The Different Hats Worn by the Presidents

Different Roles of Modern Presidents

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Grade Level	12th Grade	**Time Frame**	2-3 class period(s)
Subject	Social Studies	**Duration**	180 minutes
Course	U.S. Government, U.S. History		

Essential Question

What are the roles of the President?

Summary

Modern presidents are expected to wear different hats; i.e., play different roles in their jobs. This lesson explores the roles and examples of how presidents carry out the responsibilities of their jobs.

Snapshot

Engage

Students complete a circle map of possible roles played by the President.

Explore

Students complete a graphic organizer defining the 7 presidential roles.

Explain

Students work in groups to create a hat that is representative of their presidential role.

Extend

Students work in groups to complete a presidential roles card sort activity.

Evaluate

The results of the card sort activity and the explanation from the hats activity can be used as assessments.

Standards

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards - Reading (6-12)

REL402: Identify clear comparative relationships in somewhat challenging passages

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards - Writing (6-12)

I&A 302: Analyzing critical elements of an issue and differing perspectives on it. A score in this range indicates that the writer is able to: -Establish a limited or tangential context for analysis -Provide analysis that is simplistic or somewhat unclear
ORG 301: A score in this range indicates that the writer is able to: -A score in this range indicates that the writer is able to: -Group most ideas logically -Use transitions between and within paragraphs to clarify some relationships among ideas

Oklahoma Academic Standards (Social Studies: United States Government (9th through 12th grade))

USG.4: The student will examine the Constitution of the United States by comparing the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government as they address the needs of the public.
USG.4.2: Examine the structure, functions,and authority exercised by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
USG.4.2C: Explain the role of the executive branch, including the function of the bureaucracy in implementing public policy.

Attachments

- Lesson Slides—The Different Hats Worn by the Presidents.pptx
- Roles of President Card Sort Answer Key .docx
- Roles of the President Card Sort - Spanish.docx
- Roles of the President Card Sort - Spanish.pdf
- Roles of the President Card Sort .docx
- Roles of the President Card Sort .pdf
- Roles of the President Graphic Organizer - Spanish.docx
- Roles of the President Graphic Organizer - Spanish.pdf
- Roles of the President Graphic Organizer Answer Key.pdf
- Roles of the President Graphic Organizer.docx
- Roles of the President Graphic Organizer.pdf

Materials

- Construction paper
- Presidential Roles graphic organizer (attached)
- Card sorts, cut and grouped (attached)
- Answer key for card sort activity (attached)

Engage

Ask students to think the many hats that they wear, i.e., the different roles, relationships, and responsibilities they play out on a daily basis. Have them share out just a few with the whole class. Transition by telling students they're going to examine the different roles the president serves every day.

Teacher's Note

If students are struggling to think of the different roles they play, ask them to think about the roles a teacher might serve during the day. Display **slide 3**. For example, a teacher might act as counselor, disciplinarian, football coach, student council sponsor, debate team coach, academic adviser, tutor, etc.

Display **slide 4**. Have students get out a sheet of notebook paper and draw a large circle in the middle, taking up the majority of the page. Have them write the phrase "Roles of the President" in the middle of the page. As the students brainstorm the different roles the president serves, have them record their answers anywhere in the circle using the Circle Maps strategy.

After a sufficient amount of time (usually around 5 minutes), tell students to share their ideas with an Elbow Partner. They should add ideas from their partner to their personal circle maps. Then, have students share out with the whole class and create a class circle map on the board. Ask different partners to share out their answers until a good number of answers exist on the class circle map. This entire activity should take 10-12 minutes.

Sample Student Responses

Possible answers could include: head of military, head of emergency situations, head of foreign relations, head of economy/economic decisions/budget. Most students will not be able to name the actual role the president serves, but they can get close with their descriptions.

Transition into the Explore activity by telling the students that many of their answers can be categorized into larger roles that the president serves, which each encompass several smaller duties and responsibilities. Tell them that they are going to look at each of the different roles and what duties and responsibilities the president must perform as part of those roles.

Explore

Display **slide 5**. Pass out the attached **Roles of the President graphic organizer**. Tell students to use the websites listed on the slide, along with their textbooks to find the information needed to fill out their graphic organizers, namely the definition of the role and some responsibilities for it. Tell students that they are only filling out the left side of the graphic organizer at this point. They will fill out the right side later in the lesson. Additionally, tell them to work with a partner to find the information that they need — they should not split up the different roles.

Allow students time to fill out their graphic organizers. When they are finished with this exercise ask them to share out their answers through a class share out. Call on different partners to share the information that they found for each role. After a group has shared out about a presidential role, but before moving on to the next role, make sure to discuss with the students anything they might have missed. Use the Roles of the President Answer Sheet to make sure that all the information has been covered. Give students about 30 minutes to research and another 20 minutes to discuss.

Teacher's Note

If there is limited time for this lesson, students can split up the research for the different roles and then share their answers to complete the graphic organizer. In either case, all students should complete their own graphic organizers.

Transition to the next activity by telling students that they are going to represent the information that they just gathered by creating a hat .

Explain

Display **slide 6**. Direct students to use the construction paper and markers to draw a hat that represents their chosen presidential role. (Let students choose which role to represent. However, it should be a first come, first served process so that each role is assigned to at least one student.)

Tell students to be as creative as they want, using anything that they think represents the definition and responsibilities of their presidential role. Tell them to be prepared to defend their creations, including the colors they have used. You might want to emphasize the explanation/defense of their hat as the most important part of the activity. After a sufficient amount of time, typically 15 minutes, have them share out their different hats. As students present their hats, direct the other students to write down characteristics of the hats presented in the last column of their graphic organizer. They should have at least 1–2 characteristics for each presidential role.

Modified Hat Activity

If you have time and materials, you could have students create actual hats. Plastic plain base hats can be found at craft or party stores. Students could then use other materials (construction paper, glue, beads, pictures, feathers) to build their hats.

Teacher's Note

The most important part of this activity is not the hat created, but the explanation of the hat and why it's representative of the chosen presidential role. This is a great way for students to represent their knowledge through a creative outlet.

Transition by telling students that they are going to apply their knowledge of presidential roles and responsibilities by sorting actual presidential actions into the different category roles.

Extend

Display **slide 7**. Give each student group one set of cards for the Card Sort activity. Tell students that there are seven heading cards (the seven presidential roles) and the rest of the cards are actual presidential actions to separate into the different presidential roles. Tell the students that some of the action cards might seem like they fit into more than one category, but they must choose only one. Give students 10–15 minutes to sort out the cards. You can use this activity as a formative assessment, but we recommend that you go over the correct answers afterward.

Teacher's Note

If students are struggling to sort the cards, have them refer back to their notes or resources about the roles and responsibilities of the president. In some cases, additional time beyond the 15 minutes might be needed.

Teacher's Note

Additionally, if students are struggling, you can let them know that there should be two specific actions for each role.

Evaluate

The hats can be used as an evaluation, as can the card sort.

Resources

- K20 Center. (n.d.). Card sort. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/147
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Circle maps. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/159
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Elbow partners. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/116
- Scholastic. (n.d.). Seven roles for one president. https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/seven-roles-one-president/
- United States Constitution. (1788). Article 2. https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/articles/article-ii
- White House Historical Association. (n.d.). Roles of the president classroom resource packet. https://www.whitehousehistory.org/teacher-resources/roles-of-the-president