

# Ancient Greek Democracy



1. The political system in Ancient Greece.
2. Compare this system

## Success Criteria

- I can explain what democracy is.
- I can explain if I think different systems of democracy are fair or not and give reasons.
- I can compare ancient and modern democracy.
- I understand the legacy of the Athenian democratic system.

# Democracy?

What is democracy?

What does it mean in the UK today?

Democracy is a fair political system where all adults **vote** for an elected government. This government then make decisions on how to run the country.

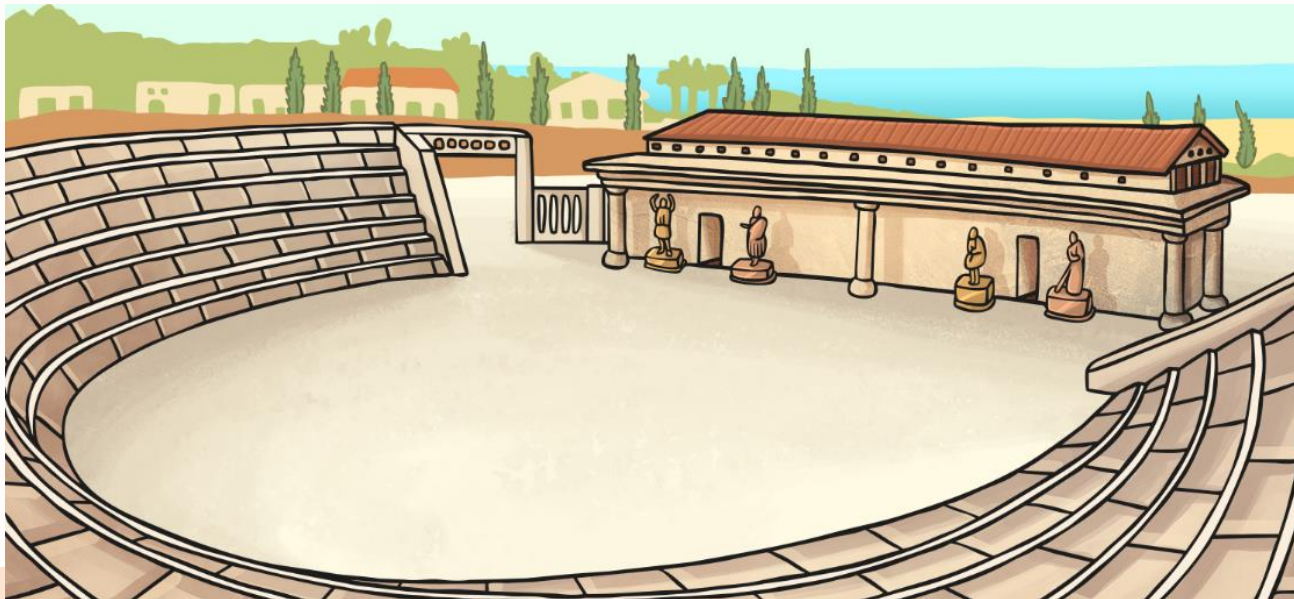
Adults in the UK vote in elections to choose a political party, MPs and the Prime Minister.



# Where did democracy begin?

Democracy began in Ancient Greece.

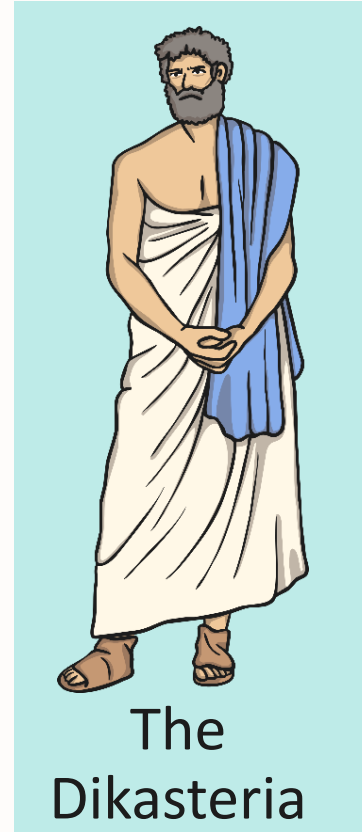
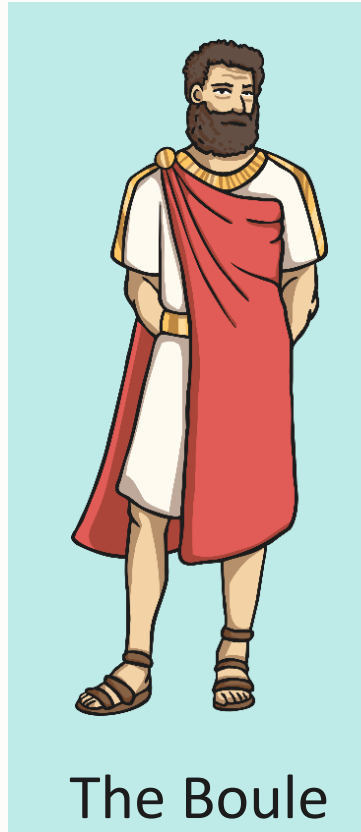
In fact, the Ancient Greek system is very famous and has helped to shape many systems of democracy around the world today.





