

# Levels of Government

## Enduring Understanding

Each level of government has responsibilities and provides services to its citizens.

## Essential Questions

Why is government necessary at the local level?

What are the responsibilities and services of the local government?

Why do we have three levels of government?

What are the fundamental ideals of democracy?

## Students will be able to:

C.4.3.1 — Discuss why government is necessary at the local level

C.4.3.2 — Describe responsibilities and services of local government (e.g., law enforcement, fire protection, public parks, public schools, roads)

C.4.3.3 — Identify the three levels of government:

- *local*
- *state*
- *federal*

C.4.3.4 — Identify the fundamental ideals of *democracy* (e.g., human rights, justice, common good, equal opportunity)

## Materials Needed/Attachments

- *art supplies*

Attachment 1: Three Levels of Government

## Vocabulary

*federal*

*common defense*

*general welfare*

*constitution*

*justice*

*domestic tranquility*

*preamble*

*human rights*

*equal opportunity*

## Teaching Strategies

1. Discuss what local government does for its citizens (safety, services, community planning and growth). Students will collect pictures and/or articles showing community government services from magazines, newspapers, and internet to create a collage.

2. Discuss that different levels of government provide services (safety: police-national guard-United States military; transportation: city streets-county roads-state highways-interstate highways; courts: traffic court-circuit/chancery court-United States Supreme Court). Students will match service to its appropriate level of government (local, state, federal) on handout (*Attachment 1*). Students will create a poster in cooperative small groups depicting the levels of government and services provided by each.
3. Students will read a copy of the Preamble to the United States Constitution. Students will identify five fundamental ideals of democracy found in the preamble (justice, common defense, general welfare, domestic tranquility, and liberty). Identify other democratic fundamental ideals such as human rights, and equal opportunity that we enjoy today. Students will define justice, common defense, general welfare, domestic tranquility, human rights, and equal opportunity. Students will create a preamble using their own definitions of these words. (If you have access to the DVD *School House Rock: America Rock* [also available through AETN IDEAS portal], you may use it to teach about the *Preamble* through music.)
4. Divide students in small groups, and students will create a hand signal to symbolize each of these democratic ideals. Students will share their signals with the class.

## Assessments/Rubrics

Teacher-created group rubric or scoring guide for the individual collage

Teacher-created group rubric or scoring guide can be used for the group poster

# Three Levels of Government

*What services are provided by which level or levels of government?  
Check the appropriate level or levels of government that provides each service.*

Services	Levels of Government		
	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL
city police or county sheriff deputies			
National Guard, Air National Guard			
waste disposal			
state parks			
firefighters			
Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard			
public schools			
national governance			
city parks and recreation centers			
traffic lights			
hurricane relief for several states			
street signs			
interstate highways			
street maintenance			
city management and planning			
tornado relief for several towns			
street flooding relief in a community			
state management and governance			
FBI, U.S. Marshals			
National Park Service			