

Cities in the Classroom: Curriculum and Lesson Plans

I. Our Classroom Community (Team Building) – Lesson 1

Big Question: How can you work as part of a team to accomplish a common goal?

Enduring Understanding: Working with others is an important skill.

Purpose: Students will engage in cooperative learning activities and team building games in order to create a cohesive group.

[Lesson 1: Unit Brainstorm](#)

II. Local Government (Introducing Local Government and Public Policy) – Lessons 2-6

Big Questions: What is government? What is local government? What is city government?

Enduring Understanding: Government systems are created to serve the needs of the people.

Purpose: Students will investigate structures and functions of their city government, the composition of their city's citizens as well as the physical characteristics of their city.

[Lesson 2: Local Government Introductory Lesson](#)

[Lesson 3: The Legal Roles of Florida's City, County and State Governments](#)

[Lesson 4: How A City Operates](#)

[Lesson 5: Who is in my community?](#)

[Lesson 6: What is in my community?](#)

III. Local Government in Our Lives (Choosing an Issue) – Lessons 7-12

Big Questions: What are the impacts of city government on your daily life? What are the services? What do you think are the emerging city issues?

Enduring Understanding: City government impacts the daily life of its citizens.

Purpose: Students will research, analyze and synthesize information on current city issues to determine one common issue that will serve as the focus for a class wide research study.

[Lesson 7: Student Citizen Survey](#)

[Lesson 8: Public Policy and Public Interest](#)

[Lesson 9: Basic City Government Services](#)

[Lesson 10: Basic County Government Services](#)

[Lesson 11: Issue Identification Research/Choosing a Local Issue](#)

[Lesson 12: Determining An Issue We Care About!](#)

IV. Citizen Concerns (Researching the Issue and Analyzing the Information) – Lessons 13-16

Big Questions: What are the impacts of city government on your daily life? What are the services? What do you think are emerging city issues?

Enduring Understanding: City government impacts the daily life of its citizens.

Purpose: Students will understand how to research effectively and appropriately and how to identify bias and propaganda techniques.

[Lesson 13: Research Techniques and Skills](#)

[Lesson 14: Research Brainstorming](#)

[Lesson 15: Local Issue Research](#)

[Lesson 16: State of the Research](#)

V. Citizen Solutions (Problem Solving) – Lessons 17-19

Big Questions: What are the impacts of city government on your daily life? What are the services? How is it funded? What do you think are emerging city issues?

Enduring Understandings: City government impacts the daily life of its citizens. In order to solve a complex problem you need a variety of skills.

Purpose: Students will synthesize their research to determine a solution and action plan.

[Lesson 17: Identifying the Problem](#)

[Lesson 18: Brainstorming and Examining Solutions](#)

[Lesson 19: Deciding on the Next Steps](#)

VI. Active Citizens (Taking Civic Action) – Lessons 20 & 21

Big Question: How can citizens change their community?

Enduring Understanding: Citizen participation is vital in a democracy.

Purpose: As residents of the community and future leaders in their respective communities, it is important that Florida students understand the various roles and means through which they can be involved in their local government and can influence local decisions.

[Lesson 20: Citizen Involvement in City and County Government](#)

[Lesson 21: Taking Civic Action](#)

VII. Responsible Citizens (Project Evaluation and Assessment) – Lessons 22 & 23

Big Questions: What did I learn? How can I continue contributing to my city and community?

Enduring Understanding: Learning is a lifelong process.

Purpose: Students will assess their learning through a series of community scenarios. Students will also reflect on what learned during this project.

[Lesson 22: Evaluation and Assessment](#)

[Lesson 23: Student Self-Assessment](#)