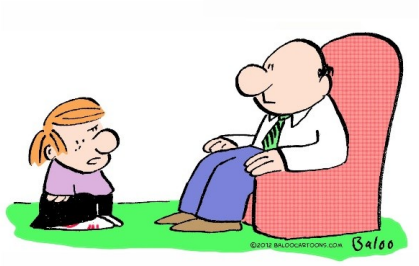
Wahlpflichtunterricht Jahrgang 10 Schuljahr 2022/23

Bilingual year 10: Modern Democracies (Herr Storch)

What is a democracy?

Where did the idea of democracy first come from?

What do we need for a functioning democracy? Why are many democracies said to be endangered these days? What distinguishes democracies from other systems like dictatorships?



"If this family is a democracy, why can't I run for Father?"

Who can be elected?

Well, you might think I *am just a student what does emocracy have to do with me? Why should I and how can I get involved?*

You might find answers right here at school:
as student representative in your class, in the student body (SV), in civic activities like volunteering, collecting signatures, demonstrating etc.

We will start by looking at the early beginnings of democracies and then at present types. We will explore representative democracies and discuss direct democracy. We will consider chances and risks and we will think about other forms of participating in politics.

We will mainly study the political systems of the USA and the United Kingdom.

What are the British institutions of government? How are the Members of parliament (MPs) elected? What is the role of the speaker of the house? What do parliamentary discussions look like? What does debating have to do with that? And of course, current affairs like the Brexit…

For the US we want to find out:
What do elephants and donkeys have to do with American politics? What´s the role of the president in the US? How does he/she get into office? Why do presidential elections appear like a show to us in Germany? How can citizens participate in American politics?

In the course of the year we will time and again compare our findings with our knowledge of the German political system. We will also have time to learn about other democracies in the world.

If you like English and are interested in political topics, social questions and current affairs join us. Not only will we learn about what a difference taking part in politics can make, but that it is fun, too.

You will take *one exam per semester* and write a couple of marked *vocab tests*. There will also be a graded presentation. As in every other social science class we will work with maps, cartoons, statistics, podcasts, videos and texts, which will obviously be in English.