

## 3rd Grade

### Unit 4: Responsibility: My Classroom, Community and Country

Essential Question #3: How does government help us and our community?

**Lesson Title:** Our Government

**SS Standard III, Objective 2**

**Implementation Time:** 45 minutes

**Media Resources Needed:** LCD projector, computer

**Resources Needed:** “Our Government” graphic organizer (1 per student); “Our Government Sort” copied, cut, and placed in an envelope (1 per group)

#### **Procedure:**

**1. Review** what it means to be a member of a community and the responsibilities each member of a community has to one another. Discuss the role government plays in helping communities function (Refer again to the sports team example: players (people), coach (government head), rule book (lawmakers), and referee (judges) and remind students see how these elements work together to form successful teams. Relate how this is equivalent to a successful system of government and community.).

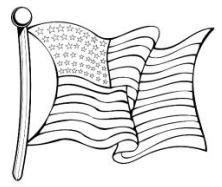
**2. Review** the responsibilities of a good citizen, referring to collages and list poems for examples.

3. Discuss the role of government: make laws, collect taxes, provide education, and protect citizens. Discuss why we have taxes and what they are used for: roads, interstate freeways, police, firefighters, education, welfare, national forests, parks, emergencies (natural disasters).

4. Give each student a copy of the “Our Government” handout and project a copy on the LCD projector. As a class, complete the first two tiers of the graphic organizer. Assign students to complete the examples individually or in small groups.

#### **Assessment:**

Divide students into groups of three. Give each group an envelope that contains the words from the word sort (attached) cut into individual strips. Explain to students that they will be sorting the words into three different categories. The names of the



categories are the bold words in their envelopes. Monitor and informally assess students' understanding. Clarify misconceptions.

**Extension:**

Assign students to add additional examples to their sort lists. Re-sort words in their envelopes and pass to another group. Repeat.

