Essential Question: How did Greece and Rome contribute to the development of democracy in the United States?

- Athens Builds a Limited Democracy
- Changes In Greek Democracy
- Rome Develops a Republic
- Roman Law
Athens Builds a Limited Democracy

Throughout time people have recognized the need for a system exercising authority, or a government. For the most part people have lived under rulers, the idea that people can govern themselves (democracy) evolved slowly.

At the beginning of it’s history, Athens is ruled by a king and later is ruled by an aristocracy (ruled by noble class). Each year an assembly of citizens, adult male residents, elected three nobles to rule the city-state.
Athens Builds a Limited Democracy

- **Solon** introduces political reforms that give rights to more people in ancient Greece. He increased participation in government, introduced a fairer code of laws including the right of citizens to bring charges against wrongdoers, and started profitable overseas trade.

- **Cleisthenes** also works to make Athens more democratic by reorganizing the assembly to break up the power of the nobles. He created a Council of Five Hundred that was chosen by lot, which proposed laws and counseled the assembly.
Changes in Greek Democracy

- The Greek city-states fought side by side to defeat the Persians in 479 BCE, giving them a new sense of confidence and freedom.

- The 5th BCE century was known as the Golden Age of Greece, when Pericles introduced the idea of direct democracy in Athens, where citizens rule directly and not through representatives.
Tensions between Athens and Sparta led to the Peloponnesian Wars, which Sparta won. When King Philip II invaded Greece from the nearby kingdom of Macedonia, this led to the end of democracy in Greece and rule by monarchy by Philip's son, Alexander the Great.

Philosophers, including Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, use logic and reason to explore new ideas, creating an atmosphere conducive to democracy.

Socrates encouraged his students to examine their most closely held beliefs and used a question and answer approach that became known as the Socratic method.
Changes in Greek Democracy

- **Socrates** most famous student **Plato** was best known for his most famous work *The Republic*, which set forth his vision of a perfectly governed society which was governed not by the richest or most powerful, but the wisest.

- **Plato’s** student **Aristotle** examined the nature of the world and human belief, thought and knowledge.

- The **Greeks develop a number of ideas about and institutions for governing** that are important in our government today such as a **Natural Law in the universe**, **use reason to predict patterns**, and **separation of powers by different branches of government.**
With the Greek civilization in decline a new civilization rose to power. The early Romans (Latins) became familiar with Greek ideas when they defeated them for control of the Italian peninsula, and adapted elements to their culture.

Around 500 BCE, Rome develops a government called a republic where citizens (free born males) elect leaders to represent them. Like the Greeks the Romans established a government with separate branches, the legislative branch was made up of the senate and two assemblies.
Rome Develops a Republic

- Expansion creates problems for the Roman republic, with civil wars and rule by dictators.
- Rome ends democracy and becomes an empire by 27 BCE under the rule of Emperor Augustus.
Roman Law

- Rome develops a set of just laws that apply equally to people throughout the empire
  - Equal treatment, innocent until proven guilty, burden of proof on accuser, any law that was unreasonable could be set aside.

- Romans felt it was important to establish written set of laws that showed it was a government of laws, not men, and in 451 BCE officials made a collection of laws called the Twelve Tables.

- Nearly a 1000 years later Emperor Justinian compiled all the Roman laws into a new work called The Code of Justinian, which later became a guide for legal matters throughout western Europe.

- Roman law furthers democratic traditions in Rome and in civilizations that follow.