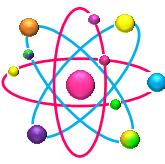


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Studies

Social



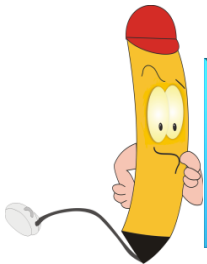
# Know the contents

The Miami Virtual School, presented through texts for elementary education program and sequence of natural science content, enriched with several videos and subtopics. With this text handling you acquire attitudes, skills, abilities and concepts that allow you to expand your worldwide.

Your contents are grouped into four sessions containing topics and subtopics of several pages. Each topic begins with a title, a series of questions whose purpose is to arouse your interest in the contents, you can use these questions at the end of a topic to test your learning. You'll find images related to the concepts and themes, videos, charts, concept maps with didactic sense

The virtualitos help you journey through this adventure of knowledge.

## Inquire to...



When you find this icon you know that there are many unanswered questions, which you can use at the end of a topic to find what you have learned.



When you find this icon you have to carry out the activities for each topic or subtopic.



Art is part of your activities, giving a personal touch when you go to color. Now you are the artist!



Virtualito invites you to learn more about the theme, research new things. That's interesting to know!



Didi You know that...?  
You'll find fun facts that invite you to learn about other related topics



# Democracy

## History of democracy

Democracy corresponds to one of the current ways of living of common man in the world, which corresponds to the idea of equality between men and the freedom of all to decide how to govern their own lives.



Democracy. This word was invented by the Greeks, it means that the government or the power is in the hands of the people or citizens. That is, the people are the ones who decide who you give your power to govern him.

Democracy is generated in Greece with Aristotle's thought which clearly arose that the only form of government of that time was for the "government of the people, by the people and for the people" but we would like to say that this "people" corresponded only to those who belonged to the Aryan race and the Greeks had a real government and unrepresentative, ie those who were citizens decided together on "plebiscites". This democracy, is very elitist, very selective and thus contradicting their own ideals of equality and fraternity. Status: The status of the country as the goods did not exist at that time but as city-states. This view to the country's goods only born with liberal theories.





After the triumph of the 3 subsequent liberal revolutions in the eighteenth century, the concept of democracy reborn village after the absolute loss conception of divine power in the king, but this did not correspond to the end of the struggle for democracy equality representing and still can not claim to be complete and in fact it would be very difficult to achieve even while not come to regard all human beings as equals regardless of politics, economics, religion, the same society that excludes men just being, thinking or wanting to be different in a way.

## National Government

The Colombian government is headed by the President of the Republic and make it part of the Vice President, the Ministries and the Administrative Departments. The government is responsible for creating and developing policies that lead the country to a better development.

The head of government is the President, who is elected democratically, that is by election. All Colombian citizens over 18 who have citizenship card can vote. The election mechanism is as follows: each party to have a candidate for the Presidency of the Republic must enroll before the National Registry of Civil Status, along with his formula for the Vice Presidency.



Once all candidates and their formulas are written, the ballots are prepared election where Colombians must choose the candidate that they want their President. The election day citizens must find the place where they should vote and approach it with your card. That should mark the candidate of your choice and deposit the ballot in a box in front of a jury voting.





## Unit 3

When voting ends the day, jurors in each polling station count the votes and deliver the result to the Registrar, who is responsible for adding the votes from across the country and deliver the results. For a candidate to be elected President of the Republic should be going for half plus one of the total votes cast. If no candidate has the number of votes, the candidates that took first and second place go to a runoff election. In the second round, the candidate who takes the largest number of votes is elected President of the Republic, along with its formula for Vice President, for a period of four years. This entire process is closely monitored by the National Registry of Civil Status and the National Electoral Council. In the presidential election of 2006, the President of the Republic, Alvaro Uribe was reelected by the Colombian people to serve in this position again. Although the Constitution of 1991 prohibited presidential reelection, the Congress and the Constitutional Court approved the amendment to the constitutional articles that henceforth allow immediate reelection of the President of the Republic.

Once the President is elected chooses his team, consisting of ministers and directors of administrative departments. Just as the President is free to choose his ministers and heads of administrative departments, you can also change at any time. This team is called the cabinet.







## Unit 3

In Colombia there are thirteen ministries, who are led by their ministers. These are people of the entire confidence of the President and are well prepared to design and implement policies that affect a large part of the population. The President and the ministers are those who plan and execute the policies the government adopts in different areas of life in this country. Whenever the President considers relevant ministers meet him at his office in what is called the Council of Ministers. This Council has an advisory role, this is to advise the President on issues of national life.

Administrative Departments are dependencies of the Presidency to seek to address technical needs policies and seeking to run a public service. The directors of administrative departments, like ministers, are chosen for their skills and have the full confidence of the President.

The President takes office on August 7th year of your choice. That day possession takes an oath and his ministers and heads of administrative departments. It also installs Congress sessions are also newly elected. This is a holiday so no one works. However, the next day, the President and his cabinet in front of the Senate present National Development Plan, or draft government of President for the next four years, to be approved. It is raised by the National Planning Department, after an exhaustive study of the national reality in the National Council of Economic and Social Policy (CONPES). The Ministers, using his knowledge of the national reality and in company with his team, collaborating on the development of the latter. The policies that the president and his cabinet are to be applied should follow the main guidelines of this plan, which will guide the government.



Libertad y Orden  
Ministerio de la Protección Social  
República de Colombia





# Branches of government

The Republic of Colombia is a presidential republic and a unitary state with separation of executive, legislative and judicial.

