**You’re Outa There!**

States Exercise Direct Democracy

**Governor Gray Davis**

In 2003, California recalled its governor, Gray Davis, over a loss of faith in his handling of the state’s financial affairs.  This is a form of direct democracy.  Direct democracy is when all citizens have the opportunity to participate in decision making.  (By the way, the ancient Greeks coined a word for those who don’t participate . . . idiot.)  Other forms of direct democracy are:

* Initiative - a way citizens may force a public vote on a constitutional amendment or other legal question with a petition
* Proposition - a legal amendment set forth to be voted on by the electorate, rather than their representatives
* Referendum - a direct vote by the electorate or poll on a legislative, constitutional, or political question

Normally, though, our representative democracy handles the day-to-day operation of our government.

Complete the following questions/activities for this assignment:

* Was the recall of California's Governor Davis too severe a reaction to that California’s financial problems?  Support your answer.
* Search online news sources to find at least two (2) examples of direct democracy at work in your state or in one of the states around you.  Briefly summarize each of the examples.  Cite your findings fully.  What is common to the examples you cited?
* Name an issue that, in your opinion, requires direct democracy right now.  Why do you believe the issue warrants direct democracy.