**Task 2. Read the text and complete the information below:**

1. The word democracy has ......................................... origin.

2. A true democracy means a society in which ..................... .

3. A true democracy was defined by..................................... .

4. The term democracy came into use in .............................. .

5. Direct democracy was the government adopted by.......... .

6. Ancient Greek had no true democracy because ................ .

7. Britain became genuine democracy only.......................... .

**The Origin of Democracy**

In his Gettysburg Address of November I863, Presi­dent Abraham Lincoln defined the kind of society he wanted the United States to preserve: "government of the people, by the p­eople, for the people." He was defining democracy, but not as it existed anywhere in the world at that time. He was describing an ideal, which increasingly became realized in the next century. The ideal was based upon a basic concept of the Declaration of Independence- all human beings are creat­ed equal and are endowed with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The word “democracy” is derived from two Greek words: demos, meaning "the people", and kratos, meaning 'rule'. A democracy is a way of governing in which th­e whole body of citizens takes charge of its own affairs. As citizens of towns, cities, counties, states or provinces, and nations, the people are the sover­eigns, the source of power. Democracy means that they can freely make the decisions about what is best for them: what policies to adopt and what taxes to pay. A true democracy, as Lincoln was defining it, means a society in which all the people are citizens with the same rights to participate in its government.

As a term for a type of government, democracy came into use during the 5th century BC in Greece. Since then it has acquired a number of different meanings, most of which have common elements. The most basic and original sense is direct democracy- a government in which political decisions are made directly by all the citizens and policies are decided by majority rule.

Direct democracy was the government adopted by some ancient Greek city-states. Many centuries later, during the colonial era in North America, the New England townships chose direct democracy as their form of government. All the townspeople gathered at one time and place to decide public policies.

Neither ancient Greek nor colonial New England had a true democracy because some segments of the population did not have the rights of citizenship. Certain members of Greek society were considered either non- citizens or second-class citizens. Women and slaves, for example, were denied participation in government. In New England, only property-owning white males were active in government. Women, poor whites, and slaves were non-participants.

To the extent that any segment of the population is deliberately excluded from citizen participation, a government fails to be a true democracy. It is really an oligarchy, or government by the few. In the United States, for example, women were not granted suffrage until the 20th century, after World War I. Although the United States became a constitutional republic in the 1780s, about a century after Britain became a constitutional monarchy, neither was a genuine democracy until after 1900.