

# Animation Director: Democracy in Ancient Greek

## Adventure Description:

In this adventure, you will think like an animation director and create an animated film to tell kids about ancient Greek democracy.

## Activity

Teacher notes:

- You will need an account set up on Animaker. See [Handout: How to Use Animaker](#). It should take no more than 10 minutes to set up an account.
- This activity is long and can be broken up across multiple days.

### Step 1: Background on Political Causes of the American Revolution (5 minutes)

- Show [Video: Democracy in Ancient Greece](#).
- Review how democracy was born in ancient Greece. Countries, like the U.S., based their systems of government around ancient Greek democracy. Remind students that the Greek democracy also had 3 branches of government, just like the U.S. These branches were the assemblies, councils, and courts

### Step 2: Activity Set Up (5 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will get to be an animation director and make an animated film that will tell kids about the ancient Greek democracy and how it inspired current systems of government.
- Explain to students that animation directors always brainstorm ideas and create a plan before they create their cartoons. Many animation directors create a brief, which is an outline that includes a short summary of the video, characters and scenes that will be included, and other important information.
- Provide students with [Handout: Creating A Brief for an Animated Video](#). As a class, review the steps.
- Explain to students that they will use [Handout: Ancient Greek Democracy Sources](#) to create the plan for their video. They will use this document as inspiration for different scenes and characters in their video.

### Step 3: Planning and Brainstorming (20+ minutes)

- Divide students into pairs or small groups. Explain to students that they will now brainstorm and plan what their video will be about. Have students complete the steps on the handout.

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- As students are working, ask the following questions: What were different branches of the Greek democracy? What did it mean for there to be checks and balances on each group? How is the Greek democracy similar to the U.S. democracy?
- Next, explain to students that animated directors get feedback on their briefs before they start designing the first draft of their videos. They typically get feedback from the client who is paying for the video to be created.
- Have groups volunteer to present their briefs to the class. Have other students provide feedback on the following: clarity of plot line, appropriateness of video, whether the ancient Greek democracy was clearly explained, and whether the characters and plot were innovative.

## Step 4: Designing Video (25+ minutes)

- Teacher note: This step will most likely be completed on a separate day. It can also be completed for homework or as a take-home project.
- Explain to students that once film producers have finished creating their brief, they create an initial draft of their videos. Explain to students that they will be using Animaker, a computer program that allows people to create animated cartoons.
- Provide students with [Handout: How to Use Animaker](#). As a class, review the information. Explain to students when their animated video is due.
- Teacher note: You can provide students with [Handout: Rubric for Animated Video](#) if you will be grading the videos.

## Materials List

### Provided online:

- Video: Democracy in Ancient Greece
- Handout: How to Use Animaker
- Handout: Ancient Greek Democracy Sources
- Handout: Creating a Brief for an Animated Video
- Handout: Rubric for Animated Video

### Not provided online:

- Animaker.com

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