of **Resource 1 – Definitions**. Working in small groups devised according to literacy levels, students match the words to the definitions. This can also be done as a ICT activity, using Snap.
- Students’ work is swiftly marked as a class through oral feedback. The teacher should point out that understanding the word ‘democracy’ is crucial to the learning, and also give students the chance to answer the question in the thought-bubble (obviously the correct answer is that a country can, for example, be capitalist and democratic and also have a monarchy).

Main activity

Activity 1:

- Students form a circle with chairs.
- **Resource 2 – 2007 Index of democracy table** is given to each student. It is explained that in 2007, *The Economist* collated lots of information about how all of the worlds' countries are run. Every country was then ranked in order of how democratic it is (i.e. Sweden comes out at the top, with the UK in the top 30 and North Korea at the bottom). It is pointed out that it is almost impossible for experts to agree about how democracy can be measured, but that *The Economist* used information about human rights, elections, politicians' actions and the general lifestyle of citizens.
- Each student is given a copy of **Resource 3 – Circle time instructions** and given a minute or so to read it. Everyone also receives a copy of **Resource 4 - 10 countries** (i.e. each sheet is already cut up into ten separate cards for students to fan in their hand/spread in their lap).
- Ten volunteers are chosen to read from **Resource 5 - 10 stories** (i.e. the sheet should be cut into ten so that each of the ten chosen students can receive a separate story).
- As **Resource 3** explains, as each story that is read, the other students have to guess which of the ten countries matches the story. They then hold up the card with that country's name on. The last student to hold up the correct country in each case is the 'loser' in that round and so has to stand up for the rest of the activity (continuing to take part). As such, at the end of circletime there will up to ten losers standing up.

Plenary

- This activity is a memory challenge and takes part in the circle too.
- The teacher quickly reads out the list of the 167 countries (starting with the most democratic) and points to one student at a time (i.e. going round the circle) for each country that is read. In other words, the teacher will need to go round the circle approximately five times with a class of thirty students.
- The class then all cover their 2007 Index of democracy table and, against the clock, are challenged to recite the list in rank order. This will mean that each student says only one country at a time and does so as soon as the person next to them has said theirs. Each student will thus name about five countries by the end of the activity.
- This activity should help to cement a rough idea of how the countries are ranked in the students's heads.

Aim high

High-achieving students could use the internet during the lesson to access information about countries from various points in the list and create their own versions of **Resource 5 - 10 stories**

Assessment

To access level 7 or 8 learning in today's lesson, the following could be strived for:

LEVEL SEVEN:

Students can assess the implications of living in countries ranked at a low level within the 'index of democracy'.

Students can compare the roles of politicians both in and outside of the UK and can describe their strengths and weaknesses.

LEVEL EIGHT:

Students can make perceptive observations about how a certain country's position is justified within the 'index of democracy' through talking knowledgeably about a current affairs issue.

Students can ask the teacher challenging questions about human rights violations in some of the countries ranked a low level within the index.

Check the web

www.economist.com

Summary of learning

- Students can explain what terms such as 'dictatorship' and 'republic' mean.
- Students can describe how the 'index of democracy' is compiled and by whom.

Resource 1 – Definitions

Which words do I need to understand?

Do all of these systems rule each other out?

1. Anarchy	This is a country with only one political party. People are forced to do what the government tells them to do.
2. Capitalist	There is a King or Queen (who may or may not have absolute control).
3. Communist	There is no King or Queen. There is usually an elected president.
4. DEMOCRACY	This is a government or council that controls a smaller area within a country.
5. Dictatorship	The government is elected by the people. Everyone eligible to vote can have their say.
6. Federal government	Ruled by a single leader. The leader has not been elected and may use force to keep control.
7. Monarchy	A country that is changing from one type of government to another.
8. Regional or local	People can own businesses and property. People can also buy services for private use (e.g. healthcare).
9. Republic	A central government shares power with a number of small local governments. The USA is a type of this.
10. Revolutionary government	Businesses and farms are government-owned. Healthcare and schools are provided.
11. Totalitarian state	There is no government. Anarchists rebel against governments.
12. Transitional	If a government is overthrown by force, the new ruling group is sometimes called this.

Resource 2 – 2007 Index of democracy table

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sweden	Iceland	Netherlands	Norway	Denmark	Finland	Luxembourg	Australia	Canada	Switzerland
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Ireland	New Zealand	Germany	Austria	Malta	Spain	USA	Czech Republic	Portugal	Belgium
21	22	23.	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Japan	Greece	UK	France	Mauritius	Costa Rica	Slovenia	Uruguay	South Africa	Chile
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
South Korea	Taiwan	Estonia	Italy	India	Botswana	Cyprus	Hungary	Cape Verde	Lithuania
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Slovakia	Brazil	Latvia	Panama	Jamaica	Poland	Israel	T. and Tobago	Bulgaria	Romania
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Croatia	Ukraine	Mexico	Argentina	Serbia	Mongolia	Sri Lanka	Montenegro	Namibia	Papa N. G.
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Suriname	Moldova	Lesotho	Philippines	Indonesia	Timor Leste	Colombia	Macedonia	Honduras	El Salvador
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
Paraguay	Benin	Guyana	Dom. Republic	Bangladesh	Peru	Guatemala	Hong Kong	Palestine	Mali
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
Malaysia	Bolivia	Albania	Singapore	Madagascar	Lebanon	Bosnia and H.	Turkey	Nicaragua	Thailand
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
Fiji	Ecuador	Venezuela	Senegal	Ghana	Mozambique	Zambia	Liberia	Tanzania	Uganda
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
Kenya	Russia	Malawi	Georgia	Cambodia	Ethiopia	Burundi	Gambia	Haiti	Armenia
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
Kyrgyzstan	Iraq	Pakistan	Jordan	Comoros	Morocco	Egypt	Rwanda	B. Faso	Kazakhstan
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
Sierra Leone	Niger	Bahrain	Cuba	Nigeria	Nepal	Côte d'Ivoire	Belarus	Azerbaijan	Cameroon
131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
Congo Brazzaville	Algeria	Mauritania	Kuwait	Afghanistan	Tunisia	Yemen	China	Swaziland	Iran
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
Sudan	Qatar	Oman	D. R. of Congo	Vietnam	Gabon	Bhutan	Zimbabwe	Tajikistan	U. Arab E.
151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
Angola	Djibouti	Syria	Eritrea	Laos	Equa. Guinea	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	Saudi Arabia	Uzbekistan
161	162	163	164	165	166	167			
Libya	Turkmenistan	Myanmar	Togo	Chad	Central Africa	N. Korea	-----	-----	-----

