

Grade Level: Third Grade

Lesson Plan Title: Government Three Ring Circus

Name/#/Page # of Strategy: Graphic Organizers, 24, Page 97

Content Standard:

TN Social Studies - Governance and Civic Standard 4.0: Governance establishes structures of power and authority in order to provide order and stability. Civic efficacy requires understanding rights and responsibilities, ethical behavior, and the role of citizens within their community, nation, and world.

CCC Standard: 3.W.8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources. Take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

Objectives: spi 3.4.01a - Describe the basic structure of government in the state.

Materials:

Graphic Organizers

Computer with internet access

School House Rock Video – *Three Ring Government*

(Or: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7wdaejuS0> - *Three Ring Government*)

Set:

I will have the students fill out a graphic organizer for the School House Rock video on the three branches of government. The students will watch the video and take notes on the video. This will get the students a little prior knowledge about the branches of government in Tennessee and lead the students into learning more about what each branch does and has responsibilities for.

Lesson Outline:

The lesson will go into more detail about what each branch of government is and what each branch of government does. The students will learn about the Judicial, Legislative, and Executive branches. The students will also learn that the three branches all work together and no branch has more control or power than the other branches. The students will continue their notes on their graphic organizer throughout the lesson and have a great reference when they need to recall the information later on down the road.

First we will talk about each branch in a little detail. The first branch will be Judicial. The Judicial branch has the responsibility to interpret the laws and make sure that the laws are fair. The other thing they will learn is that the judges decide on court cases. This is typically done by the Supreme Court. The next branch they will learn about is the Executive. The responsibility that the Executive branch has is to enforce the law and they do this by having the police. The Executive power is the governor, who is now Phil Bredesen. Lastly they will learn about the

Legislative branch. The Legislative branch has the responsibility of creating and making new laws. They do this through proposing laws and gathering more information about the laws. Within the Legislative branch the senator (Congress) and the Representatives (house) has the power. We will talk about all of this in a class period and have a PowerPoint to make it a little more organized. The students will then come in the next few days and just briefly touch on what they have learned about the three branches of government in Tennessee.