



THE PRESIDENT'S HATS

(30-40 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

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

MATERIALS

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

GET READY

- ✓ Divide your students into groups of three.
- ✓ Copy and cut apart *The Hat Patterns* handout. Place each hat on the front of an open box.
- ✓ 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 of the powers and duties of the president.
- ✓ Give each group a set of *The President's Work* cards.
- ✓ Instruct each group to discuss each card, decide which job goes to which hat, and place the cards in the correct hat box.
- ✓ When all the cards are in the hat boxes, invite a student to stand by each box, draw the cards out, and then read them to the class.
- ✓ You can keep track of the cards by posting them on the board or by taping them to the front of the boxes.
- ✓ Go over which duties belonged to each job. (You can pass out the answers; a handout is provided.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What do you think is the president's most important job? Why?*
- ★ *Why were some of the same cards dropped in different boxes? (This will inevitably happen, and is a good time to address that the president's different responsibilities may intersect.)*
- ★ *Which hat would you like to wear? Why?*
- ★ *Which hat would you not like to wear? Why?*
- ★ *How does a president learn to do all these jobs?*
- ★ *How could you prepare yourself to be president?*
- ★ *Which jobs do you think the current president does either poorly or well?*
- ★ (If an election is forthcoming), *Which candidate do you think is most prepared?*
- ★ *If you don't know, how could you find out?*
- ★ *How do you think the president of the United States is different from other world leaders?*
- ★ *What characteristics do you think a president should have?*

DEVELOP A GRAPH

- ✓ Create a chart on the board identifying the hats of the president. Ask the students which hat they think is most important.
- ✓ Have a student volunteer to tally the votes as you call on one student at a time. Each student gets to vote once.
- ✓ Create a bar graph on the board. Using the chart information, have students fill in the correct number of votes each hat received.



THE PRESIDENT'S HATS (continued)

MORE QUESTIONS

- ★ *Which hat got the most number of votes?
Does this make it the most important job of the president?*
- ★ *Which hat got the least number of votes?
Does this make it the least important job of the president?*
- ★ *What do you think the president would say is the most important thing he does?*

MORE!

Develop a similar activity for governor, senator, or mayor, etc.



THE HAT PATTERNS





THE HAT PATTERNS





THE PRESIDENT'S WORK

HEADS POLITICAL PARTY	HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCES
CAMPAIGNS FOR OTHERS IN PARTY	OFFICIALLY VISITS OTHER COUNTRIES
HELPS SETTLE PROBLEMS AMONG OTHER NATIONS	LIGHTS THE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE
PREPARES THE BUDGET	MAKES TREATIES
PREVENTS NATIONAL EMERGENCIES	APPOINTS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
GRANTS PARDONS FOR CRIMES	HOLDS CEREMONIES AND DINNERS FOR FOREIGN OFFICIALS
CARRIES OUT LAWS	GIVES MEDALS
DEFENDS THE COUNTRY DURING WAR	GOES TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS
KEEPS THE COUNTRY STRONG DURING PEACE	APPOINTS AMBASSADORS



ANSWERS TO THE PRESIDENT'S HATS

HEAD OF STATE

HOLDS CEREMONIES AND DINNERS FOR FOREIGN VISITORS
LIGHTS THE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE
HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCES
GIVES MEDALS
OFFICIALLY VISITS OTHER COUNTRIES

CHIEF DIPLOMAT

GOES TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS
MAKES TREATIES
HELPS SETTLE PROBLEMS AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES
APPOINTS AMBASSADORS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CARRIES OUT LAWS
PREPARES THE BUDGET
APPOINTS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
PREVENTS NATIONAL EMERGENCIES
GRANTS PARDONS FOR CRIMES

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

DEFENDS THE COUNTRY DURING WAR
KEEPS THE COUNTRY STRONG DURING PEACE

PARTY CHIEF

CAMPAIGNS FOR OTHERS IN PARTY
HEADS POLITICAL PARTY