**Democracy Ranking Chart**

*Instructions: The following countries are not real, but they are based on real countries in the world. Read the descriptions of each using highlighters of two different colours. When you read something that makes the country seem more democratic, shade it one colour. When you read something that makes a country seem less democratic, shade it a different colour. Share your colouring with a partner and work together to fill out the following table. Rank the seven countries from “Most Democratic” to “Least Democratic”. Give reasons for your rankings.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Country** | **Reasons for ranking** |
| **Most Democratic****1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |
| **5** |  |  |
| **6** |  |  |
| **7****Least Democratic** |  |  |

Sulisia

This country has been ruled for 62 years by only two leaders – the original “Excellent

Leader” for 40 years, and his son “Super Leader” for the last 22 years. There are no

elections of any sort for any level of government. The country is extremely isolated, with

only one television station that broadcasts government propaganda and no Internet

access for the population. Few foreigners are ever allowed to visit. Anyone expressing

any concern about the government can expect a long prison sentence doing hard

labour.

Polarania

This country was one of the first in the world to allow women to vote, in 1905, and

currently has both a female president and a government with equal numbers of male

and female elected members. The only people restricted from voting are residents who

do not have citizenship and criminals serving sentences in jail. Elections are seen as

fair and free, and there are a wide variety of political parties. At election time, on

average 78% of eligible voters cast a ballot. Recent polls show that the majority of

citizens have high confidence in government.

Nanistan

This country was formed 60 years ago. There are four major political parties that

compete for power in elections every four years. 60 of 450 seats in the parliament are

reserved for women. Election campaigns are exciting but can be dangerous, with at

times violent demonstrations between supporters of different parties. The military has

carried out coups d’etat against prime ministers that they have not liked several times

over the last two decades. After seizing power, the military allows elected politicians to

take over again after a period of months or years. A popular former prime minister was

assassinated during the last election, perhaps by the military.

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North Dominiona

This country has a system of elections that is respected around the world for being fair

and free. The constitution protects the right of all citizens over 18 to vote, including

criminals in jails. While everyone has the right to vote, the percentage of people who

actually vote is about 60%. Only 30% of youth aged 18-24 voted in the last election.

22% of elected members to the government are women. Opinion polls show that

citizens have a high level of trust in their government.

Hengary

This highly-populated country allows all citizens over age 18 to vote. As a good

percentage of the population cannot read or write and as it is hard for the government to

keep an accurate list of voters, there have been some concerns about cheating in

elections in some parts of the country. The overall outcome of the elections seems fair,

however. One continuing problem is with corruption. Politicians and government

workers regularly accept bribes from citizens who want the help of government.

Tarvu

This large country has been ruled by the leaders of just one political party since a

revolution decades ago. Other political parties are not allowed to exist. The only

elections are for village councils. In these elections, all the candidates are from the

same party and are screened ahead of time by party leaders. People in this country are

quite free to travel, start businesses, become educated and can access the Internet and

satellite TV. The government blocks certain Internet sites. People are not allowed to

protest against the government. If they do, they will be arrested or could face violence

from police.

Jarrar

This country has only one official religion, and the religious leaders in that country have

ultimate power over the government. While there are political parties and elections, the

religious leaders choose who will be allowed to run for president. If the people are set to

elect someone who is not the favorite choice of the religious leaders, these religious

leaders falsify the election results to have it turn out the way they want. Women are

highly educated in this country and are allowed to vote and be elected as politicians but

they are not allowed to be judges. It can be very dangerous to be a journalist here.

Journalists who have openly criticized the government have been arrested, with a few

being beaten to death in jail, likely under government orders.