

# Democracy in ancient Greece



# Which Type of Government Would You Prefer?



↓

Monarchy-  
Power held  
in a family  
line



↓

Tyranny-  
One  
person  
rules



↓

Oligarchy-  
a small  
group of  
people  
rules



↓

Democracy-  
all people  
share the  
power

# Democracy



- Ancient Greece was the birthplace of democracy.

Democracy means  
government by the people.



# Government by the people means...



- every citizen gets a vote.

# What is a citizen?

- In ancient Greece a citizen was any free person who was born in a city state.
- Men and women were citizens.
- Only men could vote.

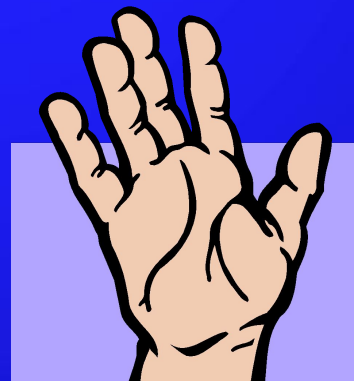
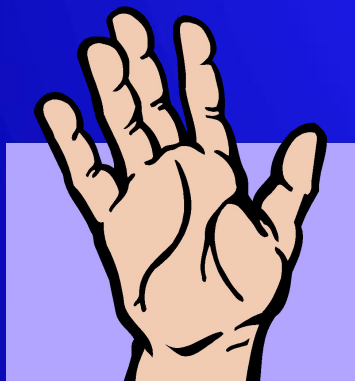
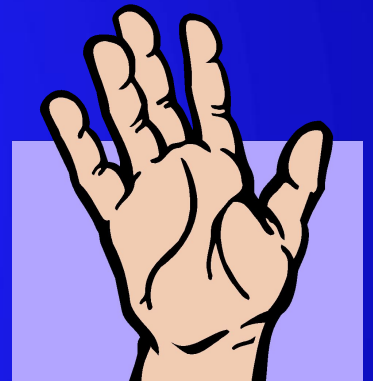
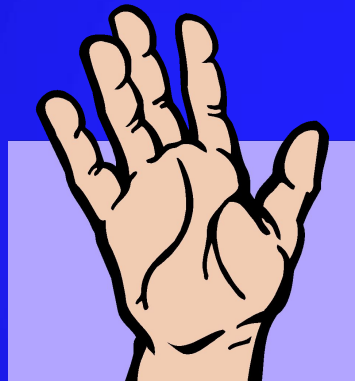
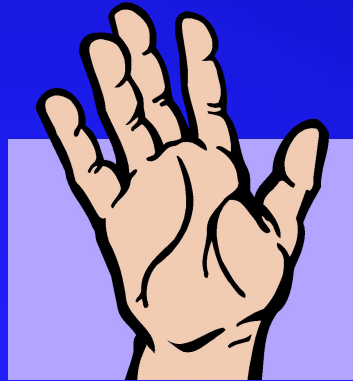
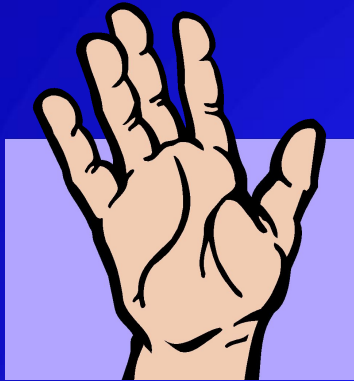
Ancient Greeks had a direct democracy.





In a direct  
democracy  
people vote  
to make  
their own  
rules and  
laws.





# Greek Assembly



- Every male citizen was a member of the Assembly.
- The Assembly made laws for the city state.
- Every male person got to vote on every law.

# Greek Council

- The Assembly elected Council members.
- You had to be a landowner to be elected to Council.
- Anything voted on by the Assembly had to be approved by the Council first.

