



Election lesson plan

# Democracy in Action with IXL's Social Studies Content

Two mini lessons for grades 2-5

## Objective

Students will learn about the three branches of government and the presidential election process through media resources, class discussion, and IXL social studies content.

## Suggested IXL Skills

Topic	Skill name	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Government	Federal government	<a href="#">C.4</a>	<a href="#">Q.4</a>	<a href="#">J.3</a>	<a href="#">J.3</a>
	Presidential elections		<a href="#">E.8</a>	<a href="#">J.7</a>	<a href="#">J.7</a>

## Grades 2-5

---

### LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- *What are the 3 branches of our federal government?*
  - *What are the most important responsibilities of each branch?*
- 

### SUPPORTING MEDIA

["Three Ring Government" - Schoolhouse Rock](#)

---

### ANTICIPATORY SET

1. Ask students what they think of when they hear the words "govern" or "government".
2. Have students brainstorm definitions/synonyms for "government" either on a large sheet of butcher paper or on an interactive whiteboard.
3. After reviewing students' ideas, preview key vocabulary: executive, legislative, judicial.
4. Have students view Schoolhouse Rock's video, "Three Ring Government".
5. As students are viewing the video, ask them to think about the following questions:
  - *What is the role of the President?*
  - *What is Congress's job?*
  - *What is the job of the judicial system?*

### TEACHING STRATEGY

1. As a class, discuss students' answers to the 3 questions presented prior to the video.
  2. Place students into small groups and provide an envelope with varying scenarios that detail tasks of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches (e.g. controlled by the President, passes laws, explains laws). Have students sort each scenario into an appropriate branch.
  3. Ask students to share their branch sorts and the reasons why they placed each scenario in its respective branch.
- 

### IXL FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

For further exploration/support in understanding the branches of government, students can practice the following IXL social studies skills:

- Grade 2: [C.4](#) - Federal government
- Grade 3: [E.4](#) - Federal government
- Grade 4: [J.3](#) - Federal government
- Grade 5: [J.3](#) - Federal government

*Goal: All students will reach end of Stage 2*

*Enrichment Goal: Achieve mastery (SmartScore of 100)*

## Grades 3-5

---

### LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- *What are the requirements to campaign for president of the United States?*
  - *What role does the Electoral College play in electing a new president?*
- 

### SUPPORTING MEDIA

[“Becoming the President” - Discovery Education](#)  
[“Becoming President: Conventions to Election” - kids.gov](#)  
[“Presidential Minute” - Schoolhouse Rock](#)

---

### ANTICIPATORY SET

1. Ask students why it’s important for all eligible citizens to vote. What might happen if citizens didn’t vote?
2. What do students think it takes to be elected as president of the United States?
3. Choose one of the above videos for students to view and ask students to prepare to answer the following questions:
  - *What are the requirements to run for president?*
  - *What impact does the Electoral College have on a presidential election?*

### TEACHING STRATEGY

1. As a class, share and discuss the answers to the video’s focus questions.
  2. In small groups, ask students to answer the following question using 3 reasons to support their argument:
    - *Should we continue to use the Electoral College for presidential elections? Why or why not?*
  3. Allow each small group to present their answer and their rationale for making that choice.
- 

### IXL FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

For further exploration/support in understanding presidential elections, students can practice the following IXL social studies skills:

- Grade 3: [E.8](#) - Presidential elections
- Grade 4: [J.7](#) - Presidential elections
- Grade 5: [J.7](#) - Presidential elections

*Goal: All students will reach end of Stage 2*

*Enrichment Goal: Achieve mastery (SmartScore of 100)*