**Oligarchy Lesson Plan**

**Objective:** As a complement to the Renaissance lesson, students will learn what an oligarchy is. They will learn that Venice and Florence under the Medici family were examples of oligarchic governments during the Renaissance. Students will also learn about countries that were or are still oligarchies in more modern times.

* The activity will start with me with showing the picture and explain the significance of the photos for the worksheet 2 min.
* I will then ask for volunteers or call up two students to come to the front of the class. They would be the oligarchic rulers of the class. I will ask the class what they believe an oligarchy is. I will then explain what an oligarchy is and demonstrate the aspects of oligarchy with the two students up at the front. I will also involve other students in their seats, as they would be the citizens. 2 min.
* The students would return to their seats and the students will complete the worksheet. 1 min
* We will then go over the answers, and I will elaborate where necessary. 3 min.
* At the end of the worksheet I would answer any questions the students may have, and make concluding remarks summarizing key points from the lesson. 1-2 min

OligArchy

1. What is an oligarchy?

* **Rule by a few individuals**
* **Can be based on wealth or family ties**
* **Individuals may not directly hold a position in government; however, they can indirectly influence or rule over the government.**

1. During the Renaissance what type of government were the cities of Venice and Florence under the Medici family?

* **Oligarchy**
* **During the Renaissance both cities were ruled by a few rich families and merchants.**
* **The Medici are a good example of a ruling oligarchic family in Florence during the Renaissance. They never held an official government position; however, they were successful bankers that were able to rule the city through their influence over city leaders.**

1. Are there examples of more countries in more modern times (20th and 21th century) that were or are still oligarchies?

* **South Africa under Apartheid (1948-1990)**
* **Russia after the fall of Communism and the Soviet Union (1991-Present)**