# Democracy in Ancient Greece

There were three main systems of democracy in Ancient Greece:



Let's find out more . . .

# The Ekklesia

- The ekklesia was the **main assembly of citizens** who met 40 times a year to make laws and decisions.
- **Any male** Athenian citizen could attend.
- Out of 40,000 men, about 5,000 attended regularly.
- They made decisions by a **simple majority vote**. (most votes wins)



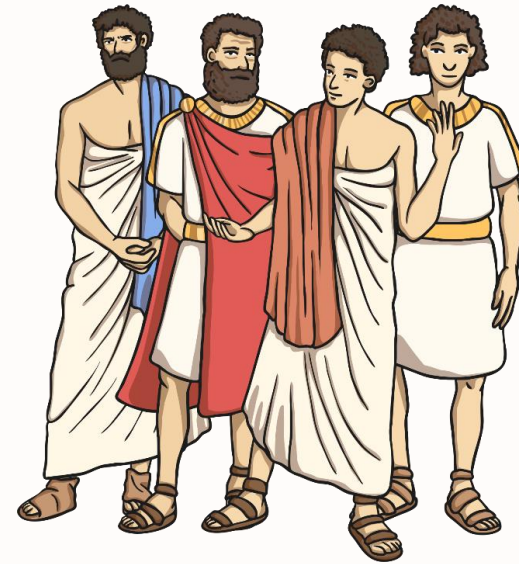
# The Boule

The boule were a **group of 500 men who served for one year.**

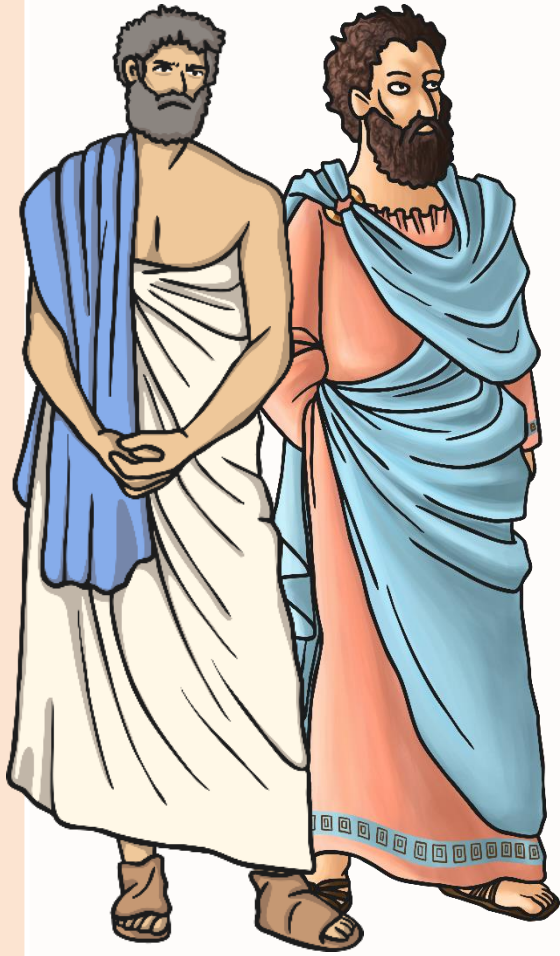
They met daily and made lots of decisions.

They decided what issues to take to the ekklesia.

They were chosen randomly.



# The Dikasteria



The dikasteria, or popular courts, was a group of 500 jurors who **dealt with crimes**.

There were no rules or police so the dikasteria decided what would be tried and what the sentences would be.

The jurors were chosen daily at random from a group of male citizens over 30 years old.



