



**Tithe an
Oireachtais**
**Houses of the
Oireachtas**

Education Programme

DEMOCRACY

INTRODUCTION TO DEMOCRACY

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Democracy is a system of government and that is the system we have in Ireland. The word 'Democracy' comes from two Greek words: demos meaning 'People' and kratia meaning 'To Rule'. So, Democracy means 'Rule by the People'.

In a democracy, the people or citizens elect others to represent them and to make laws for them. Former US President Abraham Lincoln, said that democracy was 'government of the people, by the people, for the people'.

Citizens vote at elections to choose their representatives. Elections are held at regular intervals so that citizens can decide who should be elected to political positions.

This way, everyone can have an equal say in how things are run because essentially Democracy is about decision making.