

Branches of State Government: Seventh Grade Lesson Plan

Objective: The students will demonstrate their understanding of the three branches of state government by sorting 24 descriptive statements according to the powers of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government.

TEKS: 7.13.A; 7.14.A

Materials: Handouts: Preview, List of Questions, Branches of State Government Trading Cards, Acrostic exercise.

Overview of Activity: In this Social Studies Skill Builder, students carefully read information from the Texas history textbook describing the duties of the three branches of state government. Students will analyze 24 cards describing various powers of the three branches of state government and then categorize the information according to the branch.

Preview: Analysis of primary source

Activity:

1. Each student will sit with a partner.
2. Each pair will receive a list of 24 constitutional questions. For example: “Who has the power to pass laws?”
3. Using the textbook, students read and answer each question in a sentence on the graphically organized notes, Branches of State Government trading cards.
4. As students answer all of the constitutional questions, they will categorize the information according to the branch of government- L=Legislative, E=Executive, J=Judicial.
5. Answers should be checked by the teacher as each pair completes the activity.

Processing: Complete an acrostic using the letters of the word government. The first line has been started. Make sure the complete acrostic meets these requirements:

- Each subsequent line must begin with the next letter of the word government.
- Each line should describe an important aspect of Texas government.
- Each idea described should be accurate.