

Classroom Activity Template

Title: Stack the Votes!

Audience
Primary and Intermediate K-7

Overview
A fun game to introduce governance and the electoral process.

Objectives

Students will learn about the electoral process by actively forming a majority government and the opposition party.

Activities and Method

How to Play:

1. Divide the class into two equal groups (parties). One team is assigned face up cones and the other is assigned the face down cones.
2. The agility cones are “votes”. Students will have two minutes to flip and reflip over as many cones as they can according to the team they were placed on.
3. When the time is up... stack the votes! Collect the cones upside down and right side up. Which stack is higher? Who earned more votes?
4. The team who flipped over the most “votes” (cones) forms the majority government. The other team forms the opposition.
5. The winners have earned an advantage by forming the majority. Two randomly chosen players from the opposition must now (cross the floor) and join the majority government (teacher choice).
6. Set up the game again for round two, this time with the majority and opposition players. The teams will no longer be numerically even.
7. Play for two more minutes. Again, collect and stack the cones in their respective piles. Repeat steps 3-7, time permitting.
8. Remind the students of the lesson objective and continue the conversation in another lesson in class.

Preparation (by teacher and by students)

Equipment: Agility Cones and access to a gym or field

Set up: Place the agility cones around the gym randomly with half facing down and half facing up.

Duration of activity

30 minutes

Learning Outcomes

Core Competencies: Students communicate to collaborate. Students use creative thinking to generate new ideas to solve problems and constraints that arise as they design and develop. Reflection is a key part of all aspects of developing goals and monitoring and assessing progress toward them.

Social Studies Connections:

- How voters play a role in determining majority and opposition governments.
- Having more votes becomes an advantage to gaining more power, responsibility and helps achieve their platform.
- Democracy requires active participation by everyone.
- The majority gets their way, but the minority have their say.
- Democracy is fragile, it can disappear quickly. The opposition could take over if they work hard enough.
- The Legislative Assembly is always changing or being changed; sometimes the power will shift.

Extensions:

- Governance and social organization in local and global Indigenous societies.
- Percentages, counting, greater than less than and fractions in math.

Materials & Resources

Video on how to play: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO42GP7zfZI>

Evaluation of activity

End of gym discussion to check for understanding and building on knowledge in next classroom lesson.

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NOTE: The ideas and opinions expressed in this classroom activity belong to their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. The Parliamentary Education Office only edits for clarity.