

Ideas Across Time

Trace Greek civic ideas into the United States constitutional republic.

SS.6.CG.1.1 "Analyze how democratic concepts developed in ancient Greece served as a foundation for the United States' constitutional republic."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that describes a Greek civic practice or principle, including who could participate. Circle each sentence that states a United States constitutional feature, protection, or amendment, then draw one arrow from an underlined sentence to a related circled sentence and write *same idea* or *adapted* beside the arrow.

From Athens to the Constitution

- ① In ancient Athens, some citizens practiced direct democracy. Eligible citizens gathered in the Assembly, debated public issues, and voted on laws and decisions. They also served on large juries that decided court cases. This participation introduced an important idea: citizens should have a role in government and law. Athens was not fully democratic by modern standards. Women, enslaved people, foreigners, and many other residents could not be citizens or vote. Only adult male Athenian citizens could take part.
- ② Athenian government also used juries selected from citizens, placing legal decisions in citizens' hands rather than in one ruler's hands. Greek thinkers explored civic duty, public debate, and the rule of law, the principle that laws apply to both leaders and other people. These concepts traveled through later European ideas and were studied by American founders. The founders did not copy Athens. They were creating a government for a much larger nation, where every citizen could not gather to vote on each law.
- ③ The United States Constitution created a constitutional republic. Citizens elect representatives, who debate and make laws in Congress. This representative system echoes Athens's belief that citizens should influence government, but it works differently from Athens's direct Assembly. The Constitution also separates power among branches and limits government through written rules. The Bill of Rights protects individual freedoms, such as speech and religion. Later constitutional amendments, including the Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-Sixth, expanded voting rights to more citizens across the nation over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did eligible citizens participate in Athenian government, and which people were excluded from citizenship and voting?

2 How did the United States adapt Athens's idea that citizens should influence government?

3 What is the rule of law, and how does the United States Constitution reflect that Greek principle?

4 What is the difference between the Bill of Rights and the later amendments named in the passage?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you advise the writers of the Constitution. Write exactly three sentences: name one Greek practice or idea they could use, describe a related United States constitutional design, and explain how the United States design adapts the Greek idea for a large nation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that describes a Greek civic practice or principle, including who could participate. Circle each sentence that states a United States constitutional feature, protection, or amendment, then draw one arrow from an underlined sentence to a related circled sentence and write *same idea* or *adapted* beside the arrow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did eligible citizens participate in Athenian government, and which people were excluded from citizenship and voting?	Eligible adult male Athenian citizens debated and voted in the Assembly and served on juries. Women, enslaved people, foreigners, and many other residents were excluded.
2	How did the United States adapt Athens's idea that citizens should influence government?	The United States has citizens elect representatives, who debate and make laws in Congress, instead of having every citizen vote directly on each law.
3	What is the rule of law, and how does the United States Constitution reflect that Greek principle?	The rule of law means laws apply to leaders and other people. The Constitution reflects it by using written rules that limit government.
4	What is the difference between the Bill of Rights and the later amendments named in the passage?	The Bill of Rights protects individual freedoms such as speech and religion. The later amendments named in the passage expanded voting rights to more citizens.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Athens showed that citizens can take part in making laws through debate and voting. The United States uses elected representatives in Congress to debate and make laws. This adapts the Greek idea because people in a large nation can choose representatives instead of gathering all citizens in one Assembly.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect Greek citizen participation, public debate, juries, or rule of law to a United States constitutional feature. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences and a clear Greek idea, United States adaptation, and explanation of why the adaptation fits a large nation.