

LESSON PLAN "PUPPET SHOW"



RECOMMENDED GRADE LEVEL

Young Learners



OVERVIEW

This activity is designed to help young learners retain a basic understanding of the different roles in the House of Representatives and how they relate to each other by using hand-made puppets to represent each key role. Students will retain each characters identity and function by performing a show using the puppets they create.



CURRICULUM CONNECTION

- U.S. History, American Government, Social Studies



OBJECTIVES

1. Students should be able to identify a few key roles in the U.S. House of Representatives.
2. Students should have a basic understanding of the progression of the first day in the U.S. House of Representatives.



LESSON PLAN

1. To help introduce students to the upcoming activity, lead a brief discussion using the questions below:
 - a. What is government?
 - b. How is our school like a government?
2. Give each student a brown paper bag, markers, construction paper, and other craft supplies. Assign each student a role from the list below (adjust the list as necessary for their learning level). Ask them to construct a hand puppet representing that role.
 - a. Clerk (calls the House to order)
 - b. Reading Clerk (calls the roll)
 - c. Sergeant at Arms (law enforcement)
 - d. Speaker (the leader of the house, elected on the first day)
 - e. Dean (gives the Speaker the oath of office)
 - f. Member-elect (All Members elected to the House prior to being sworn in)
3. Lead a discussion with the students to help them understand the role of each position from the list and help them decorate their puppets accordingly. Discuss how each role plays an important part in the first day activities and briefly discuss the responsibilities of each. Introduce the activity where the students will "play" one of these roles in a short puppet show.
4. Work with the students to create a script for the puppet show appropriate for their learning level using the puppets they created, mimicking the first day activities of a new Congress:
 - a. The Clerk calls the House to order.
 - b. The Reading Clerk takes attendance.

- c. All Members vote on the new Speaker by calling out their name one at a time.
 - d. The Sergeant at Arms announces the Speaker-elect.
 - e. The Dean of the House administers the Oath of Office to the Speaker-elect.
 - f. The Speaker gives the Oath of Office to all new Members.
 - g. The Members vote on a list of House Officers.
 - h. The Members discuss and vote on the House Rules.
5. After the students have finished performing their production, lead a follow-up discussion with them regarding each of their roles in the show and how it relates to the organizational structure of a school.



COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS

1. What do the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives do on the first day?
2. How is the U.S. House of Representatives like your school?
3. Who are a few of the House Officers who play a role in the first day activities?
4. Who are a few elected Members who play a role in the first day activities?



ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

Office of the Clerk

<http://clerk.house.gov>