

Lesson Plan

Title

Blue Box Democracy

Audience

Grades 5 – 11

Overview

This activity will encourage students to think critically and explore the issues regarding low voter turnout.

Objectives

- To have students discover solutions to the question: How can voting become as well known as blue box recycling?

Activities and Methods

1. Introduce Topic

- Show visuals (Blue box and Elections Polling Box).

Possible activities:

- a. identify the purpose and importance of each;
- b. complete a T-Chart on the similarities and differences;
- c. other exploratory activities to examine both visuals.

- Design a survey.

Possible questions:

- a. Did you vote in the last election?
- b. Do you recycle on a regular basis?
- c. What are the reasons that using the blue box has become a habit?
- d. What are the reasons that you did not vote in the last election?
- e. What are the reasons that you did vote in the last election?

2. Develop Background Knowledge

- Search websites for statistics and information on voter turnout for elections
- If survey completed – graph results and compare data

3. Assign Critical Challenge

- Develop a promotion (plan) so that people will become as aware of voting as they are aware of blue box recycling.

4. Present Information

- individual, group or class activity

5. Evaluate – student/teacher evaluation

Preparation (by teacher and by students)

- teacher will find model or photos of recycling and election boxes
- teacher may prepare choice activities for the critical challenge i.e. essay, debate, skits, iMovies, PowerPoint, etc...
- students prepare and complete survey (if option taken)

Duration of Activity

Day 1: Introduction and background activity

Day 2: Develop a survey

Day 3: Compile and analyze results

Day 4-5: Students complete and present critical challenge

Learning Outcomes

Social Studies may include: Skills and Processes, Governance, Human and Physical Environment (as per grade level)

Materials & Resources

www.elections.ca

www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/resource-centre/statistics-and-surveys/

www.mapleleafweb.com/features/voter-turnout-canada

Evaluation of Activity

- teacher/student developed criterion referenced activity
- student portfolio
- Social Responsibility grades 8-10 performance standard on democratic rights and responsibilities

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