

Teacher's Name:  
Employee Number:  
School:

**Social Studies Lesson Plan- SS.3.C.3.2**  
**Describe how government is organized at the local level.**

**1. Title: Organization of Local Government – Third Grade**

**2. Overview - Big Ideas:**

Enduring Understandings

- Identify the purpose of local government
- Identify the structure (organization) of local government
- Identify the branches of local government and the function of each
- Identify the division of power within local government

Essential Questions – (What provocative questions will you use to foster inquiry, understanding and transfer of learning?)

- What is the purpose of local government?
- How is local government organized?
- What is the function of each branch of local government?
- How is power distributed within the various areas of local government?

**3. Lesson Objectives:**

Standards - Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Social Studies

Third Grade NCSSSS-SS Benchmarks

- SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.

Tested Seventh Grade NGSSS-SS Benchmarks Relevant to this Lesson

- SS.7.C.2.9 Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads.

- SS.7.C.2.12 Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.
- SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive and judicial branches.

4. **Key Vocabulary:** mayor, municipal government, county manager, council, board of county commissioners, county seat, school board, public works, sanitation department, health department, taxes, budget

5. **Evidence of Student Understanding (Assessment) in this Lesson:**

***What key knowledge and skills will students acquire as a result of this lesson?***

After students complete this lesson, an understanding of the purpose, structure, and function local government should be apparent. Additionally, students will gain an insight into the division of power within local government.

***What will students be able to do as a result of such knowledge and skills?***

Students will be able to complete the written assignments (attached) associated with this lesson which reinforce the purpose, structure and function of local government as well as the distribution of power within local government.

Students will also be able to correctly answer the questions that are part of the formal assessment included with this lesson.

*Both **formative and summative** assessments are included.*

6. **Materials Needed:** *(Resources you will use in this lesson)*

Attachment A: Reading #1 associated with this lesson

Attachment B: Written Assignment associated with Reading #1

Attachment C: Reading #2 associated with this lesson

Attachment D: Written Assignment associated with Reading #2

Attachment E: Post-Quiz

7. **Steps to Deliver the Lesson:**

*A detailed, step by step description of how to deliver the lesson and achieve the lesson plan objectives.*

- a. Lesson Opening: Ask students to pretend they are going to visit their neighborhood park. Ask them to visualize the kinds of workers they might see along the way and the jobs those workers are doing. For instance, they might encounter a police officer directing traffic or helping someone. They might see workers fixing the road or even a fire truck on its way to aid victims in an emergency situation. Once they arrive at the park, they might see someone repairing the swings. Another individual might be mowing the lawn, and yet another working with children in an after school program (These are just some of the responses the students might give. Elicit others.). As the students are responding you might want to create a web on the board of the different workers and the jobs they do. Then, explain that all of these workers are part of the local government. Based on the brief lesson opener, have students come up with generalized statements about how local government helps people in communities, cities and counties.
- b. Reading: Use any reading strategy appropriate for your students to read Attachment A: "Local Government." After reading the selection, check for understanding through class discussion and appropriate teacher questions.
- c. Continue to work in cooperative groups to complete Attachment B: Written Assignment for "Local Government" and results should be shared with the class.
- d. Reading: Use any reading strategy appropriate for your students to read Attachment C: "Your Local Government." After reading the selection, check for understanding through class discussion and appropriate teacher questions.
- e. Continue to work in cooperative groups to complete Attachment D: Written Assignment for "Your Local Government."
- f. Have students take the post-quiz associated with this lesson which is Attachment D. Go over quiz with students and check for understanding.

**8. Specific Activities (From Guided to Independent):**

*Activities designed to facilitate the gradual release of teacher responsibility, from teacher-led to independent.*

- a. When students finish reading the material in Attachment A, they will complete Attachment B: "Written Assignment for Local Government" in a cooperative group setting. All students will share their ideas with other class members.
- b. When students finish reading the material in Attachment C, they will complete Attachment D: Written assignment for "Your Local Government."
- c. Provide "buddies" for ELL and ESE students as needed.

- d. Model assignments as appropriate and provide letter format for students to write to a local government official.

## **9. Differentiated Instruction Strategies:**

*How to accommodate a variety of student learning needs, remediation strategies as well as enrichment strategies.*

- a. Provide individual assistance for students having difficulty with the reading material while the rest are working independently.
- b. Provide individual assistance in a small group setting for students having difficulty with written work.

