

Comparing Democracy in Ancient Athens and the United States

Research democracy in ancient Athens and the United States to complete the table.

What kind of democracy was ancient Athens?

Ancient Athens was a direct democracy.

What kind of democracy is the United States today?

The United States is a representative democracy.

Who could vote in ancient Athens?

Only male citizens over the age of eighteen could vote.

Who can vote in the United States today?

All citizens over the age of eighteen can vote.

What did votes decide in ancient Athens?

People voted to decide what the laws should be.

What do votes usually decide in the United States today?

Votes usually decide which representatives are elected to government positions.

What group made the laws in ancient Athens?

Laws were made by the Assembly of all male citizens.

What group makes the laws in the United States today?

Laws are made by elected representatives in Congress.

How many people could directly debate and vote on laws in ancient Athens?

Sample answer: Around 40,000 male citizens could debate and vote on laws in the Athenian Assembly. Note: Specific answer numbers may vary, but responses should make it clear that a large group could participate directly.

How many people can directly debate and vote on national laws in the United States today?

The 535 elected representatives in Congress can debate and vote on laws.

Bonus question: What are the advantages and disadvantages of a direct democracy? **Answers will vary.**