

Grade
2

Purposes of Local Government

Lesson
1

Enduring Understanding

Many communities have governments with local purposes and officials.

Essential Questions

How are states divided into smaller democratic communities?

What are the purposes of local governments?

Who makes and enforces our laws at the local level?

Who are our local government leaders?

Students will be able to:

G.1.2.2 — Locate the county in which the student lives on an Arkansas map

G.1.2.3 — Locate the capital of Arkansas

C.4.2.1 — Explain the basic purposes of government at the local level

C.4.2.2 — Identify various people and groups who make, apply, and enforce rules and laws for others

C.4.2.3 — Identify local government officials (e.g., mayor, city manager, county judge, sheriff)

Materials Needed/Attachments

• *art supplies* • *yarn* • *paper plates* • *tag board/paint sticks*

Attachment 1: The State of Arkansas map

Attachment 2: Our Local Government ample mobile

Vocabulary

mayor
county

sheriff
local government

county judge

law

Teaching Strategies

1. Discuss county divisions. On the Arkansas map with the counties outlined, draw a star where the state capital, Little Rock, is located, identify and color the county in which the school is located, and write in the name of the county seat (*Attachment 1*).
2. Discuss the purposes of local government (safety, services, planning for growth). Identify local (city and county) leaders and discuss their roles in making and enforcing laws. Have students make a mobile of the levels of elected government officials in their community (Mayor/City Manager, City Council, School Board) and county offices (Sheriff, Judge). Put the title of the office/and or the picture of the current office holder and list one or more of the duties of the office. Pictures/names and titles could be put on small paper plates with the duties listed on the back (*Attachment 2*).
3. Let the children put their names/pictures at the top of the mobile. This will signify that they have the power to put all these officials in office when they vote.
4. When possible, invite a local elected/appointed government official to visit the classroom to discuss his/her roles in fulfilling the purposes of a community and importance of voting for elected officials.

Assessments/Rubrics

Completed map

Teacher-created rubric for the mobile

The State of Arkansas



Our Local Government

Sample only — create your own mobile with photos of your local officials.

