Where is Greece?

Here is Greece!
In Europe...
Athens, the capital of Greece
What does our government in the United States have in common with ancient Greece?

• 1. democracy: the people vote for leaders
• 2. architecture: some of our government buildings are modeled after ancient Greek buildings
What exactly is democracy?

- Over 2400 years ago, the famous Greek general, Pericles, said, "It is true that we (Athenians) are called a democracy, for the administration is in the hands of the many and not the few, with equal justice to all alike in their private disputes."

- This means that all the people have a vote in how the country is run.
What was the Athenian government like?

- Only in Athens, and only for a short time, "rule by many" meant that all citizens had to be willing to take an active part in government. That was the law.
- Each year, 500 names were drawn from all the citizens of Athens. Those 500 citizens had to serve for one year as the law makers of ancient Athens.
- All citizens of Athens were required to vote on any new law that this body of 500 citizens created. One man, one vote, majority ruled. Women, children, and slaves were not citizens, and thus could not vote.
How long did Athens exist under a democracy?

After the Peloponnesian War with Sparta, which Athens lost, once again Athens was ruled by a king. But for a brief period of about 100 years, Athens was a democracy. It was not a perfect democracy, but it established the roots of democracy.
Two Types of Democracy: Which one was Athens? Which one are we in the United States?

- A Direct Democracy: A government in which people vote to make their own rules and laws.
- A Representative Democracy: A government in which people vote for representatives. The representatives make rules and laws that govern themselves and the people.
What is our government like?

- In the United States, we also have “rule by many”. All the citizens have the right to take part in the government. We are not forced to do so.
- The citizens in our country elect our lawmakers by voting. Each state has 2 Senators, and at least one Representative to represent us in Congress. They serve 6 year terms and 2 year terms, respectively.
- Citizens are NOT required to vote; it is a privilege. Any citizen 18 years old or older may register and vote.
Some photos of Athens...

Athena’s temple at the Acropolis, called the Parthenon, from the back.

The Acropolis is the highest point in the city, where citizens can go to protect the city from invaders.
Athena’s temple, the Parthenon, from the front, at the top of the Acropolis. Athena was the Goddess of Wisdom. Athens was named after her. What does this building look like? (you will see later!)
This is the temple of Poseidon, the God of the Sea, on the Acropolis. Poseidon and Athena had a contest to see who would be the namesake of the capital city. They each gave a gift to the city.
Poseidon gave a gift of the horse. Athena gave the gift of an olive tree. Citizens voted that the olive tree was a better gift because it provided so many necessities to them. The city was named after Athena.

This is the place on Poseidon’s temple where he pounded his trident into the ground, and horses sprang out. There are three holes in the ground.
This is the other side of Poseidon's temple. Athena gave the city the olive tree similar to the one shown here (the original is inside this temple).
Guess what building this is?
Here's another view...
This is the United States Supreme Court building! Do you see similarities between this building and the Parthenon on the Acropolis?
Even the carving at the top of the Supreme Court Building was modeled after the carving on the Parthenon.
Why is our Supreme Court modeled after the Parthenon?

- The Parthenon is located in Athens, where the beginnings of democracy developed in ancient Greece. Voting was cast at the foot of the Acropolis by the citizens.

- The U.S. Supreme Court building is part of our democratic process in the U.S. Our rights are upheld in our courts.
## Comparing Ancient Greece and the United States Government

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ancient Greece</th>
<th>United States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of Democracy</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who serves?</td>
<td>ALL citizens</td>
<td>Elected officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long?</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>2-6 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>How many people serve?</td>
<td>500 each year</td>
<td>2 Senators from each state; Representatives based on population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who can vote?</td>
<td>All Greek male citizens (not women, children, or slaves)</td>
<td>All citizens 18 or older who register</td>
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Similarities between the U.S. Supreme Court building and the Parthenon:

1. Columns
2. Friese on the outside
3. Shape of building
Some other interesting places in Greece...

Temple of Apollo, god of the sun, music, prophecy, and healing. His temple is in Rhodes.
The city of Delphi, at the bottom of the temple. This was a market area with stalls for selling goods.
This is an outdoor theatre at the base of the Acropolis. Plays and music were performed here. The arts were an important part of Greek culture. As you can see, concerts are still held here today.
This is a close up of a friese in the city of Ephesus. It shows Medusa, the moon goddess who was so beautiful she offended Aphrodite, who gave her hair of snakes, the body of a serpent, and eyes that turned humans to stone.
This is a carving of the goddess Nike. If she was with you during war, you were sure to win.

The sports company used this model to create their famous “swoosh”. Can you see it in the carving?
This is the symbol that signified a doctor in ancient Greece. This is in the city of Ephesus. Notice the serpent wound around the staff. This symbol is used by doctors and medical people today!
Temple of Poseidon, god of the sea. The sea his temple overlooks is the Aegean Sea.
Ancient Greece contributed a great deal to our modern society right here in the United States. Find out more in the library or online!