

STATE REPRESENTATION



LESSON SUMMARY

BENCHMARK
SS.4.CG.2.3 Identify individuals who represent the citizens of Florida at the state level.
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Students will identify their local state senator and state representative.■ Students will identify appropriate methods for communicating with elected officials.■ Students will recognize that Florida has a representative government.
CORRELATED FLORIDA STANDARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ ELA.4.F.1.3: <i>Use knowledge of grade-level phonics and word-analysis skills to decode words.</i>■ ELA.4.F.1.4: <i>Read grade-level texts with accuracy, automaticity, and appropriate prosody or expression.</i>■ ELA.4.V.1.1: <i>Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.</i>
ESSENTIAL QUESTION
Who represents me in the state legislature?
VOCABULARY
representative government, state representative, state senator, district, elected official
MATERIALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Connection Hook slide■ Student devices (i.e. laptops)■ State Representation handout

ACTIVITY SEQUENCE

INTRODUCTION/HOOK

1. Display the “Connection Hook” slide.
2. Have students try to identify each image. Then have students attempt to make connections between two, three, or more of the images.
3. Lead the students to the understanding that our Florida Constitution establishes the structure and organization of our state government. Just like the national government, our state government also has three branches. In this collage we see that all these images connect to the legislative branch of Florida.

ACTIVITY

Teacher Note: *To avoid any misconceptions/confusion it will be important to mention that these are our state representatives and state senators that work out of Tallahassee. These are not to be confused with the representatives and senators that represent us nationally in Washington, D.C..*

4. Pass out the “State Representation” handout.
5. Read the text portion with the students and have them underline/highlight important information.
6. Ask the students the following questions:
 - a. What does it mean when we say “Florida has a representative government”?
 - b. How is Florida’s legislative branch organized?
 - c. What are some appropriate methods for communicating with elected officials?
7. Guide the students through the process of determining the individuals that represent them.
8. Project and show how Florida is divided into legislative districts. (Links to the [Senate District Map](#) and the [House District Map](#).)
9. Guide students to the sites of the [Florida House](#) and [Florida Senate](#). Model navigating the sites for information, and show students how to explore the different opportunities and information offered on these pages about the individuals that represent them in the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives.

CLOSURE/FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

10. Using their own devices, have students individually use the websites provided on the handout and modeled in the lesson activity to research and find their state representatives and senators.

Teacher Note: *If individual student computer use is not an option, this activity may be done whole-group.*

11. As they research, students should fill in the table at the bottom of the handout.
12. Review the information as a whole class.

Teacher Note: *If desired, students may be encouraged to actually engage in communication with their elected officials, or possibly one could be brought in as a guest speaker.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
FJCC/LFI Website
ANSWER KEYS
Answers will vary based on district.
SOURCES
<p>Florida House: https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FindYourRepresentative</p> <p>Florida Senate: https://flsenate.gov/senators</p> <p>Florida Senate District Map: https://www.flsenate.gov/senators/districts</p> <p>Florida House District Map: https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FileStores/Web/District/DistrictMaps/32x32_Statewide_State_House_Districts.pdf</p>