Social Studies Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Democracy Then & Now Period: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

**The form of government now known as democracy was invented in Greece about 2,500 years ago by a leader known as Cleisthenes. His idea gave political power to ordinary people. It inspired America’s founding fathers, people like John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, to try to make our country a land “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Use this chart to compare democracy then and now.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Where:** | **Ancient Greece** | **Modern America** |
| **Type of Democracy** | **Direct** | **Indirect** |
| **Which people could vote?** | **Every adult, male citizen in Greece could vote.** |  |
| **How were laws proposed and voted on?** |  | **Representatives are elected by the people. The meet as a legislature and propose and vote on the laws they think their constituents want.** |
| **Where did they meet to vote?** | **On a hill in Athens called the Pnyx.** |  |
| **In what type of society does this form of democracy work best?** |  | **In larger societies, with too many people to get together regularly, indirect democracy works better.** |

**THINK ABOUT IT: In the age of modern communications like the internet and social media, would direct democracy be possible even in a large country like the United States? Explain why or why not.**

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