

Social Studies Lesson Five

Write Your Representative!

As United States citizens, we are given the opportunity to participate in our government. We elect representatives to work for us. The primary responsibility of our representatives is to address the needs of the people and the nation. In turn, it is the responsibility of the people to identify and clarify those needs.

Objectives: After the presentation of this lesson students will be able to:

1. identify local, state and federal representatives of their community.
2. identify issues pertaining to natural resources and the environment that they would like to address with their selected representative.
3. become familiar with the use of the Internet in their search for:
 - a. selected representatives' positions on the use of water and other natural resources in Nevada
 - b. Web sites, e-mail boxes and/or addresses where representatives can be contacted
 - c. current bills regarding water.
4. participate in the democratic process by writing a letter to his/her representative to request action.

NEVADA CIVICS STANDARDS

Materials: Internet access, names and addresses of local, state and federal representatives, envelopes, stamps

Time: One class period

Procedures:

1. Have students select a representative.
2. Have students identify their own positions on protection of Nevada's water sources.
3. Have students write a letter to their selected representative.
Tell students to follow these writing steps:
 - a. utilize proper English and punctuation.
 - b. introduce yourself – name, age, grade, school and city you live in.
 - c. identify the issue you wish to be addressed and why.
 - d. state what you know about the action that has been taken on this same issue already.
 - e. summarize what you would like your representative to do.
 - f. close the letter with an appreciation for future actions that will be taken on this issue.