



THE PRESIDENT'S HATS

(30–40 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students examine the jobs of the president to discuss facets of American democracy.

MATERIALS

The Hat Patterns handout; *The President's Work* handout; boxes

GET READY

- ✓ Divide your students into groups of three.
- ✓ Copy and cut apart *The Hat Patterns* handout. Place each hat on the front of an open box.
- ✓ Copy and cut apart a set of *The President's Work* cards for each group of three.
- ✓ Read “The Office of President” in the Appendix.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Prepare your class for the activity with a discussion of the powers and duties of the president.
- ✓ Give each group a set of *The President's Work* cards.
- ✓ Instruct each group to discuss each card, decide which job goes to which hat, and place the cards in the correct hat box.
- ✓ When all the cards are in the hat boxes, invite a student to stand by each box, draw the cards out, and then read them to the class.
- ✓ You can keep track of the cards by posting them on the board or by taping them to the front of the boxes.
- ✓ Go over which duties belonged to each job. (You can pass out the answers; a handout is provided.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What do you think is the president's most important job? Why?*
- ★ *Why were some of the same cards dropped in different boxes? (This will inevitably happen, and is a good time to address that the president's different responsibilities may intersect.)*
- ★ *Which hat would you like to wear? Why?*
- ★ *Which hat would you not like to wear? Why?*
- ★ *How does a president learn to do all these jobs?*
- ★ *How could you prepare yourself to be president?*
- ★ *Which jobs do you think the current president does either poorly or well?*
- ★ (If an election is forthcoming), *Which candidate do you think is most prepared?*
- ★ *If you don't know, how could you find out?*
- ★ *How do you think the president of the United States is different from other world leaders?*
- ★ *What characteristics do you think a president should have?*

DEVELOP A GRAPH

- ✓ Create a chart on the board identifying the hats of the president. Ask the students which hat they think is most important.
- ✓ Have a student volunteer to tally the votes as you call on one student at a time. Each student gets to vote once.
- ✓ Create a bar graph on the board. Using the chart information, have students fill in the correct number of votes each hat received.

**THE PRESIDENT'S HATS** (continued)**MORE QUESTIONS**

- ★ *Which hat got the most number of votes?
Does this make it the most important job of
the president?*
- ★ *Which hat got the least number of votes?
Does this make it the least important job
of the president?*
- ★ *What do you think the president would say is
the most important thing he does?*

MORE!

Develop a similar activity for governor, senator,
or mayor, etc.



THE PRESIDENT'S HATS (continued)





THE PRESIDENT'S HATS (continued)





THE PRESIDENT'S HATS

(30-40 minutes)

The President's Work

Fundraiser for campaigns	Holds press conferences
Officially visits other countries	Responsible for all military personnel & equipment
Prepares the budget	Helps settle problems among other nations
Negotiates treaties	Sends troops into combat
Orders special operations for nation's security	Grants pardons for crimes
Holds ceremonies & dinners for officials	Enforces legislation passed by Congress
Calls special sessions of Congress	Oversees military forces
Goes to international meetings	Fundraiser for campaigns
Develops federal policies	Appoints ambassadors
Helps determine party platform	Appoints government officials



THE PRESIDENT'S HATS

(30-40 minutes)

Answers to the President's Hats

Head of State

- Officially visits other countries
- Negotiates treaties
- Holds ceremonies & dinners for officials
- Calls special sessions of Congress
- Goes to international meetings
- Helps settle problems among other nations
- Appoints ambassadors

Commander-in-Chief

- Responsible for all military personnel & equipment
- Sends troops into combat
- Orders special operations for nation's security
- Overseas military forces

Chief Executive

- Grants pardons for crimes
- Prepares the nation's budget
- Holds press conferences
- Enforces legislation passed by Congress
- Develops federal policies
- Appoints government officials

Political Party Chief

- Fundraiser for campaigns
- Campaign for others in party
- Helps determine party platform