FULL DEMOCRACIES: 28 countries (i.e. 16.8 % of countries and 13 % of world population)

FLAWED DEMOCRACIES: 54 countries (i.e. 32.3 % of countries and 38.3 % of world population)

SOME AUTHORITARIAN ELEMENTS: 30 countries (i.e. 18 % of countries and 10.5 % of world population)

AUTHORITARIAN: 55 countries (i.e. 32.9 % of countries and 38.2 % of world population)

Resource 3 – Circle time instructions

What do I have to do for this activity?

- **Someone will read out an information card.**
- **I will guess which of my ten country cards this information matches.**



- **I will hold up the correct country card as quickly as possible.**
- **I lose if I am the slowest! Losers must stand up for the rest of the game.**
- **At the end of the game, there will be up to ten losers standing up!**

Resource 4 – 10 countries

- SWEDEN -	- AUSTRALIA -
- RUSSIA -	- PAKISTAN -
- VENEZUELA -	- SAUDI ARABIA -
- BANGLADESH -	- NORTH KOREA -
- BRAZIL -	- UK -

Resource 5 – 10 stories

Hi. I'm a girl called Katina. My country has a royal family and a prime minister. There are 21 counties in my country. Each county is divided up into municipalities - there are 290 of these in total. The main religion here is Christianity but there are plenty of others too. Our well known cities are Gothenburg and Malmo, and our capital is Stockholm. There is no better place to live in the world than here as far as democracy is concerned!
(1 = SWEDEN)

Hi. I'm a boy called Rabeeh. My country has one of the most outstanding economies in the world. My country is democratic and is well known for setting immigration intake numbers on a yearly basis. We have a population of more than 20 million and are one of the world's most urbanised countries. Our flag has a small Union Jack on it because of our links to you. **(8 = AUSTRALIA)**

Hi. I'm a girl called Olivia. Our democratic system works by people electing Members of Parliament (MPs) to the House of Commons at a general election. These elections are held no more than five years apart. Most MPs belong to a political party, and the party with the largest number of MPs in the House of Commons forms the government. Our Head of State is our monarch. We have fourteen overseas territories, including Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and Gibraltar. **(23 = UK)**

Hi. I'm a boy called Felipe. My country was politically unstable after WW2 and we were governed by the military for about twenty years. Now we have Presidents. They stay in power for four years theoretically. Fifteen political parties are represented at our Congress. Our country is split into states, which are looked after by Governors. Unfortunately there have been a lot of corruption scandals within our government over the last decade. **(42 = BRAZIL)**

Hi. I'm a girl called Shirin. We have had quite a difficult history; indeed millions of refugees have fled from here over the years. Democracy has been interrupted by states of emergency, even since we declared our independence from West Pakistan in the 1970s. We have over 100 political parties and our elections are reasonably fair although there are often violent demonstrations. Local representative government is not well developed in many rural areas. **(75 = BANGLADESH)**

Hi. I'm a boy called Nixon. Our country is a former Spanish colony. People have tried to overthrow our government in the past. We have a lot of crime and poverty. Since 1958, we have had democratically elected governments. You have to be 18 to vote. We have Presidents, whose terms last for six years. We have 23 states here, and these are divided into 335 municipalities. **93 = VENEZUELA**

Hi. I'm a girl called Sashka. Our country covers more than an eighth of the world's land area and has a huge population. We had real problems with our economy in the 1990s. Lots of criminals and businesspeople took money out of the country during this time and took over private enterprise through violence. Our Presidents are voted in for four years. Famous politicians include Yeltsin and Putin. **102 = RUSSIA**

Hi. I'm a boy called Majid. My country was part of India until 1947. We have a large Muslim population. We have had a lot of wars in the past century and are an unstable country. People argue about how much influence religion should have upon politics, and the power of the Taliban has made these arguments worse. We do use elections and have even had a female Prime Minister in the past. Unfortunately, she was assassinated in late 2007. **113 = PAKISTAN**

Hi. I'm a girl called Alima. About 75 % of our government's money comes from oil. The Qur'an is 'the law' in our country, so it is a very strict place to live. Our first local elections took place in 2005. We have a King. Until very recently, the government had not even considered the idea of women driving. We have had lots of problems with terrorist attacks. Human rights groups often get involved with our country because we have the death penalty. **159 = SAUDI ARABIA**

Hi. I'm a boy called Bae. We had a major famine in the 1990s. We are a single-party state. Our country is totalitarian. People in our country who speak out against the way we are treated face torture, starvation, rape or murder. There are even work camps here, where people who clash with our leaders are held. Our leaders do not want us to communicate with other countries. For example, we are threatened with the death penalty if we listen to music from South Korea. Sadly, we are seen to be the least democratic country in the world. **167 = NORTH KOREA**