City Trivia for Middle School Students

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OVERVIEW

City Trivia is an interactive way to engage students in city government. Students will need a lesson in city government prior to playing City Trivia. The Florida League of Cities has provided a PowerPoint template with questions, but you are encouraged to work with your local teachers to prepare a version that best fits the students' needs.

YOUR ROLE

Your role in this exercise is to work closely with your local teacher(s) to provide students with a lesson on city government, with an emphasis on the questions in the City Trivia game. Then your role will be to act as the "host" of City Trivia.

RESOURCES/MATERIALS

- Trivia template
- Trivia question study guide
- Buzzer/bell system
- Score sheet
- Pencils
- Two pieces of paper per group
- Optional: Music (game show music can be found on YouTube)
- Optional: Timer

PREPARATION

- Keep or change the text of the template. *Please note: The "Your City" section has blanks for you to fill in about your city. These blanks are in the title ("Your City [insert name]") and in the "Your City" questions, including a localized question that you add.*
- Work with the teacher(s) to provide a lesson on city government, with an emphasis on the questions in the City Trivia game. Study materials for students should be provided as well.
- Classroom layout: Place students' desk in groups, all facing the front of the classroom.

PROCEDURE

- Optional: Review materials with students prior to the game.
- Place students in groups, and provide each group with a buzzer/bell, pencils and two pieces of paper.
- Review the rules of City Trivia with the students. (See below.)
- Optional: Prepare a tie-breaker question.

CITY TRIVIA RULES

How to keep score:

- Ask one student to keep score. This student will need to be able to quickly add and subtract.
- Use a whiteboard (recommended) or a large piece of paper to track the scores. It is important that each group can always see their score.
- Scores can be positive or negative.
- For each question answered correctly, the group gains the amount of the question. For each question answered incorrectly, the group loses the amount of the question.
- For example, at the beginning of the game, each group's score is $0. Group A selects the $200 City Services question. They answer it correctly, so their score becomes $200. Then, Group A selects the $300 City Services question, but they answer incorrectly. Group A's score now becomes $-100.

Answer format:

- Explain to students that the answers should be in the form of a question. For example, "What is _____?"

Beginning the game

- To begin the game, the host should pick the first question. On the slide with the City Trivia board, ctrl-click (or on a Mac computer, click) on the dollar amount to open the question. Any team can buzz in to answer. The team that buzzed in first answers the question. Proceed to the next slide to see the correct answer.
- Return to the City Trivia board by clicking on the home image in the lower left corner. If the group answers the question correctly, they choose the next question.
- If they do not answer the question correctly, the next team to buzz in can answer the question and so on.
- If no team can answer the question correctly, allow the last team that attempted the question to pick the next question.
- Contestants have 30 seconds to respond.

Daily Double questions:

- Students can choose to bet more or less money on the question than the amount on the board. They can bet from $5 up to the amount of money they currently have. (This is why it is important that scores are visible.)

Final City Trivia:

- Groups must have a score greater than zero to play in Final City Trivia.

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- Begin Final City Trivia by showing the "Final City Trivia Topic" slide. Ask each group to place a bet (any amount is acceptable), and write it on the first piece of paper so that it is visible to the scorekeeper.
- After each group places their bet, go to the next slide to read the Final City Trivia question. Groups have two minutes to respond, and they should write their answer on the second piece of paper, then lay the paper facedown.
- One by one, ask groups to reveal their answers. The correct answer is on the last slide. Tally up final scores, and announce the winner.

MUNICIPAL CITY TRIVIA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

City Jobs

1. Who is the governing body of a city? Answer: *Who is the City Council/Commission?*
2. Which elected official takes a leadership role for the council, which can include presiding at meetings and signing proclamations? Answer: *Who is the Mayor?*
3. Who is the individual who represents the city in legal matters and gives legal advice concerning city affairs? Answer: *Who is the City Attorney?*
4. Who is the official appointed by the city council to administer such city business as hiring, promotions, purchases and finances? Answer: *Who is the City Manager?*
5. Who is the recordkeeper for the city who also keeps the official seal, maintains city council minutes and other records? Answer: *Who is the City Clerk?*

City Services (Students are asked to identify the city services in each paragraph.)

1. The big game of the season is tonight – Jefferson High School against Washington High School. The football team and marching band climbed aboard the school buses. At 5:00, the two buses pulled away from the city recreation parking lot. Answer: *What is the city recreation lot?*
2. Movement through the streets was slowed by traffic. Main Street was closed because public works crews were fixing a broken water line. A police officer directed traffic. Answer: *What is the city streets, public works crew working on the water line and the police officer directing traffic?*
3. When they got off the buses at the city's local stadium, the team and band members headed to the field for a drink of water and to use the restroom. A city bus loaded with fans arrived just at kickoff. *What is the city football field, water fountain, restrooms and city bus?*
4. It was a tough, defensive game. At the end of the first quarter, the Washington High quarterback was hurt, and emergency medical technicians rushed him to an ambulance. Answer: *What is the emergency medical technicians?*

5. Despite the injury, Washington High won 13-3. A steady rain began to fall as the crowd left the stadium. Police officers guided traffic out of the parking lot, around the drainage ditches and stormwater pond. Groundskeepers began picking up trash and placing it in the dumpster. As the buses pulled away, only streetlights lit their way home. Answer: *What is the police officers, drainage ditches, dumpsters and the streetlights?*

YOUR CITY
1. How many Council Members/Commissioners does our city have? Answer: *What is …*
2. Who is our Mayor? Answer: *Who is …*
3. What form of government does our city have? Answer: *What is …*
4. Create a local question!
5. Create a local question!

LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOCABULARY
1. What is the legal name for a city, town or village? Answer: *What is municipality?*
2. What is a law enacted by a city or county affecting local affairs? Answer: *What is an ordinance?*
3. What is the document that is written and adopted by the citizens? It defines the city's boundaries, form of government and powers. Answer: *What is the charter?*
4. What is the constitutional provision that allows municipal governments to exercise any power for municipal purposes except when it is prohibited by state law? Answer: *What is Home Rule?*
5. What is the land within a municipality whose boundaries are set by the city charter? Answer: *What is an incorporated area?*

FUN FACTS ON FLORIDA
1. How many cities are in Florida? Answer: *What is 411?*
2. How many counties are in Florida? Answer: *What is 67?*
3. What is the biggest city in Florida? Answer: *What is the City of Jacksonville?*
4. What are the two oldest cities in Florida? Answer: *What is the City of Pensacola and St. Augustine?*
5. What is the newest city in Florida? Answer: *What is the Town of Indiantown?*

FINAL CITY TRIVIA
What is the difference between a city, town and a village in Florida? *Answer: There is no difference!*