

Kids in the House

LESSON PLAN

"FROM A BILL TO A LAW"



RECOMMENDED GRADE LEVEL

Young Learners



OVERVIEW

This activity familiarizes students with the legislative process and introduces them to basic legislative vocabulary.



CURRICULUM CONNECTION

- American Government, Social Studies
- U.S. House of Representatives, Laws



OBJECTIVES

1. Understand that bills become laws when voted on and approved by Congress and signed by the President.
2. Identify vocabulary terms: bill, law, Representative, Capitol, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, Congress.



LESSON PLAN

1. To help introduce students to the upcoming activity, engage them in a brief discussion to assess how much they already know about laws:
 - a. What is a law?
 - b. Who makes laws?
 - c. What is a bill?
 - d. Where do bills come from?
2. Read the content of How A Bill Becomes A Law on <http://kids.clerk.house.gov> with the class followed by a brief question and answer period.
3. Discuss your local Representative and his/her role in the process of making laws with the class.
 - a. Who is our Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives?
 - b. How did he/she get his/her job?
 - c. What is his/her job?
4. Complete the activity below.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How do bills begin?
2. Where do ideas for bills come from?
3. Who votes on whether a bill should become a law or not?
4. Who signs the bill into law?
5. Who must follow laws?



MAIN EXERCISE

Dear Representative

1. Have students brainstorm ideas for laws as a group. Ask why their ideas would make good laws and who those laws would help.
2. Have the students vote on the idea that would be most beneficial to the most people. Optional: Use this as an opportunity to discuss what it means to vote, like the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives vote on bills.
3. Help the students write a letter to their Representative telling him/her about their idea and why it should be made into a law.
4. The letter can then be mailed to your Representative. Member mailing addresses are available at http://clerk.house.gov/Member_Info.



ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

Office of the Clerk

<http://clerk.house.gov>