

Chapter 24

Section 2: State Legislatures

Guiding Question: What are the defining traits and purpose of state legislatures?

GET STARTED

Lesson Goals:

- ☐ Students will understand the organization, structure, and powers of state legislatures.
- ☐ Students will explain how citizens can be involved in creating and passing new laws.

Bellringer Write on the board: **What do you think is the main job of state legislators?**
Answer in your notebooks.

Vocabulary Have students create flash cards with the vocabulary words from the section. Then pair up students and have them test each other with the flash cards.

TEACH

Tell students that in this section they will learn about state legislatures, including their size, structure, powers, organization, and process. Remind students that the main duty of state legislatures is to pass laws. Discuss students' answers to the Bellringer questions. Then ask for volunteers to read the section aloud.

Ask:

- How are the presiding officers of state legislatures elected, and what are their roles? (*Presiding officers are elected by the membership of either the senate or the house; they appoint committees and their leaders.*)
- What are some of the matters committees in state legislatures handle? (*matters such as education, roads, and elections*)
- Who can suggest ideas for bills? (*citizens, senators, representatives, and the President of the United States*)
- Who can formally introduce a bill to a state legislature? (*only a member of a state legislature*)
- What is referendum? (*the act of submitting a matter to direct vote by the people*)

Learning Styles: Visual/Spatial

Have students create illustrated, color-coded charts showing the various powers of the state legislatures. Students should include legislative and nonlegislative powers in their charts. They should then research their state governments to find out which legislative office or committee is responsible for each power, add that information to the chart, and then design a logo representing each power listed. Have students share their charts and explain their logos to the class.

Other Strategies

ELL/ESL Strategy

Learning Styles: Visual/Spatial

Learning Styles: Logical/Mathematical

Learning Styles: Interpersonal/Group Learning

ASSESS AND REMEDIATE

- Assign the Section Assessment questions; grade student responses.

Other Resources

Reading Comprehension Worksheet
(All-in-One, p. 25)

Section Quiz B (All-in-One, p. 30)

Chapter Resources

Essential Questions Journal

Chapter 24 Outline (All-in-One, p. 12)

Extend Activity (All-in-One, p. 28)

Audio support is available for this section.

Additional features for Differentiated Instruction can be found throughout the Teacher's Edition.