# Who were a part of the democracy?

Men

Adults

Athenian  
Citizens



# Who was left out of the democracy?



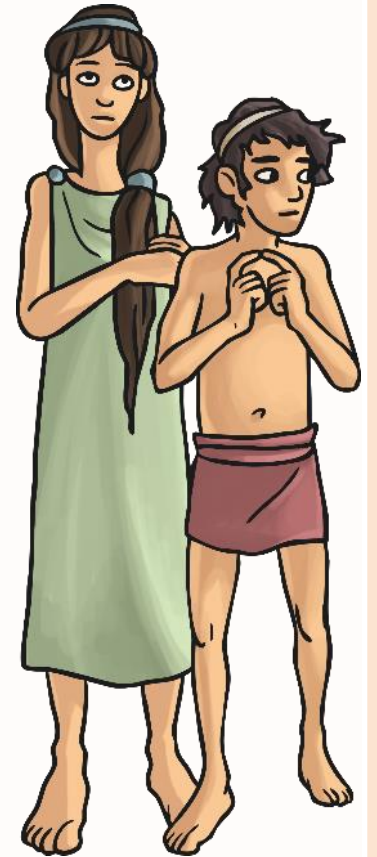
All women



Metic  
(not Athenian  
citizens)



Slaves

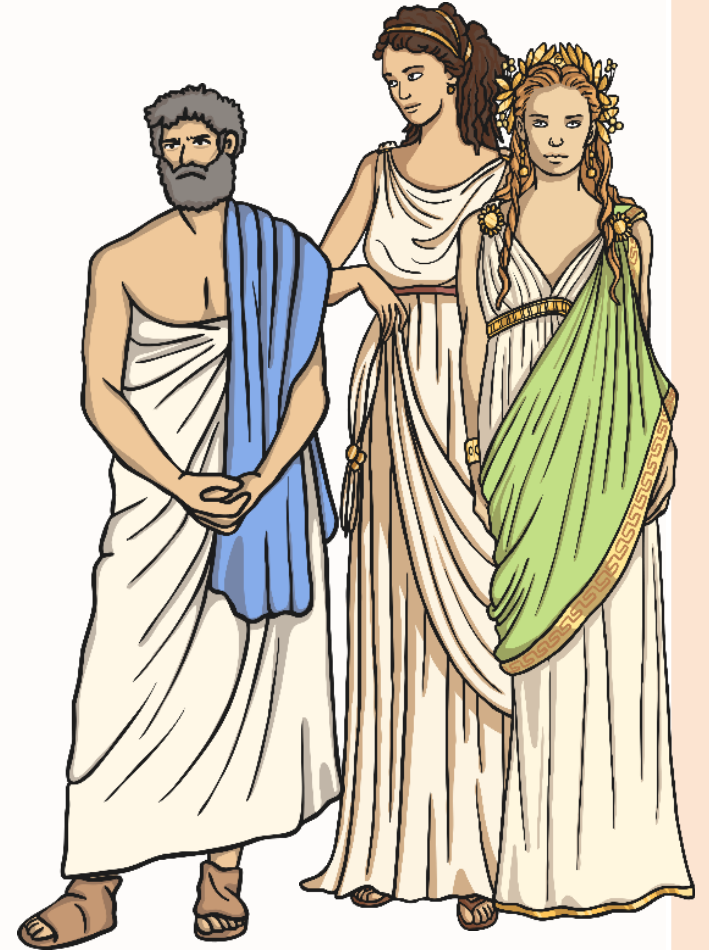


Children

# TASK 1: Without looking, how much can you remember?! Who was included?

Look at the name cards (next slide). Sort the cards into two piles; those who were included in the democracy and those who were not. Stick/write into your books – Included/not included

- Why have you sorted them like this?
- Did we all agree?
- Were you correct?!





8 year old male Athenian



36 year old male Athenian



15 year old female Athenian



23 year old Athenian slave



40 year old female Athenian



53 year old male metic



28 year old male Athenian



20 year old female metic

# Democracy Differences

What are the **main differences** between democracy in Ancient Greece and democracy now?

Create and fill in a table in your book by listing the main differences between democracy in Ancient Greece and democracy in the UK now from the next slide

Ancient Greece	UK



The group of men who make daily decisions are chosen randomly.

Voters can choose from a few different political parties. Each party has a different set of ideas.

MPs are voted for and join together to make a parliament.

There is no police; a group of 500 jurors decide the punishments.

All citizens (men and women) over the age of 18 can vote.

The elected party will stay in power for four years.

Only men are allowed to vote.

Any male citizen can join the assembly who meet regularly to make decisions about how the state is run.

**Anything else?**

Plenary/Optional Challenge Question: Voting in the UK  
Should everyone in the UK today get the vote?

Who doesn't have the vote?

- Under 18's
- Prisoners
- People who are not British Citizens

**Should any of these groups be given the vote? Why?**