

FIRST SENTENCE:

The idea of democracy, which most people cherish today, was born in ancient Athens c.508 BC, after a long struggle to rise up from the archaic plateau.

OUTLINE:

- C.776 BC, at the beginning of Greek history, Athens had a monarchy.
 - A monarchy is the rule of a single person--the king.
 - The kings of Athens were always members of a family called the Medontidae.
- The Eupatrid family forced the Medontidae to share power, thus creating an aristocracy.
 - The Eupatrids were the "sons of noble fathers." Their "aristocracy" was the "rule of the best."
- Solon (tried to help commoners against harsh aristocracy)
- Peisistratus (tyrannos)
- Return of aristocracy
- but...innovation
- C.508 BC Cleisthenes creates the first democracy in Athens.

