

Lesson Plan # 4 - Social Studies

Title: The Branches of Government

Introduction:

In order to understand the political process, it is important to first learn how the government is structured and how each piece fits into the whole.

Objectives:

In this lesson, students will:

- Identify the three branches of government.
- Identify the duties of each branch of government.
- Demonstrate teamwork skills.

Material:

Branches of government color coded cards – made using template that follows *(To ensure success, each branch of government has a different color. However, the activity can be repeated at another time using cards that are all one color.)*

Sticky Tack

Blackboard or whiteboard

Methods:

Guided discussion, cooperative learning, interactive participation, visuals

Procedures:

1. Pass out all of the “*Branches of Government*” cards. (You may want to give the “easier” cards to struggling students and the “more difficult” cards to those students who need a challenge.)
2. The students will go up to the board and stick their card in the appropriate place (using Sticky Tack). Start with the three branches (Legislative, Executive, Judicial), then under each branch add the cards that tell who comprises that branch.
3. Finally, have the students add the cards that describe the duties of each branch.

LEGISLATIVE

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE

Elected from Individual States

Approve Judicial Nominations

Write, Debate, and Vote on Laws

Make Laws

Approve Cabinet Members

Can Declare War

Part of this Group is Decided by
State Population

Acts as Jury if Head of U.S.A. is
Impeached

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

ADVISORS

Appoints Judges

Head of State

Negotiates Treaties

Elected by the Entire Country

Veto Bills to Deny/Delay Approval
of Laws

Commander in Chief of Armed
Forces

Sign Bills into Laws

Appoints or Removes Cabinet
Members

JUDICIAL

DISTRICT
COURTS

SUPREME COURT

APPEALS COURTS

Rules whether Something is
Constitutional

By Decisions Explain Meaning of
Constitution and Laws Passed by
Congress

Oversees the Court System of the
U.S.

Serve Life Terms

Decisions Set Precedents—New Ways of Interpreting the Law

Nominated by the President

Note: This lesson is included in the workshop, *How to Make the U.S. Constitution Come to Life*, in the *SIPDC Catalog of Professional Development Opportunities*.