



House of Representatives: Lesson Plan

Topic	
<p>The House of Representatives is the lower house of Congress. It has 435 members, and the representation of each state is based on the population of that state. Along with the upper house, the Senate, it is responsible for proposing, debating, amending, and voting on bills. The House also has exclusive power to introduce revenue bills, impeach federal officials, and elect the president, should the electoral college vote result in a tie.</p>	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Politics • History 	40-45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/topic/house-of-representatives-the-lower-house-of-the-legislature/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how the House functions. • List important members of the House of Representatives. • Describe the responsibilities of the House. 	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Constitutional Convention, Congress, impeach, electoral college, bill	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, Student Internet Access	
Before you watch	
<p>Think-pair-share: Ask students if they know how a bill turns into a law. Have them discuss in small groups and then share with the class. If they mention</p>	



Congress in their responses, highlight that. If they don't, mention Congress's role. You may also ask students to discuss the three branches of government. Tell them that you will be focusing on the legislative branch today, and ask if they know which two bodies make up the legislative branch and what they are responsible for.

While you watch

1. How many people are in the House of Representatives?
2. How often must members of the House be re-elected?
3. Who leads the House?

After you watch/discussion questions

1. Why are checks and balances in our government important? How do the House and Senate check each other?
2. How could the majority party prevent bills that represent the minority party's interests from being passed? What does the minority party need to do to get its bills passed by the House?
3. Every ten years, the U.S. Census counts every person living in the U.S. Why is this important with regard to the House?

Activity Ideas

- **Research Further:** Have students find their representative [here](#). Students should spend some time doing Internet research about their representative. They should use the Worksheet to take notes on key facts. They should then write a short response explaining some of the key positions of their representative.
- **Take Action:** Let students choose an issue that is important to them and write an email to their representative about it. This can be a broad issue, such as "I think more needs to be done about climate change," or it can be a specific request, such as "Please support this bill."
- **A Closer Look:** Each student should choose a House committee to do more research on. A list of committees and links to their websites can be found [here](#). Students should explore their committee's website and write a short response explaining what the committee does, who its members are, what subcommittees it has, and any notable legislation it is currently considering or supporting.

Sources/places to learn more



1. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "House of Representatives." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 4 Apr. 2019, www.britannica.com/topic/House-of-Representatives-United-States-government.
2. History.com Editors. "House of Representatives." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 27 Nov. 2019, www.history.com/topics/us-government/history-of-the-house-of-representatives.
3. "The House Explained." *United States House of Representatives*, www.house.gov/the-house-explained.
4. "The Legislative Branch." *The White House*, The United States Government, www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/the-legislative-branch/#:~:text=The%20House%20has%20several%20powers,of%20an%20electoral%20college%20tie.