

DEMOCRACY AND ME

OBJECTIVE

Students learn the characteristics of a democratic society and how they can improve where they live.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ★ Ask students: How many of you have heard of the word “democracy”? Does anyone know what it means? What other words do you think of when you hear the word democracy? List the students’ ideas on the board.
- ★ Read the following definition: A democracy is a society where the people are involved in making many of the decisions about what happens in communities, states, and the country.
- ★ Ask students: How do people in the United States help make decisions about the government, schools, laws and other important aspects of our lives? (Possible answers include attending public meetings, writing letters to officials, running for office, and voting.)
- ★ Ask students: is democracy just for adults? Does it have anything to do with kids? Accept all responses. Point out to students that the laws made by our local, state, and federal governments impact most of our everyday activities (including being at school).
- ★ In groups, have students brainstorm 3 ways that kids can participate in democracy, and together compose a paragraph about why students should care about democracy and how to get involved.
- ★ Share with the class.
- ★ Discuss, encouraging students to ask questions of peers.

MORE RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

Help your students to learn about government, find and analyze information, understand how informed, active citizens participate in democracy through elections and more. Find curriculum alignment guides, candidate and debate information, video, text, images, and more activities plus information about the student vote at www.GenerationNation.org/learn