## **10. Technology Integration:**

*Activities incorporating technology; e.g., address lesson content through online resources.*

- a. Have students visit: <http://kids.miamidade.gov/> to research the purpose, function, and structure of local government to gain a better understanding Miami-Dade government.
- b. Have students examine the Miami-Dade Home Charter to get a sense of our local constitution: <http://www.miamidade.gov/charterreview/charter.asp>
- c. Have students visit: <http://pbskids.org/democracy/govandme/> to further research the purpose, function, and structure of local government.

## **11. Lesson Closure:**

*Methods to draw ideas together, review concepts, etc.*

- a. After completing the post-quiz and reviewing answers with students, ask them the following questions:
  - In your own words, what is the purpose of local government?
  - How is local government organized?
  - What are the three branches of local government?
  - What is the function of each branch?

- How is power distributed within the branches of local government?
- b. For home learning, have students think about a problem in their community or an issue which is important to them. Students will write a letter to a local official expressing their concern over an issue and include possible solutions.

## Attachment A

### Reading #1: "Local Government"

(Scott Foresman Social Studies Florida, 2006, Pearson Education Inc.)

Have you ever wondered who puts in the street signs in your community? Who takes care of your town's parks? The answer is your local government. Floridians have three types of local government: city, county, and special districts. They serve Floridians in different ways.

A city's government is often called a **municipal government**. Municipal means "having to do with a city's activities or management." A municipal government serves the people who live in a town or city. It provides important services, such as local police and fire protection. Municipal government also provides water management, garbage collection and maintenance of city parks.

Suppose you see broken playground equipment in the city park near your home. That could be dangerous. What could you do? In many cities, you could call the park district. Park district employees make sure city parks are safe and clean.

**Mayors** and **city managers** are the leaders of their communities.

The **council** is a group of elected people who make local laws and help run the city. Their laws help keep people safe. Other departments, such as the local police, fire, and parks departments, report to the mayor or the city manager.

Florida is divided into 67 sections to help run the state better. Each of these sections is a county. Each county has a **county seat**, a city that is the center of government for that county. **County commissioners** are elected to serve as leaders in a county. County governments provide many services such as overseeing schools and libraries. They also register people to vote.

Cities and counties provide general government services. In contrast, Florida's **special districts** provide special government services in certain areas. Each special district has a certain purpose. A special district may be in charge of water control, neighborhood development, or fire protection in rural areas.

**Attachment B**

**Local Government in Florida**

How many types of local government are there?	
What are they called?	
What is municipal government?	

**Attachment B- Answer Key**

**Local Government in Florida**

How many types of local government are there?	There are three types.
What are they called?	City, county and special districts
What is municipal government?	It refers to city government.

## **Attachment C**

### **Reading #2: “Your Local Government”**

At the local level, which refers to a city or county, government is also very important. Their purpose is to provide services which keep people safe and happy. Some of these services are the Fire Department, the Police Department, and the **Health Department** which oversees hospitals, the water supply, restaurants and even grocery stores to make sure they are clean and up to code. **Public Works** also plays an important role because its employees keep the roads in good condition and put up street signs to keep people safe. The **Sanitation Department** is in charge of garbage disposal and recycling in a community. Their job is important as well. At the same time, there are other important services which make a community a nice place to live such as the Parks Department and the Public Library. Local government is in charge of running public schools through a group known as the **school board**. The school board makes decisions concerning books, bus routes, sports and teacher salaries. However, all of these services cost a lot of money and citizens must pay **taxes** to receive them. The local government uses taxes to provide these services.

Most local governments are made up of various parts. These usually are the executive, legislative, administrative, and judicial parts. Each part has specific duties which they perform. The executive part refers to the **mayor**. Two of the mayor’s official duties are to approve the annual or yearly **budget** (report on how money will be spent) and to agree or **veto** (disagree) decisions made by the legislative branch. The legislative part is the **council** or **board of county commissioners**. Both are groups of elected officials which pass local laws and help run the city or county. The head of the administrative part is the **city or county manager**. One of the duties of this office is to prepare the annual budget for their community. The judicial part of municipal government is in charge of the courts and all legal matters within the city or county. The head of the judicial section in our county is the **Clerk of Courts**.

