

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Representative Democracy

*Use the text to answer each question below.*

1. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Britain owned 13 colonies in the “New World”—that is, America. But in 1776, the United States declared its independence. And in 1783, the United States won the Revolutionary War. It was its own country at last. What kind of government would the new country have? America’s revolutionary leaders didn’t want to have a system like England’s, with a king holding all the power. In their view, it was too easy for all-powerful rulers to misuse their power and behave cruelly towards their own people. Instead, they thought America’s people should govern themselves. This type of government is called a democracy. In a democracy, power is held not by a king, but by a country’s people.

Why did America’s revolutionary leaders view all-powerful kings as dangerous?

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| A. They felt that kings and queens didn’t have enough power. | B. They believed that too much power can lead to cruelty.                  |
| C. They hoped to one day be back under British rule.         | D. They felt that a king or queen would give too much power to the people. |

2. There are different forms of democracy. In a direct democracy, for example, the people vote on all major decisions. The government of Switzerland largely fits with direct democracy. In a representative democracy, on the other hand, major decisions are made by government officials. The people elect these officials to represent their views. The United States is governed by representative democracy.

Which statement is true?

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|--|---|
| A. In a representative democracy, the people vote on all major governmental decisions. | B. In a representative democracy, people elect government officials to represent their views. |
| C. Switzerland is mainly a representative democracy.                                   | D. The United States is mainly a direct democracy.  |

- 3.** If you're an American citizen, you can start voting in elections at age 18. Once you check in at your polling place, you'll be handed a paper called a ballot. It lists the people who are running for office. You'll then go into a voting booth and mark your choices on the ballot. Every four years, this ballot will include the people who are running for president. But there are other positions on the ballot as well, such as senators and representatives. These are the government officials who make new laws.

Who makes new laws for our country?

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. All US citizens    | B. The president                |
| C. The vice president | D. Senators and representatives |