

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY LESSON PLAN

Teacher Guide

Level	Learning Area	Strands	Topic
7 & 8	Humanities: Civics and citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Government and democracy	Representative democracy

Overview

The aim of this lesson plan is to give teachers a range of ideas and activities to:

- Understand the concept of representative democracy, its features, history and origins
- Analyse the strengths of a representative democracy and compare this form of government with other forms
- Explain how citizens participate in Australian democracy through the concept of voting
- Encourage student engagement with their representatives in the Parliament of Victoria in the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council

Curriculum Links

Victorian Curriculum F-10

Level	Learning Area	Strands	Curriculum Code
7 & 8	Humanities: Civics and citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Government and democracy<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Describe the key features of government in Australia- Explain how citizens can participate in Australia's democracy including use of the electoral system and contact with their elected representatives	VCCCG018; VCCCG020
		Capabilities	Strand
	Critical and creative thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Questions and Possibilities<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Synthesise information from multiple sources	VCCCTQ034

Learning Goals

By the end of these lessons, students will be able to:

- Understand the term 'Representative Democracy'
- Describe the history and origins of Victoria's Representative Democracy
- Identify their representatives in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council

- Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of a Representative Democracy and group decision making through elected leaders
- Explore issues of Power inherent in a representative democracy
- Explore some other types of government such as: Oligarchy, Dictatorship, Monarchy (Extension)

Resources and Materials

Included with this lesson plan are:

- Teacher guide or summary
- Teacher instructions: learning activities
- *Group decision making feedback form* worksheet
- *Representative democracy strengths and weaknesses* worksheet

You will need:

- Small pieces of paper (voting cards) to elect a representative
- Access to the internet
 - Parliament of Victoria website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au
 - YouTube clips as noted in learning activities
 - Victorian Electoral Commission website: www.vec.vic.gov.au
 - Relevant sites for strengths and weakness research
- A3 poster paper for extension activity

Teacher background reference

- “What is the Westminster system”: www.youtube.com/watch?v=svMxNNBNisQ&feature=youtu.be

Learning Activities Summary

1. Warm-up: What is a Democracy?
2. Group Decision Making Activity: Representative Democracy
3. Your Representatives in Victoria
4. Strengths and Weaknesses of representative democracy
5. Power: Checks and Balances in the Victorian system
6. Who Has the Power? The Accountable Government
7. Extension: Research Poster Task - Other types of governments

Achievement Standard

By the end of these lessons students will meet the needs of the achievement standards in Levels 7 and 8 Civics and Citizenship by being able to::

- Explain and analyse some features of Australia’s system of government
- Identify ways they can be active and informed citizens