

Greek and Roman Government
Response Group Lesson Plan

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Subject: World History

Summary of Content: This lesson utilizes the *History Alive!* “Response Group” strategy to stage a class debate on the effects of Athenian and Roman democracy on the U.S. government.

Objectives: Students will

- Analyze information about government in ancient Greece and Rome in order to support a particular point of view
- Take part in small group discussion and work collaboratively to defend an assigned perspective
- Engage in a classroom debate on the topic

TEKS Objectives: 15B, 16A, 17A-B, 18A-C

Time Required: 1-2 50 minute class periods

Materials Needed:

- World History textbook
- Athenian and Roman government graphic organizers (optional)
- Excerpt on Greek and Roman government from AP textbook (optional)
- Computer lab with Internet access (optional, for additional research if desired)
- Debate handouts

Procedures:

1. Place students into groups of 3-4 and assign readings from the textbook about government in ancient Greece and Rome. (Prentice Hall, pp. 107-109; 129). You may also wish to give groups copies of the graphic organizers on Greek and Roman government and the copy of the excerpt from the AP textbook. Another option is to have students do Internet research in the computer lab.
2. Give groups the following statement: “The Athenians rather than the Romans had the greatest impact on American democracy.” Assign half of the groups to be pro, and the other half to be con. Tell students that they must use the material they have to support, or make a case for, their assigned perspective. They are to work together to make notes to back up their respective positions.
3. Each group must select a spokesperson to present their ideas. You can either have the different groups report out in an informal manner or use the included handouts to organize a more formal debate involving multiple debaters. The goal of either approach should be to promote a “lively discussion.”

Assessment:

Informal teacher observation; use of debate score sheets if desired.