

Justice in a Democracy



Name:

Date:

What is inequality and social justice?

Watch the video about justice. Afterwards, discuss these questions in class:

1. Why is not always fair if everyone always gets the same?
2. What are the two sides of discrimination?
3. Have you witnessed or experienced discrimination yourself?



Youtube: What is inequality and social justice? - BBC Bitesize Key Stage 3 Learning for Life and Work

To watch the youtube video just scan the QR code.

Can you remember a situation in which you felt something was very unfair? Why did it feel unfair to you?

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MA Max

Hi Max! Did you hear about the class rep election results?

Yes, Arsema! I'm so mad about it.

Me too! Lucy got the most votes, but Mr. Smith declared Thomas the winner. It's so unfair!

Exactly! What's the point of voting if the teacher just picks whoever he wants?

It goes against democracy! Votes should matter. It's like saying our opinions don't count.

I know, right? We all chose Lucy because we believe in her, not because Mr. Smith thinks Thomas would be better.

This isn't fair to Lucy either. She worked hard for those votes. It's like her effort was for nothing.

Totally. And it's a bad example for us. How will we trust the system if it's not fair?

We should talk to Mr. Smith and tell him how we feel. Maybe he doesn't realize he's teaching us the wrong lesson.

Good idea. We need to stand up for what's right. Fair elections are a big part of democracy.

Yes! Democracy is about everyone's voice being heard, not just one person's decision.

Let's gather our classmates and explain our concerns to Mr. Smith. We need to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Agreed. We have to do this together. It's about fairness and justice for everyone.

Absolutely. Let's meet after school to plan what we want to say.

Sounds good! See you later, Max.

See you, Arsema!

Read the chat between Arsema and Max. Then discuss in class: Why do they both find it so unfair that Nina didn't win? If Thomas would really be a better class representative, shouldn't he be allowed to get the position, even if he didn't receive the most votes? What do you think?

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Probably you think it's unfair that Lucy didn't win the election because she was elected in a democratic manner. Watch the following video to learn more about the nature of democracy and democratic elections.



Youtube: Democracy - A short introduction

To watch the youtube video just scan the QR code.

For each sentence, choose if it's true or false.

The word democracy comes from the Greek words 'demos' and 'kratos'.

True False

In ancient Athens, all people including slaves, women, and children were allowed to vote.

True False

The Magna Carta, signed in 1215, prevented the King of England from doing whatever he wanted.

True False

Modern democracies typically divide power into two branches: legislative and executive.

True False

Jean-Jacques Rousseau developed the concept of the general will.

True False

In a functioning democracy, the majority can choose to injure its minority.

True False

Winston Churchill said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.

True False

Direct democracy is when people vote directly on new laws themselves.

True False

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Role play - election for mayor

Now you can take part in a democratic process yourselves. Four of you will receive the role cards listed below and present yourselves to the class in your assigned role. Give a short speech explaining to the class why you should be elected. Afterwards, the rest of the class will vote democratically.

Michael Thompson



Michael Thompson

• Age: 45 • Occupation: Business Consultant • Political Experience: City Council Member for 8 years • Important Subjects: Family Policies, Traffic Management, Economic Development • Important Character Traits: Good - Strategic Thinker, Empathetic; Bad - Stubborn

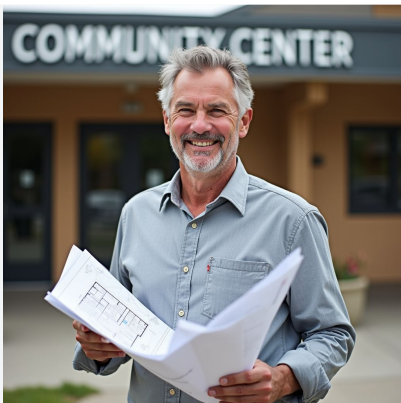
Sophia Martinez



Sophia Martinez

• Age: 32 • Occupation: Environmental Scientist • Political Experience: Chair of the Local Environmental Committee • Important Subjects: Environmental Protection, Green Energy, Public Health • Important Character Traits: Good - Passionate, Detail-Oriented; Bad - Overzealous

James Carter



James Carter

• Age: 58 • Occupation: Retired Architect • Political Experience: Member of the Planning Commission for 10 years • Important Subjects: Urban Development, Affordable Housing, Community Services • Important Character Traits: Good - Experienced, Community-Focused; Bad - Resistant to Change

Emily Nguyen



Emily Nguyen

• Age: 29 • Occupation: Tech Entrepreneur • Political Experience: Advisor for Smart City Projects • Important Subjects: Technology Integration, Education, Innovation • Important Character Traits: Good - Innovative, Tech-Savvy; Bad - Inexperienced