## Legislative Branch



The legislature makes and modifies existing laws according to the opinion of citizens and is one of the three branches have traditionally divided the power of a State. Its specific function is the approval of laws. Generally, is in charge of a deliberative body (congress, parliament or representatives).

A bicameral Congress consists of the Senate (one hundred members elected by a national constituency for a period of four years and an additional number of two senators elected in a national indigenous communities) and the House of Representatives, consisting of one hundred sixty six members elected by four years, of which one hundred sixty-one represent the territorial constituencies (departments and the Capital District). at the rate of 2 per district and one more for every 250,000 inhabitants or fraction greater than 125,000, the remaining five represent Afro-Colombian communities (two), Indians (one), Colombians living abroad (one) and minorities policies (one).

The Constitution of 1991 penalizes absenteeism and prohibit members of Congress simultaneously performing any other public office.





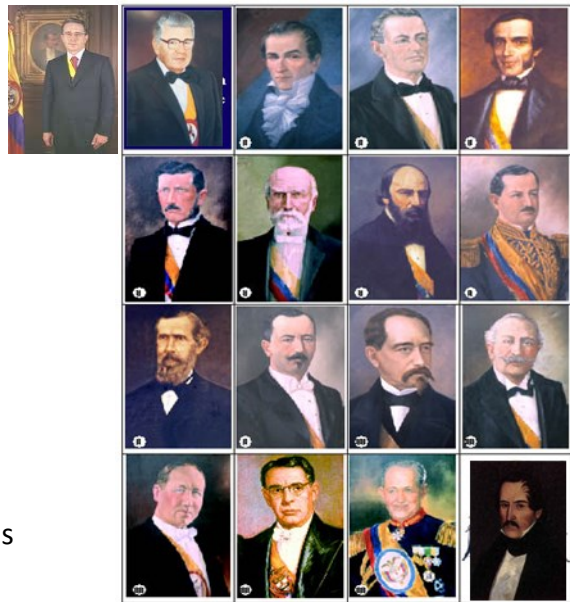
## Unit 3

### Executive Branch

The president is elected by direct popular vote for a term of four years. According to the current constitution the president can be reelected for up to a longer, thanks to a recent constitutional reform in 2005. The Constitution of 1991 prohibited presidential reelection for life and previously was possible immediate reelection (a former president could be re-elected but the incumbent president could not be reelected for the next period).

The vice president is elected by direct popular vote in key with the president. The ministers and managing directors are political appointees and removal by the President, but with congressional approval.

1. president
  - Two. Vice-President
  - Three. Ministers
- Interior and Justice
  - Foreign
  - Public Finance
  - National Defense
  - Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Social Protection
  - Mines and Energy
  - Commerce, Industry and Tourism
  - National Education
  - Environment, Housing and Development
  - Information Technology and Communications
  - Transport and Culture



### Judicial Branch



The Judicial Branch in Colombia is composed of the Supreme Judicial Council, the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court and the State Council.

The Attorney General's Office, that despite practice as prosecuting body, is also considered part of the judiciary.





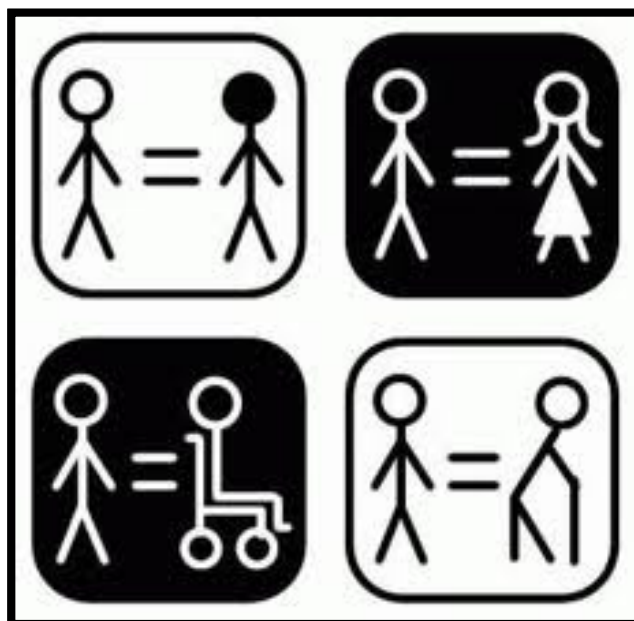


## The rights and duties

Human rights are a set of prerogatives inherent in the nature of the person, where implementation is essential for the development of the individual living in a lawful society. These rights, which are within the Constitution and laws, shall be recognized by the state. We are all obliged to respect human rights of others. However, by constitutional mandate, who must fulfill more are the authorities, ie, men and women have the role of public servants.

### Features

They are universal because they belong to all people, regardless of gender, age, etc ...  
Are unconditional because start right where the rights of others.  
They are inalienable because they can not be lost or transferred by choice, are inherent in the idea of dignity.





## Duties

Every person has a duty in relation to others so that every one may fully form and develop his personality. (Article XXIX).

Respect the rights of others and not abuse their own;

To act according to the principle of social solidarity, responding with humanitarian actions in situations that endanger the life or health of persons;

Respect and support the legitimately constituted democratic authorities to maintain national independence and integrity;

To defend and extend human rights as the basis of peaceful coexistence;

Participate in the political, civic and community in the country;

To encourage the achievement and maintenance of peace;

Collaborate for the proper functioning of the administration of justice;

Protect natural and cultural resources of the country and ensure the preservation of a healthy environment;

Contribute to the financing of state expenditures and investments in concepts of justice and fairness.

