



community choices unit three

ask

What does a democracy look like?

acquire

- PowerPoint presentation—Grassroots movements
- articles
- handouts
- class set of laptops or access to a computer lab

explore

- PowerPoint presentation
- Article analysis

analyze

- article analysis
- Venn diagram comparison

act

- political poster
- grant proposal



community choices

unit three

U3L3 | Collective democratic participation

The purpose of this lesson is to help students understand how the Canadian government works and compare it to the Norwegian and Venezuelan models. Students will explore what a grassroots movement is and examine case studies of movements that have created change. From this, students will be able to look at their local community and assess how a grassroots action could affect positive change. They will then create a grant proposal that outlines the action they proposed.

subjects: Geography, History, Civics, English, Politics

timing: **Activity 1**

Our Government: A Look at how the Canadian democracy functions and compare this with the Norwegian and/or Venezuelan governments | **75 minutes**

Note: follow up with Activity 3

Activity 2

Grassroots movements | **60 minutes**

Note: follow up with Activity 5

Activity 3

Compare and contrast democracies | **20 minutes**

Note: follow up with Activity 4

Activity 4

Poster | **45 minutes**

Activity 5

Grant proposal | **75 minutes**

learning goal

- To understand how democracy operates in Canada and compare that to the current Venezuelan system of government and/or Norway.
- To understand what a grassroots movement is, why it exists, and how it might be effective in creating change.
- To be able to identify some examples of grassroots movements.
- To investigate a local issue and propose how a grassroots movement could address this issue.
- To contemplate and then create a poster that would encourage citizens to become involved in the political process.

success criteria

- Students will complete the democracy handout.
- Students will complete the VENN Diagram through participating in the Jigsaw activity.
- To complete the handout grassroots movements.
- To complete the political poster.
- To complete a grant proposal to address a local issue they have identified.



community choices

unit three

U3L3 | Collective democratic participation

ask

- What does democracy look like in Canada? Norway? Venezuela?
- What is a grassroots movement and how have they worked to create positive change?

acquire

PowerPoints

- Grassroots movements

Articles

- Canada Article 1: FAIR VOTE CANADA
www.fairvote.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/FVC-Tabloid.pdf
- Canada Article 2: Chapter 1: How Canadians Govern Themselves
www.parl.gc.ca/about/parliament/senatoreugeneforsej/book/chapter_1-e.html#1_2
- Canada Article 3: Canada's Democracy in Action
www.parl.gc.ca/about/parliament/education/ourcountryourparliament/TeacherGuide/pdfs/booklet-Section3-e.pdf
- Canada Article 4: The Canadian System of Government
www.parl.gc.ca/marleaumontpetit/DocumentViewer.aspx?Sec=Ch01&Seq=2&Language=E
- Venezuela Article 1: Facts about Venezuela's Presidential Elections and the Voting Process
venezuelanalysis.com/analysis/7315
- Venezuela Article 2: Venezuela's Secret Grassroots Democracy
venezuelanalysis.com/analysis/2090
- Venezuela Article 3: Comparing Democratic Institutions in Canada and Venezuela
venezuelanalysis.com/analysis/52
- Norway Article 1: Government Structure in Norway
eeagrants.fin.ee/sites/default/files/Bjoern_LocalGovernmentNorway.pdf
- Norway Article 2: Politics of Norway
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Norway
- Norway Article 3: The Nordic Model
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nordic_model

Handouts

- Activity 1: Democracy
- Activity 2: Grassroots movements handout
- Grant proposal handout

Materials

- Class set of laptops or access to a computer lab



community choices

unit three

U3L3 | Collective democratic participation

explore

Activity 1 | Democracy

In this activity students will review and share what they know about the how the democracy in Canada works, and then students will do an article review and compare other democracies to the Canadian form.

Students will define 'democracy' through discussion and individually on democracy handout.

Students will 'Think, Pair, and Share' their answers to the questions about the Canadian government on the democracy handout.

Activity 2 | Grassroots movements

Students will watch the powerpoint presentation and complete the grassroots handout.

analyze

Activity 3 | Compare and contrast democracies

Through the jigsaw method, students will review one of four articles provided for Canada and as an 'expert' present the main idea in the article to their small group.

Students will read two of three articles about the Venezuelan Government and/or the Norwegian system of government and complete a venn diagram comparing these countries to Canada.

act

Activity 4 | Poster

Students will demonstrate their understanding of democracy by creating a poster that will persuade a citizen to get involved in their political system. The poster must be eye-catching with graphics and bold writing (imagine this poster will be posted on facebook so it needs succinct text).

You will create a poster on 8 x 10 white paper that will convince a citizen (in a country of your choice) to become engaged in the democratic process.

The poster will contain the following elements:

- Three–five key actions that a citizen could take to get engaged
- Explain how the action works to create change in the democratic system.
- An image that relates/supports the message(s)

Activity 5 | Grant proposal

Students will go through the planning process of identifying a local issue and preparing a plan of action to create positive change. See handout.



community choices

unit three

U3L3 | Collective democratic participation

U3L3A3 | Compare and contrast democracies | TEACHER ANSWER KEY

overview

You will read the attached articles and complete the jigsaw activity to learn more about the governments in Venezuela and Norway. You will compare and contrast what democracy looks like in Canada compared to Venezuela/ Norway in a Venn Diagram.

learning goal

- To understand how the democracies function in Norway and Venezuela
- To compare the Canadian Democracy to those in Norway and/or Venezuela

success criteria

- Completion of handout.

compare and contrast

In point form, identify at least 10 differences and three similarities in the democratic governments in Canada and Venezuela or Norway.

Canada	Similar	Venezuela
Constitutional Monarchy	Former European colonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada independent from Britain in 1867 • Venezuela independent from Spain in 1811 	Federal Presidential Republic
Always used same constitution	Have legislatures that are responsible for formation of law	Constitution re-written many times. Newest constitution became law in 1999
10 provinces and three territories	Executive Branch of government where there is no limit on times a leader can be re-elected	23 states and nine administrative regions
Legislature is broken into: house of commons (elected) and senate (appointed)	Judicial Branch of Government	Legislature is one body called the national assembly (elected)
Senate members which are appointed can serve until they are 75 years old		Elected members can serve six years
Three branches of government: executive, judicial, and legislature		Five branches of government: executive, judicial, legislature, electoral and people's