

U3L3A1 Democracy

overview

You will review and share what you know about the how the democracy in Canada works.

learning goal

• To understand how the Canadian Democracy operates.

success criteria

• Completion of handout.

Inquiry question

· What does democracy look like in Canada?

Democracy

Democracy, as defined by the Oxford Dictionary "is a form of government in which the power resides in the people and is exercised by them either directly or by means of elected representatives."

A complementary definition: "Democracy is a universal value, based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives."

(Source: Democracy and the United Nations Backgrounder, www.un.org/en/events/democracyday/index. shtml)

Your definition of democracy:



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Answer the following questions about Canada's system of government to the best of your ability:

- **1.** Based on the definitions of democracy at the top of this handout, how does Canada's political system function using the below checklist of criteria?
 - □ The public has the opportunity to decide which political issues should be discussed in the government.
 - □ Citizens have ample and equal opportunity to discover and affirm new policies and their consequences, with full disclosure of all details before a final decision is made.
 - □ Each citizen has an equal opportunity to vote, with the assurance that his or her vote will be given equal weight.
 - □ All citizens have a say in decision-making.
 - $\hfill\square$ People have the freedom to make choices and express opinions.
 - □ There are equal rights and responsibilities for everyone.
 - □ There is a justice system that applies to everyone.
 - □ The government is accountable, or responsible, for its actions and to the people.
- 2. How are government representatives selected and how often is this done?

3. Who can become a government representative? Who can participate in selecting government representatives?



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4. What levels of government exist and what are some of their responsibilities?

5. What rights and responsibilities are given to citizens?