

**Topic:**

Leaders: National, State, and Local

**Time:**

Two hours

**Grade:**

5

**Core:**

5: 6050-0502 & 6050-0702

**Objectives:**

Students will identify, by picture, 15 to 20 political and government leaders, giving name, office held, level of government, and political party designation.

**Procedure:**

1. Several days prior to this lesson, assign students to bring a picture of one government leader - at any level of government.
2. As students bring the pictures, mount them on cardboard and accumulate for several days.
3. Begin the discussion by introducing the three general levels of government in the United States. Distribute Handout 1. Citizens should know at which level public officials serve. Does a member of Congress go to Washington or Salt Lake City? Do judges serve at the national, state, or local levels? What are the differences between the Attorney General of the United States, the Attorney General of Utah, and the prosecuting attorney?
4. Distribute Handout 2, "Who is This Person?", and explain what students are to do with it.
5. Go through all the pictures and complete the handout. As each picture is identified, have students attach it to the bulletin board under the correct heading i.e., national, state, or local.
6. In the discussion that follows, the teacher may want to define several political terms:
  - a. **Incumbent:** Office holder.
  - b. **Challenger:** A candidate seeking the incumbent's office.
  - c. **Candidate:** Any person seeking public office.

**Additional Resources:****Author:**

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- d. **Dark Horse:** A candidate not expected to win, but who is doing well.
- e. **Front Runner:** The leading candidate for an elective office.

7. **Enrichment:** Put the headlines in the appropriate categories in Handout 3. Using the daily newspaper, divide the class into three groups and have each group find headlines that refer to **local government, state government, or federal government.**

## LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

### Levels of Government

The writers of the Constitution wanted to have a government in which there was one central authority that could keep the states working together but would also allow the states and local areas to have power of their own. Today, most people must deal with three levels of government:

**Federal:** The President, Congress, and most of the federal agencies are located in Washington, D. C. However, many of the agencies have regional offices throughout the country. The federal government is responsible for what affects the nation as a whole, such as:

- ★ National defense
- ★ Postal system
- ★ Money and business between states and with other countries
- ★ Regulating transportation between the states
- ★ Maintaining the U. S. highway system

**State:** The state governments are located in the capitol city of each state. They handle concerns affecting people living in the state, such as:

- ★ State roads
- ★ Marriage and divorce laws
- ★ State parks
- ★ Requirements for licensing of doctors, lawyers, and other professionals
- ★ Education

**Local:** The local governments are located in cities, towns, and counties. They handle problems directly affecting the people living in a particular city, town, or county, such as:

- ★ Providing police and fire protection
- ★ Housing and zoning laws
- ★ Local traffic laws
- ★ Some parks and recreational sites
- ★ Garbage and trash pick-up

HANDOUT 2

**WHO IS THIS PERSON?**

Directions: As we look at our pictures, fill in the spaces following the picture number.

#	Name	Office	Level	Party
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				

HANDOUT 3

## HEADLINES AND LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

These headlines tell about certain jobs handled by the three levels of government: local, state, and federal.

Place the headlines under the proper level of government.

<p><b>Firefighters Strike for Higher Pay in Miami</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">New Consumer Laws Proposed in Colorado</p> <p><b>New Stop Light on Main Street Due to Citizen Support</b></p> <p>U.S. Postal Service to increase rates</p> <p>Foreign Oil Tankers in U.S. Ports Must Meet New Safety Standards</p> <p><b>U.S. ARMY BASES CLOSE IN PHILIPPINES</b></p> <p>State Department of Education Requires High School Students to Pass New Test</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOLL ROAD OPENS IN WEBER COUNTY</p> <p><b>New Speed Zones in Effect Near City Schools</b></p>		
Local Government	State Government	Federal Government

