

CHAPTER
1
SECTION 3**READING COMPREHENSION****Basic Concepts of Democracy****3**

In the left-hand column of the chart below, write the five basic concepts of democracy. In the right-hand column, write the meaning of each concept in your own words.

Five Concepts of Democracy	Meaning of These Concepts
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

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READING COMPREHENSION

Basic Concepts of Democracy

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Directions: Write your answer to each question.

1. Democracy is based on five basic ideas. List them in the space below.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

2. What are two duties of citizenship?

3. What is one responsibility of citizenship?

4. Describe how the free enterprise system works in the United States.

5. What is another name for the free enterprise system?

American Government – Civics
Chapter 1, Section 3 Activity

Focus on the Basics:

Facts: Democracy is based on the concepts of individual worth, equality, majority rule with minority rights, compromise and individual freedom. Equality means that all are entitled to equality of opportunity and equality before the law. Individuals are free to do as they please as long as they do not violate the rights of others.

Concepts: democratic principles, equality, majority rule, minority rights, freedom, citizenship, duties and responsibilities of citizens

Enduring Understandings: Democracy depends on citizens' commitment and participation. Democratic governments work to balance the needs of society with individual rights. Both democracy and free enterprise are based on individual freedom.

Checkpoint Questions: What are the basic concepts of democracy? To what are citizens entitled under the democratic concept of equality? Name two duties of every US citizen. What are the four factors of the free enterprise system?

Key Terms and Comprehension: In what two ways does democracy require the equality of all persons? What kind of equality is not guaranteed by democracy? Why is compromise so important in a democracy? What does it mean to be a good citizen?

Critical Thinking: What must a good citizen do in order to help preserve democracy? What might be the consequences if citizens were not required to pay taxes or serve on a jury? How might the government react to a downturn in the economy?

Task: Search through history or current events and describe a scenario where the basic concepts of democracy have not been met. Included in your information should be the five Ws (*who, what, where, when, why*) and also explain *how* the issue was solved/mediated by the US government. Type up your information and turn it in to the teacher by _____ (due date). This task is worth 30 points. *Two extra credit points will be given if you include a picture.* *Note: You may do your work on a google doc but you must print out your work to turn in to your teacher. Thank you!



We don't have a democracy.
We have a Constitutional
Representative Republic
with Democratic Principles!

THE FIVE Ws

Name _____

Date _____

DIRECTIONS Respond to the following questions in the spaces provided.

What happened?

Who was there?

Why did it happen?

When did it happen?

Where did it happen?

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BELLRINGER WORKSHEET

Basic Concepts of Democracy

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Read the information below and then answer the questions that follow.

At least 180 million Americans can now log on to the Internet to send and receive e-mail, to buy or sell practically anything, to entertain themselves, to inform themselves, and to do any number of other things. It is clear that cyberspace has become a major marketplace and an important channel of communication.

Democracy and the Internet would seem to be made for one another. Democracy demands that the people be widely informed about the government. Internet users can check out the Web sites of political candidates, discover what's happening in Congress, read the most recent Supreme Court decisions, and do much else. Theoretically, this makes knowledgeable participation in the democratic process easier than ever before.

However, the quantity of information on the Internet and the speed of finding it does not guarantee the reliability of that data. There is a vast amount of unverified, often unverifiable, and frequently false information and biased analysis in cyberspace.

Some argue that elections should be held online. In fact, some cyber votes were cast in the Democratic Party's presidential primary in Arizona in 2000, in that party's presidential primary in Michigan in 2004, and, most recently, by Democrats abroad in the 2008 primaries. The Defense Department conducted a very small online voting project in connection with the presidential election in 2000, but cancelled plans for a much larger project in 2004 because it could find no way to guarantee the absolute integrity of an online voting system.

1. What title would you give to this passage? Why?

2. Write a short summary of this passage.

3. Underline the main idea of the passage.

Basic Concepts of Democracy**3**

Part 2 In the chart below, list several duties and responsibilities of citizenship in the first column. In the second column, briefly explain why you consider them to be duties or responsibilities.

Duties of Citizenship	Why Is It a Duty Rather than a Responsibility?
•	•
•	•
•	•
•	•
Responsibilities of Citizenship	Why Is It a Responsibility Rather than a Duty?
•	•
•	•
•	•
•	•

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SKILLS WORKSHEET

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Notetaking and Active Listening

Read the excerpt below, which is from John F. Kennedy's inaugural address (1961). Then answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper.

Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need—not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation”—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself.

Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

Apply the Skill

1. **Identify the General Topic** Summarize the general topic of this excerpt in one or two sentences.
2. **Identify the Main Ideas and Take Notes Selectively** What would you identify as the main ideas? Summarize the key points and the examples or details that support them.
3. **Practice Active Listening** What do you think about the ideas in this speech? What do you particularly agree with? What do you disagree with?
4. **Listen for Transitions, Repetition, and Emphasis** Identify examples of repetition in the excerpt. How does Kennedy use language to emphasize certain points? Why does he use this technique? How does he signal to listeners that he is reaching the end of his speech?