

POLITICAL TRADITIONS

Performance Standard (14E/16BW).F

Make a comparison of the political institutions found in ancient Greece and Rome and identify political institutions that are familiar in the contemporary United States accordingly.

- *Knowledge:* identify political institutions in ancient Greece and Rome and in the United States;
- *Reasoning:* analyze the influence these political institutions had on James Madison in developing his ideas about a republic; and
- *Communication:* create a chart and write an essay that is well-organized, well-focused and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

Procedure

1. *In order to understand United States foreign policy as it relates to other nations and international issues (14E), and understand the development of significant political events (16B)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following:
 - Identify a political tradition or custom that had its origin in another country (e.g., representative government),
 - Interpret the actions and consequences of a significant figure in United States political history (e.g., Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt), and
 - Compare/contrast the development of a political system and/or institution in ancient time with that of another political system and/or institution of ancient times (e.g., Greek and Roman government, Greek and Egyptian).
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Ideally, the class will be involved in a unit on the ancient states. Have students examine Historyforkids.org web pages for information regarding the development of political institutions in ancient Greece and Rome. Present information regarding James Madison and his thoughts regarding the United States Constitution to the class.
4. Have students compile lists of governmental institutions in ancient Greece and Rome using www.historyforkids.org, and compare the lists.
5. Have students identify institutions that are familiar to contemporary American politics.
6. By writing a brief essay, students will identify the ideas James Madison found in studying the ancient governments.
7. Evaluate each student's work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
 - *Knowledge:* the identification of the political institutions from the ancient states and a list of institutions and words that are applied to the United States are complete and accurate.
 - *Reasoning:* the explanation gives a connection of James Madison's ideas about a republic to the ancient governments of Greece and Rome.
 - *Communication:* the chart and written explanation were well-organized, well-focused and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

Examples of Student Work not available

Time Requirement

- Two to three fifty-minute class periods

Resources

- Internet access – www.historyforkids.org also www.mrdowling.com
- “*We the People...*” *Center for Civic Education*
5146 Douglas Fir Road, Calabasas, Ca. 91302
- Social Science Rubric