

Take out a pen or pencil  
and binder paper.

**COME IN QUIETLY  
HAVE ALL SUPPLIES READY  
WHEN THE BELL RINGS.**

# Objective:

## Evaluate the importance of the Magna Carta.

By the end of the lesson you should be able to:

1. Describe the importance of the Magna Carta.

**Standard 8.1.4:** Describe the nation's blend of civic republicanism, classical liberal principles, and English parliamentary traditions.

**Standard 8.2.1:** Discuss the significance of the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, and the Mayflower Compact.

**RH 8.2:** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

# Prior Knowledge

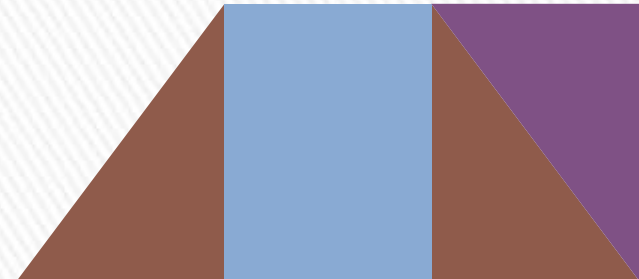
You have said the Pledge of Allegiance since you were in elementary school but most of you did not realize the significance of the phrase “**and to the Republic for which it stands**”. Now you know that phrase is stating that the government in America is a Republic.

**On your paper, Describe a Republic?**

Partner **A** share with Partner **B** “A Republic is \_\_\_\_\_.”

Partner **B** share with Partner **A** “I (agree/disagree) a Republic is \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Republic - a representative government. The citizens elect representatives to vote on laws for them.**



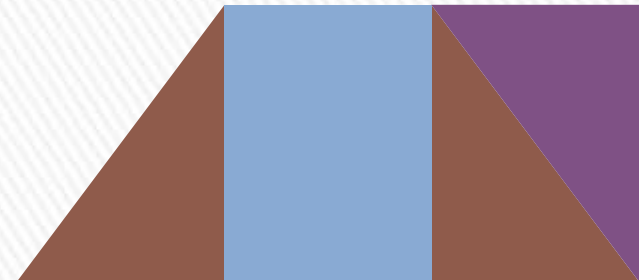
# Concept - Definitions

**Define:**

**Compact - a formal agreement or contract between two or more parties.**

**Charter - a written grant by which an institution is created and its rights and privileges defined.**

**Guaranteed - provide a formal assurance or promise.**



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## Concept

- » **A Democracy** is a political system in which the supreme power lies in the citizens who can elect people to represent them.
- » The Athenians, from Athens Greece, had a **Direct Democracy**.
  - > Citizens gathered together and voted for their leaders, laws and policies.
- » The Romans had a **Republic**.
  - > **Citizens voted for leaders to represent them.**
  - > They introduced “**rule of law**”, the idea that laws apply equally to all citizens.



Are laws applied equally to all citizens in America today?

# Democracy



# Concept

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**Guaranteed** - provide a formal assurance or promise.

» **Thomas Aquinas** wrote that some laws were a part of human nature.

> He also claimed **natural law** gave people certain rights that governments should not take away.



» **Thomas Hobbes** argued that an **absolute monarchy**, a king or queen with unlimited power, was **the best form of government**. He believed that people needed government to direct them.



# Natural Laws

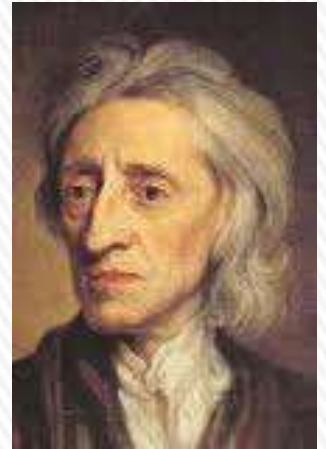
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## Concept

- » **John Locke** argued that people are born with natural rights.
  - > He claimed the **purpose of government was to protect people's natural rights.**
  - > He said governments are based on **a social contract** or an agreement between rulers and the people.



- » **Charles de Montesquieu** claimed England's government was best because it had a **separation of powers.**
  - > He claimed separation of powers kept governments from **abusing natural rights.**



# The Enlightenment



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## Concept



# Magna Carta





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## Concept

- » The Magna Carta or “Great Charter” was signed in the year 1215.
- » It was a document that **limited the powers of the English King** for the first time.
- » It also **guaranteed certain rights** for the **Nobles** of England.



Why was the Magna Carta important?

What changes did the Magna Carta make?

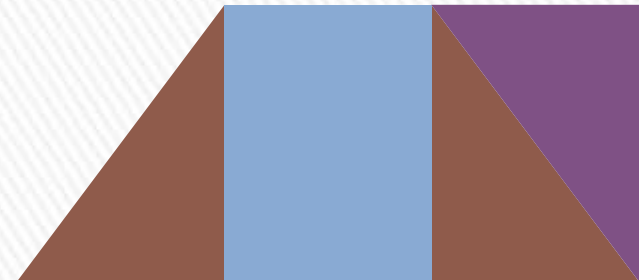
# Magna Carta



## Relevance

**Rights were not always guaranteed for all citizens. It took many changes over time to get these rights.**

**How would government be different if the rights of citizens were not guaranteed?**



## Skill - I Do

**1**The following is a true story.  
**2**Once upon a time, around the year 1200, England was ruled by a cruel and wicked king named John. **3**In those days kings could do anything they wanted. **4**The people of England had to do whatever the king said; they had no choice.

Read the Text and Annotate using the following symbols.

Important Detail or Fact ★

Unfamiliar word or phrase

Interesting or Surprising ! ○

Have a Question ?

Made a Connection C

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## Skill - We Do

**5** If a man died and left his property to a son, King John took a large part of the inheritance for himself. **6** If the man had no sons and left the property to his daughter, then the king would sell the daughter (and her inheritance) to the man who would pay the most money for her.

Read the Text and Annotate using the following symbols.

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Have a Question ?

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## Skill - You Do

- 7** King John was believed to have killed his own nephew.
- 8** One noble lady foolishly was talking about this at a party.
- 9** When King John heard that she was talking about it, he took all of her family's wealth, kicked her husband out of England, and starved the lady and her son to death in a dungeon.

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# Skill - Independent Practice

Read and annotate the remaining 5 paragraphs.

Use your annotations to answer the 4 questions at the end of the document.

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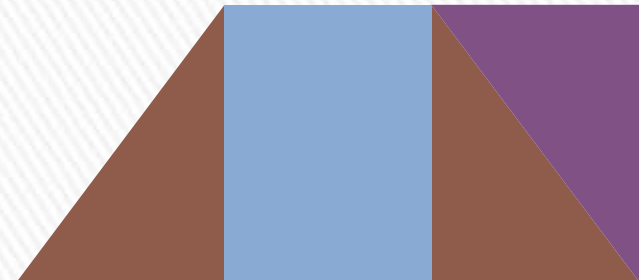
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## Closure

**What was the importance of the Magna Carta?**