In our particular area, our local government follows the rules and laws of the Miami-Dade Home Charter. It is the document which serves as our local constitution.

**Attachment D**

**The Four Parts of Local Government**

Branch	Head	Duties
Executive		
Legislative		
Administrative		
Judicial		

## Attachment D - Answer Key

### The Four Parts of Local Government

Branch	Head	Duties
Executive	Mayor	Approves the budget and agree or veto laws
Legislative	Council or Board of Commissioners	Makes the laws
Administrative	City or County Manager	Prepares the community's budget
Judicial	Clerk of Courts	Handles legal issues that fall within the jurisdiction of the municipal government such as courts & records, traffic citations, licenses, code enforcement, and criminal & civil issues/infractions.

**Attachment E**

**Post Quiz- Local Government Organization**

Low Complexity Items:

1. Which are the four parts of local government?
  - a. Federal, State and Municipal, Executive
  - b. Judicial, Municipal, Executive, State
  - c. Executive, Legislative, Administrative, Judicial
  - d. Federal, Legislative, Administrative, State
  
2. Which group of people does a Municipal government serve?
  - a. The people of a town or city
  - b. The people of a city or state
  - c. The people of a county or state
  - d. The people of a state or town
  
3. What is a duty of the Health Department?
  - a. To clean schools and streets
  - b. To oversee hospitals and water supply
  - c. To control garbage disposal
  - d. To deal with recycling

Moderate Complexity Items:

4. If someone wants to have a football team at their school but, there is not enough money. Which group should the citizen contact?
  - a. Parks Department
  - b. Public Works
  - c. Special Districts
  - d. School Board

5. A person wants to find out what the schedule is for garbage pickup. Which department should they contact?
  - a. Tax Department
  - b. Sanitation Department
  - c. Public Works Department
  - d. Health Department
  
6. There is no crosswalk by your school. Which department should you call?
  - a. Public Works
  - b. Health Department
  - c. Parks
  - d. Legislative

High Complexity Items:

7. Why is it important for local government to follow a set of rules and laws?
  - a. to ensure happiness
  - b. to provide guaranteed wealth
  - c. to provide prosperity
  - d. to promote equality and safety
  
8. "Parks, aquatic preserves, and lands acquired by the County for preservation shall be held in trust for the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public and they shall be used and maintained in a manner which will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations as a part of the public's irreplaceable heritage. They shall be protected from commercial development and exploitation and their natural landscape, flora and fauna, and scenic beauties shall be preserved."  
This passage from the Miami-Dade Home Charter, Article 7, is an example of
  - a. designation of land for commercial buildings.
  - b. protection of land against future building.
  - c. building schools wherever they are needed.
  - d. construction of government buildings.

9. "This government has been created to protect the governed, not the governing. In order to provide the public with full and accurate information, to promote efficient administrative management, to make government more accountable, and to insure to all persons fair and equitable treatment..."  
This passage from a local government's Bill of Rights is an example of
- citizens' protection under the law.
  - the power of local government.
  - the ability to live peacefully.
  - the opportunity to be free.
10. "The Board's powers shall include but shall not be restricted to the powers to: license and regulate taxis, jitneys, and limousines for hire, rental cars, and other passenger vehicles for hire operating in the county."  
This passage from a local charter provides citizens protection from
- free rentals
  - boring rides
  - unsafe vehicles
  - walking

**Answer Key**

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. B
6. A
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. C

**Civic Integration**  
**Lesson Plan Quiz Blueprint**  
**NGSSS-SS Main Benchmark: SS.3.C.3.2**  
**Title of Lesson: Organization of Local Government**  
**Grade Level: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
**Pacing Guide Connection: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Civics**

<b>Question #</b>	<b>Benchmark Grade Level</b>	<b>Benchmark 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Tested</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Complexity Level</b>
1	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.	SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.	C	Low
2	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.	SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.	A	Low
3	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.	SS.7.C.2.12 Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.	B	Low
4	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.	SS.7.C.2.12 Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.	D	Moderate
5	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.	SS.7.C.2.12 Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.	B	Moderate

6	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.	SS.7.C.2.12 Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.	A	Moderate
7	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.	SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.	D	High
8	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.	SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.	B	High DBQ
9	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level.	SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.	A	High DBQ
10	SS.3.C.3.2 Describe how government is organized at the local level..	SS.7.C.3.8 Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.	C	High DBQ