

Hook Exercise Unit III

How Democratic Was Andrew Jackson?

Defining Key Terms

There are many terms used in the study of history and social studies that feel very familiar but are hard to define. For example:

Just what is political power?

What is social change?

What exactly are civil rights?

What do we mean when we say America is a democratic society?

We do not have time here to examine all of these terms, but we will look briefly at the last. What is democracy?

I. Looking at the Roots

“Kratos” is a Greek word that means strength or power. It is the root word for “-ocracy” which is English for “rule or government by.” Therefore, if you had a pond that was ruled by ducks you would have a “duckocracy.” Now, “duckocracy” is not a legitimate word, but the following terms are. Match each with the correct defining term.

aristocracy

rule by the rich

theocracy

rule by one person

plutocracy

rule by thieves

democracy

rule by the nobility or titled people

meritocracy

rule by disorganized bunches of people

kleptocracy

rule by church leaders

mobocracy

rule by the people

monarchy

rule by the the most capable

II. A Brief Consideration of Democracy.

In this document based question you will be asked if President Andrew Jackson was a true champion of democracy. If a person is honest-to-goodness democratic, which of the following does he or she have to support? Circle your answers. Be ready to explain your choices.

voting rights for all adults

equal income for all working adults

the right to run for political office

complete freedom of speech

dress codes in public schools

abortion rights

majority rule

civil disobedience (breaking laws you think unjust)