

## Summary: Connecting to Our World

### Technology Over Time

Inventors have changed their communities and the world by creating new tools. Thomas Edison came up with more than a thousand inventions, including a light bulb that glowed for hours. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. Scientists worked to improve phones. Today, people use cell phones and satellite technology to communicate.

The Wright brothers studied how birds fly and read about European flying experiments. Then they built the first powered airplane. Now people can travel in planes much faster than they could before.

### The Strengths of Democracy

Throughout history, people have created different types of governments. The United States is a democracy. Citizens vote for their leaders. They have a say in government and can work to make changes.

In a dictatorship one ruler makes all decisions for the whole country. Dictators often take power by force.

A third type of government is Communism. The government, not the people, own the country's resources and businesses. A small group of people says how money is spent and what work people do.

More than 100 of the nearly 200 nations in the world are democracies. To take part in a democracy, you must learn about the world. Express your opinions. Work to change laws if they are unfair. In a democracy, everyone's ideas count.



#### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**dictatorship** *noun*, a type of government with a single leader who has total control over a country

**Communism** *noun*, a type of government in which the government owns the country's land, resources, and businesses



#### After You Read

**REVIEW** In what ways has technology made our lives easier?

Highlight the sentence that tells how people communicate now.

Circle the sentence that tells how people travel now.

**REVIEW** What is an important difference between a democracy and a dictatorship?

Circle two sentences that tell the things that citizens in a democracy can do. Highlight the sentence that tells about a dictatorship.