

Tennessee Secretary of State

Civics Lesson Plans

Roles of Elected Leaders

Author: Rebecca Marino, Arnold Memorial School

Grade Level: K-2nd grade

Date Created: May 2016 (updated June 2018)

For additional lesson plans, visit sos.tn.gov/civics/lessonplans.



Introduction:

This is the fourth lesson in a civics unit for students grades K-2. This lesson addresses who our elected leaders are and what jobs they do.

Guiding Questions:

- Who are our elected leaders?
- What do elected leaders do?

Learning Objectives: In the course of the lesson, students will...

- Recognize their elected leaders (mayor, governor, president).
- Understand the role of each elected leader.

Curriculum Standards:

K.18 (Social Studies) Recognize and name the current President of the United States.

K.19 (Social Studies) Use drawings, dictating, and writing to participate in shared research describing the role of the President.

1.25 (Social Studies) Identify the current city/county Mayor, Governor and President and explain their roles in government.

2.23 (Social Studies) Compare the branches of Tennessee’s government to the national government.

Materials Needed:

- Computer
- Projector/Smart board
- Books (see attached list of options)
- Chart paper or worksheet (attached)
- Graphic organizer

Background:

As future voters and productive citizens, children should know the roles/duties of elected officials. The roles of our nation's president, our state's governor and our city's mayor are vital to understanding our government.

See the attached list of websites for more information on the roles of each. For more details information about local government visit:

- [CTAS – County Technical Assistance Service](#)
- [MTAS – Municipal Technical Advisory Service](#)

Lesson Activities:

1. Explain to students that a teacher is in charge of a classroom and a principal is in charge of a school. Ask students to name their teacher and their principal. Discuss that a mayor is the person in charge of city/county, the governor is the leader of a state and the president is in charge of the county. Ask students if anyone knows the name of their mayor, governor or president.
2. Discuss that each person has different jobs. Together list some jobs of a principal and a teacher. Explain that the mayor, governor and president also have specific jobs they do. Explain they will do shared research to find the name of the mayor, governor and president and what their main jobs are.

Note: Depending on age/ability of students you may wish to do this activity together on chart paper, or have student complete on worksheet (see attached).

3. Using the websites listed in the chart below and (if available) books from the recommend book list (see below), have students research the roles of these elected

officials. As a class, research the “who, where, what” and complete the graphic organizer together. You may wish to limit the “what” (jobs) to 2 or 3 jobs that you feel are most important or understandable to your students.

Assessment:

Use graphic organizer as assessment.

Extension Options & Resources:

Resources: See attached book and website list.

Extension:

- Tour the White House via virtual tour:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about/inside-white-house/interactive-tour>
- Invite your city/county mayor to speak to the class about their role in government.

Websites

Mayor

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/commclub/mayor/>

<http://www.whyzz.com/what-does-a-mayor-do>

Governor

<https://www.tn.gov/governor>

<http://www.whyzz.com/what-does-a-governor->

<do http://sos.tn.gov/products/office-governor>

President

[h http://teacher.scholastic.com/commclub/president_activity1/](http://teacher.scholastic.com/commclub/president_activity1/)

<index.htm>

Books

Book title	Author	Publisher	Date	ISBN	Notes
Know Your Government: Who Lead Our County	Jacqueline L. Gorman	Weekly Reader Publisher	2008	978-0836888461	24 pages, includes glossary and index; Lexile 620
Know Your Government: Mayor	Jacqueline L. Gorman	Weekly Reader Publisher	2009	978-1433901218	24 pages, includes glossary and index; Lexile 680
What Does a Mayor Do? (How Our Government Works)	David J. Jakubiak	Powerkids Publishers	2010	978-1435898141	24 pages; ages 8+
Know Your Government: Governor	Jacqueline L. Gorman	Weekly Reader Publisher	2009	978-1433901195	24 pages, includes glossary and index; Lexile 660
What's a Governor? (First Guide to Government)	Nancy Harris	Heinemann	2007	978-1403495143	32 pages; ages 6-8
Know Your Government: President	Jacqueline L. Gorman	Weekly Reader Publisher	2009	978-1433901232	24 pages, includes glossary and index; Lexile 630
What Does the President Do?	Amanda Miller	Scholastic	2009	978-0531224250	24 pages; ages 4-8

Name _____

Mayor

who?

where?

what?

Governor

who?

where?

what?

President

who?

where?

what?

Mayor

who?
(your mayor)

where?
(your city/county)

what?
**in charge of our city/county
meets with community
leaders
makes decisions about parks
and libraries**

Governor

who?
Bill Lee

where?
Nashville, Tennessee

what?
**leader of Tennessee
travels around TN giving
speeches
chooses how to spend state
money**

President

who?
Donald Trump

where?
Washington D.C.

what?
**leader of the United States
travels to other countries to
meet with leaders
signs laws**