

Roots of the Republic

Trace ideas from three traditions into American government.

SS.7.CG.1.1 "Analyze the influences of ancient Greece, ancient Rome and the Judeo-Christian tradition on America's constitutional republic."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each passage detail that describes an idea from ancient Greece, ancient Rome, or the Judeo-Christian tradition, and write G, R, or J-C beside it to trace its influence on the United States.

Ideas That Shaped a Republic

- ① When Americans created a constitutional republic, they drew ideas from several older traditions. A constitutional republic has a written framework that limits government, protects rights, and uses elected representatives. The United States did not copy one ancient society exactly. Instead, its founders studied earlier examples while responding to their own time. Ancient Greece contributed ideas about citizens taking part in public life. Ancient Rome offered a republican model with offices, laws, and limits on power. The Judeo-Christian tradition shaped moral ideas about justice and human worth.
- ② In some Greek city-states, especially Athens, eligible citizens met in an assembly to debate and vote on public decisions. This was direct democracy, because citizens voted themselves rather than choosing representatives for every decision. Women, enslaved people, and many others were excluded, so this practice was not equal to modern American citizenship. Still, the example taught that government could depend on informed citizens, public debate, and civic duty. Americans use representative government, but voting, serving on juries, and discussing public issues reflect this Greek emphasis on participation.
- ③ Rome was a republic for part of its history. Roman citizens elected officials, and different offices shared power. The Roman idea that laws should govern both leaders and citizens influenced the American principle of rule of law. Roman writers also described a mixed government, in which parts of government could check one another. From the Judeo-Christian tradition, many Americans inherited the belief that people have moral responsibilities and that justice should protect human dignity. These beliefs supported debates about fair laws, individual rights, and limits on government, even though the Constitution itself is not a religious document.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How was Greek direct democracy different from the representative government used in the United States?

2 What Roman idea is connected to the American principle of rule of law? Explain the connection.

3 Which Judeo-Christian ideas influenced American debates about laws and rights?

4 Why does the passage say that the United States did not copy ancient societies exactly? Use one detail from the passage in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences proposing one school government practice. Name two traditions from the passage and explain how each tradition influenced your proposal.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each passage detail that describes an idea from ancient Greece, ancient Rome, or the Judeo-Christian tradition, and write G, R, or J-C beside it to trace its influence on the United States. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was Greek direct democracy different from the representative government used in the United States?	In Greek direct democracy, eligible citizens voted on decisions themselves. In the United States, citizens elect representatives to make many decisions.
2	What Roman idea is connected to the American principle of rule of law? Explain the connection.	Rome influenced the idea that laws should govern leaders as well as citizens. In the United States, the rule of law means government officials and citizens must follow the law.
3	Which Judeo-Christian ideas influenced American debates about laws and rights?	The Judeo-Christian tradition contributed beliefs about moral responsibility, justice, and protecting human dignity. These ideas supported debates about fair laws, individual rights, and limits on government.
4	Why does the passage say that the United States did not copy ancient societies exactly? Use one detail from the passage in your answer.	The founders studied earlier examples but responded to their own time. For example, the United States uses representative government rather than Greek direct democracy, and modern citizenship is broader than citizenship in ancient Athens.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Student council representatives should vote on a rule requiring public meetings before major school decisions. This uses Rome's representative republican model and rule of law because elected students would follow a known procedure. It also uses Greece's emphasis on public debate because students could share ideas at the meetings.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect Greek civic participation, Roman republican government or rule of law, and Judeo-Christian ideas of justice, moral responsibility, or human dignity to American constitutional principles. For the open response, accept varied school practices if the student accurately explains two distinct historical influences.