Rise of Democracy in Ancient Greece

Lesson Objectives: The Rise of Democracy in Ancient Greece

1. Students will be able to trace the transition from tyranny and oligarchy to early democratic forms of government and back to dictatorship in ancient Greece.
2. Students will be able to explain the reasons for the failure of monarchy, oligarchy, and tyranny in ancient Greece.
Monarchy

The earliest form of government in Greece is a Monarchy. In this form of government, one person, such as a king or an emperor, had the power to make all the political decisions.

Oligarchy

Oligarchy developed in ancient Greece as an alternative to monarchy. In an oligarchy, a few individuals have the power to make political decisions.
Around 500 B.C.E. after the overthrow of a harsh tyrant, the citizens of Athens decided they would rule themselves. This was the beginning of a democracy. In a democracy, people vote to make political decisions.

Discontent with the oligarchies in ancient Greece led to the rise of new leaders called tyrants. In a tyranny, one individual seizes power by force and rules single-handedly.

Pull the tabs to discover definitions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Democracy Then and Now</th>
<th>In Athenian Direct Democracy…</th>
<th>In American Representative Democracy…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All citizens met as a group to debate and vote directly on every issue.</td>
<td>Citizens elect representatives to debate and vote on issues for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There was no separation of powers. Citizens created laws, enforced laws, and acted as judges.</td>
<td>There is a separation of powers. Citizens elect some people to create laws, others to enforce laws, and others to be judges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only free male citizens could vote. Women and slaves could not vote.</td>
<td>Men and women who are citizens have the right to vote.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ancient Greece   United States
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Government</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>How did they often lose power?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Monarchy           | • 2000 to 800 BCE  
• First: elected by city states  
• eventually: power passed down through family | They relied to heavily on aristocrats who eventually overthrew the monarchy and took power for themselves (in most cities). |
| Oligarchy          | • 800 BCE  
• a small group of wealthy men ruled  
• large difference between wealthy oligarchs and the poor | The oligarchs for the most part ignored the needs of the people. The people then found leaders who promised to improve their lives. Backed by the people these leaders (usually in the army) threw the oligarchs out of power |
| Tyranny            | • mid 600's BCE  
• men that forced the oligarchs out of power were called tyrants  
• ruling power is in the hands of one person that is not a lawful king  
• usually took and kept control by force  
• some ruled well | Some tyrants did not use their power to help the people. Some were harsh leaders and the people began to criticize them. Many tyrants were forced to leave power. |
| Democracy          | • Around 500 BCE the people of Athens decided to try governing themselves.  
• All citizens shared in the ruling power  
• different from today, direct democracy: every citizen can vote on every issue in an assembly, or lawmaking group. | Not all Greeks believed that democracy was a good type of government. Many city-states returned to earlier forms of government. However, the ideal of democracy would become one of the great gifts of ancient Greece to the modern world. |
When the founding fathers of the United States created the world’s first modern democracy they claimed to take their inspiration from the classical Greek *demokratia* – ‘a government of the people, by the people, for the people’, as Abraham Lincoln described it. But even though the United States would use the democracy of ancient Greece for inspiration, it is important to remember that there are many differences between our government in the U.S. and the government of Athens over 2000 years ago. The three main differences between our modern democracy and the Greek’s democracy are: size, eligibility, and participation.
In your Interactive Notebook ...

1. You will need two 'clean'// blank pages in your Interactive Notebook.

2. At the top label (Title): Ancient Greek Government

3. Divide each page in half and label your notebook using the following example.

4. You will include the types of government, definition, example from history, and a visual (picture) to represent each type of government that appeared in Ancient Greece.

- Monarchy
- Oligarchy
- Tyranny
- Democracy