

**How America Works**  
**Lesson 1: America's Democracy**  
**Grade 3**

**Objectives:**

1. The students will be able to name the three branches of government.
2. The students will be able to compare the differences between the federal government, state government and local government.
3. The students will be able to recall what the system of checks and balances is.
4. The students will be able to identify the role of each branch of government.
5. The students will be able to choose the correct simple definition for democracy.

**Materials:**

*Kids Discover: How America Works* (HMH) pg. 2-3

Kids Discover Student Packets

YouTube video: *Democracy Definition for Kids* by History Illustrated

**Kahoot\***

**Lesson:**

1. (5min.) Introduction:
  - a. Ask: What is a democracy? Allow kids to guess.
  - b. Play the YouTube video.
  - c. Repeat the question, "What is a democracy?" **People rule by voting.**
  - d. Inform students that today we will learn about America's Democracy.
2. (15min.) Main Lesson:
  - a. Hand out *Kids Discover: How America Works* magazine and student packets
  - b. Read and discuss pages 2 and 3 of magazine.

**Activity:**

1. (15min.) Group Activity:
  - a. Students work with a partner to complete page 1 and 2 of student packet.
  - b. Check answers as a whole group.

**Formative Assessment:**

1. (10min.) Lesson Check:
  - a. Invite students to test their knowledge by playing the *How America Works Kahoot*. Students can play multiple times until they score 8+ out of 10.

Note: The *How America Works Kahoot* used in this lesson will help motivate students and solidify their learning about America's Democracy. The questions in this Kahoot are designed to help students' meet the learning goals of the lesson.