

Lesson Plan

Title

Who Are You Gonna Call?
Three levels of Government: Local, Provincial, and Federal

Audience

Grades 3, 4 & 5 (Elementary)

Overview

Students will recognize the responsibilities of the three levels of government (local, provincial, and federal).

Objectives

Familiarize students with the roles and responsibilities of the three levels of government;

Familiarize students with the vocabulary related to the three levels of government; and

Students will recognize and appreciate the impact of government in their daily lives.

Preparation (by teacher and by students)

Background information and identifying pictures as outlined in Materials and Resources section.

Materials & Resources

[Through the Red Tape poster](#) on Three Levels of Government

Find pictures to represent each of the services that will be discussed, as well as the current mayor, Premier and Prime Minister.

Duration of Activity

Three 45-minute lessons. See below for suggested three lessons.

Activities and Methods

Background information: Pre-teach Canada and its provinces and territories; British Columbia and its major cities, including home town.

Lesson #1: Who Provides These Services Walk

Identify the three terms: local, provincial and federal. Have these three terms on large pieces of paper that can be used to begin a chart on the board.

Link these 3 terms to the geographic locations (example: Nanaimo, B.C. and Canada) and have students put the correct names under the appropriate categories of the chart on the board.

Have 3 pictures available: one of the current mayor, one of the current Premier and one of the current Prime Minister. Students should identify which category each one falls under and place the picture under the appropriate heading on the chart.

Depending on the location of your school, you could choose to have a class discussion and brainstorm using the following questions OR you could take your class for a walk around the local area looking for signs of these different services that were discussed in class brainstorming session.

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Activities and Methods (cont'd)

Lesson #1: Who Provides These Services Walk

Class discussion and brainstorm about "Who provides these services?" using the following questions:

1. Where does our drinking water come from?
2. Who picks up our recycling? Where does our recycling go?
3. Who picks up our garbage? Where does it go?
4. Who is responsible for making sure that your letter gets to where it should?
5. Who prints our local newspaper?
6. Who runs our swimming pool?
7. Who pays your teacher to teach you?
8. Who repairs potholes on our streets/highways?
9. Who makes sure that our lights will turn on and that we will stay warm while we are in school?
10. Who makes sure that the school phone will ring when your parent calls?
11. Who owns the property outside the school fence?
12. Who will put the criminal in jail?
13. Who runs the local McDonald's?
14. Who makes the coins that we use to buy things?
15. Who builds hospitals and pays doctors?
16. When your school is on fire, who will make sure that the firemen will come and put it out?
17. Who is responsible for the:
 - a. school bus?
 - b. city bus?
 - c. Greyhound ?
 - d. private bus company? (give the name)
18. Who gets to decide what is done with forested land? (crown land versus provincial and local parkland)
19. Any other questions regarding services provided either by the local, provincial or federal governments such as ferry, airport, ambulance, lottery, cemetery, etc.

cont'd...

Activities and Methods (cont'd)

Lesson #2: Who Provides These Services Picture Sort

Link each of the questions above to a picture or symbol. These representations might take the form of hard copies or graphics on a smartboard or other computer paraphenalia.

Have students sort the pictures under the appropriate 3 categories as identified above (local, provincial, federal) plus one extra category (Oddballs) to be able to include other services/businesses that do not fit within the government categories.

Lesson #3: Through the Red Tape Game

Introduce students to the placemat game (available online at www.leg.bc.ca/info/2-8.htm) and have them work in pairs or small teams to run through the map and identify the different services as they come across them on their journey. They need to be able to identify which level they belong to (and can list them in the correct spots at the top of the map).

Learning Outcomes

- describe how an understanding of personal roles, rights, and responsibilities can affect the well-being of the school and community (*Grade 3 - Governance*)
- apply critical thinking skills – including questioning, predicting, imagining, comparing, classifying, and identifying patterns – to selected problems or issues (*Grade 3 Skills and Processes of Social Studies*)
- summarize the roles and responsibilities of local governments (*Grade 3 - Governance*)
- describe levels, responsibilities, and the election of government in Canada (*Grade 5 - Governance*)
- apply critical thinking skills – including hypothesizing, comparing, imagining, inferring, identifying patterns, and summarizing to a range of problems and issues (*Grade 5 Skills and Processes of Social Studies*)

Evaluation of Activity

A short quiz that contains pictures that have been used to represent the different levels of government and students will identify which group each picture belongs to. This could be done by having students write the correct term (municipal, provincial, or federal) under each picture.

A writing activity where students explain what they now know about the terms: municipal, provincial and federal, making reference to at least 2 services that are provided by each.

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NOTE: The ideas and opinions expressed in this classroom activity belong to their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. The Public Education and Outreach office only edits for clarity.