4 Types of Greek Government

Tyranny - Led by a harsh, oppressive ruler who usually took power by overthrowing other leaders. This person leads by total authority and tries to make themselves popular by building new buildings, temples, and marketplaces. Most Greeks DID NOT want to be led by only 1 person, especially a tyrant.

Oligarchy - A few people hold all the power. Most were aristocrats who were very wealthy and inherited money and land from their families. Most usually the rich got richer and the poor got poorer in this type of government.

Monarchy - Led by one person, usually a king or a queen. When a leader dies or steps down, power is generally passed to their children, usually the oldest male. Leaders usually have a council of aristocrats (or nobles) to advise them.

Democracy - “rule by the people”. Citizens share in ruling power, they all have the right to lead and help the government. Two different types of democracy.

1. Direct Democracy - The people have a direct say in government. They are allowed to vote in assemblies as well as other areas of government. This is what Greece used.
2. Indirect Democracy - Also called a Representative Democracy. Type of democracy where the people elect representatives to work in government for them. This is the type of democracy we have in the United States.