



THE PRESIDENT'S HATS

(20 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students examine the jobs of the president to discuss components of American democracy.

MATERIALS

The Hat Patterns handout; *The President's Work* handout; small boxes

GET READY

- ✓ Copy and cut apart *The Hat Patterns* handout. Place each hat on the front of an open box.
- ✓ Divide your class into groups of three.
- ✓ Copy and cut apart a set of *The President's Work* cards for each group of three.
- ✓ Read "The Office of President" in the Appendix.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Prepare your class for the activity with a discussion about the powers and duties of the president and define any words that might be new to them. Specifically, go over what the job titles mean: head of state, chief diplomat, etc.
- ✓ Give each group a set of cards.
- ✓ Instruct each group to discuss each card, decide which responsibility goes to which hat/job, and place the cards in the correct hat box.
- ✓ When all the cards are in the hat boxes, tell your students that they are going to see what everyone else thought.
- ✓ Invite students to draw the cards out of the boxes.
- ✓ You can keep track by posting them on the board or by taping them to the front of the boxes.

- ✓ Go over which duties belonged to each job:

Answers:

- ✓ Head of State: Officially visits other countries
- ✓ Chief Diplomat: Helps settle problems among other countries
- ✓ Chief Executive: Carries out laws
- ✓ Commander-in-Chief: Defends country during war
- ✓ Party Chief: Heads political party

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What do you think is the most important job of the president? Why?*
- ★ *Which hat would you like to wear? Why?*
- ★ *Which hat would you not like to wear? Why?*
- ★ *What characteristics do you think a president should have?*

MORE!

Develop a similar activity for the governor or mayor.



THE HAT PATTERNS





THE HAT PATTERNS





THE PRESIDENT'S WORK

HEADS POLITICAL PARTY

HELPS SETTLE PROBLEMS
AMONG OTHER
NATIONS

CARRIES OUT LAWS

DEFENDS THE COUNTRY
DURING WAR

OFFICIALLY VISITS
OTHER
COUNTRIES