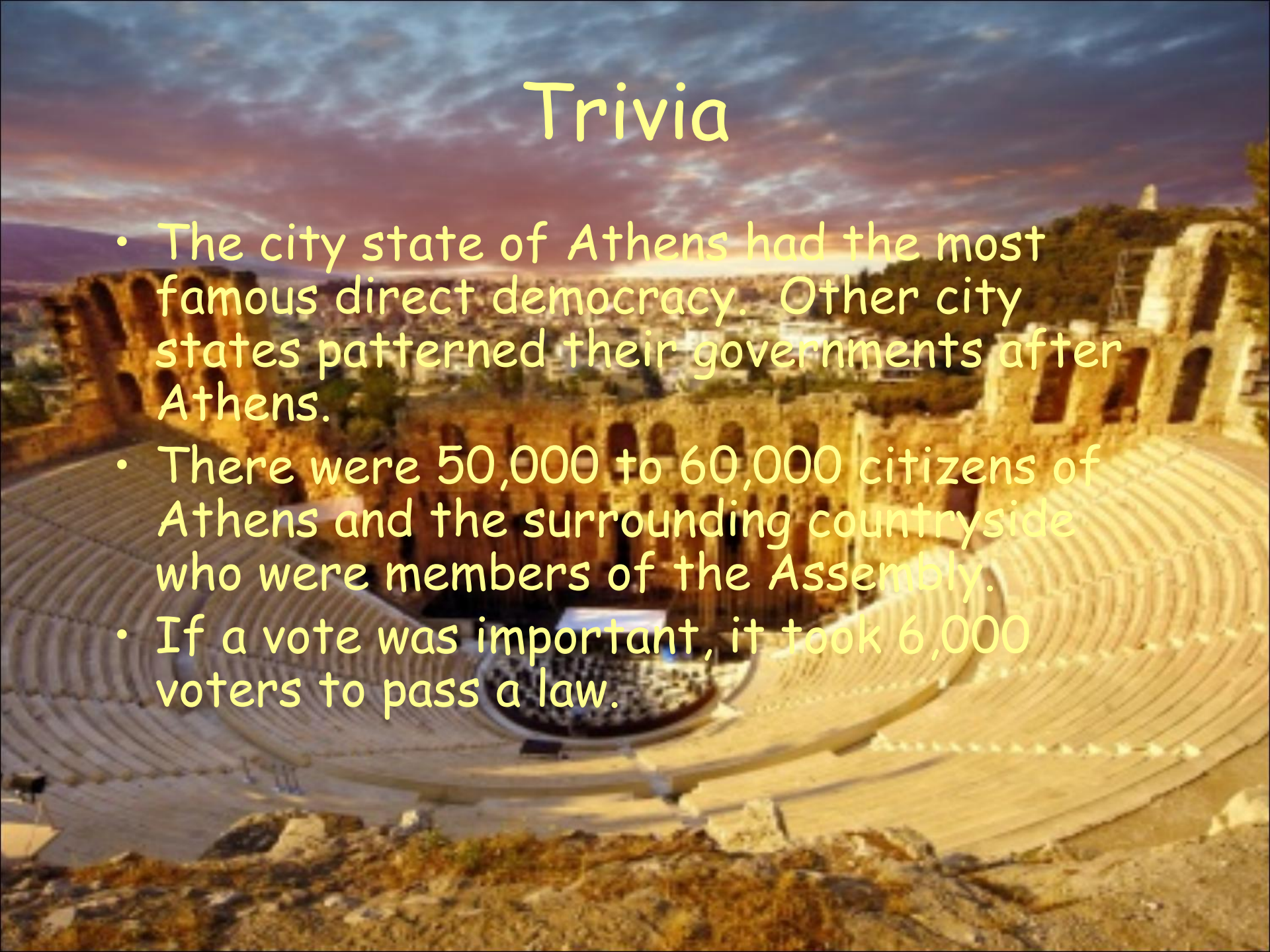
# Judges



- Judges were the oldest branch of the government.
- A person had to go through a year of testing to be a judge.
- Once a person passed the testing, he became a judge for life.

# Trivia

- The city state of Athens had the most famous direct democracy. Other city states patterned their governments after Athens.
- There were 50,000 to 60,000 citizens of Athens and the surrounding countryside who were members of the Assembly.
- If a vote was important, it took 6,000 voters to pass a law.



- The Assembly passed laws.
- The Assembly decided on wars.
- The Assembly made economic policy.
- The Assembly elected Council members.
- The Assembly met 40 times each year.
- Citizens were paid to attend Assembly meetings. That way poor people could go to meetings.
- If you arrived late, you didn't get paid.



- Any citizen was allowed to speak on any topic.
- If you spoke, but weren't knowledgeable about the topic, you would be laughed out of the Assembly.
- Any citizen could tell stories about any other citizen in the Assembly. People didn't want to do bad things for fear they would be embarrassed at the Assembly.



- Votes could be taken by show of hands or by balloting.
- Assembly meetings were held during the day because you couldn't see people's hands in the dark.
- People who wanted to be Council members might lie about owning land.







- Council members met every day, also members were paid.
- Some Council members were elected generals and commanders of the military.
- Some Council members were in charge of religious sacrifices and festivals.
- One Council member was in charge of all the wells in town.
- One Council member was in charge of the town's ships.
- Some Council members were elected for a one year term. Other Council members were elected for a four year term.





Thanks for  
your attention  
:)