



GRADE 6+

## Office of State Governor | Lesson Plan

What are the responsibilities of a state governor?

Students learn about the history of governors in America, how they were appointed during the colonial era and today, list their qualifications and responsibilities and examine their limitations.

### Learning Objectives:

- Compare how governors have been appointed over time and identify their roles and responsibilities.
- List the qualifications of American citizens who may be elected as state governors.
- Examine limitations on the office of the governor and how a sitting governor may be removed from office before his term expires.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Governor:** the head of the executive branch in each state
- **Lieutenant Governor:** the person next-in-line to become governor if the sitting governor dies, resigns, or is removed from office
- **Cabinet:** a group of trusted advisors who assist the governor
- **Recall Election:** power given to the voters that allows them, by petition, to demand the removal of an elected official before his or her term is up

**Educational Standards:** History, Civics, Government, Western Civilization, American Values

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Street Smarts: The Office of Governor.*



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: *Street Smarts: The Office of Governor.* ([Download PDF](#))

### Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Set up a row of 5 chairs, leaving space between each. On each chair, set an object (a stapler, piece of paper, etc.) You will need a bandana for a blindfold.
2. Ask: *Could I have three volunteers for a game?* Select three students. Say: *Each of you chooses a friend that you trust to help you with the game.* Allow students to choose.
3. Say: *Our teams of two will take turns navigating the room to collect the five objects on our chairs. One person will be blindfolded, and the other will give directions out loud to help him or her locate each chair and collect the five objects. Partners are not allowed to touch in any way during the game.* Allow one team at a time to navigate between the chairs and find the objects. (You are welcome to time this exercise for a winning team OR simply have fun cheering on the students to success.)
4. Say: *Without a trusted advisor, that course would have been difficult to navigate! The same is true for our state governor, who has a whole cabinet of advisors to help him/her make wise decisions for our state. How much do you know about the position of a state's governor? Let's find out.*
5. Display a copy of *Street Smarts: The Office of Governor Worksheet* on a screen in the classroom.
6. Have a student read each statement aloud and attempt to answer them as a class. Invite students to share out loud (or do this part independently).

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. State: *Let's play a fun game and see how many answers we got right.*
2. Watch the video.
3. Pause after each question and allow students to try to answer.
4. Play the video to reveal if they were correct or incorrect.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as a formative assessment or discuss in class.

**Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)**

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.