

Contacting Government Agencies

Prepared By:

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Developed for
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Lesson Title: Contacting Government Agencies

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Grade Level: Middle School/High School

Time Required: 1--50 minute class

Lesson in Unit:

9-12 Lesson 4 of 14 in Unit: What is Government?

Lesson 4 of 10 in Unit: Governmental Leadership

Lesson 3 of 13 in Unit: Relationships between Citizens and Legislators

I. Essential Questions:

Citizens experience a variety of problems and situations in their daily lives that require the assistance of the government. Which agency do citizens contact when they need questions answered and how do they identify government officials and resources on a local, state and national level?

II. South Dakota Grade Level Content Standards

9—12.C.1.3. Students are able to identify the principles of the American Constitution.

9—12.C.1.4. Students are able to explain the principles of American democracy.

9—12.C.1.5. Students are able to describe the state, local, and tribal governments with emphasis on their structures, functions, and powers.

III. Assessment Strategies

Government Agency Riddles worksheet will be assessed according to the number of correct responses.

IV. Learning Objectives

Students will determine and identify government agencies on a local, state and national level.

V. Necessary Materials/Technology:

1. "Government Agency Riddles" Worksheet
2. Availability of computers and internet access
3. Local phone books

VI. Background Information:

This lesson plan should be implemented after students have studied the government pyramid detailing national, state, and local agencies and their hierarchy of powers.

VII. Detailed Lesson Description

1. Divide your classroom board into three sections. Label the first section as Federal, the second section as State, and the third section as City/County.
2. Ask students how many departments, divisions, or agencies they can think of that fall under each category.

3. As the students call out answers, write them under the category.
4. Re-introduce the government organization chart to them and the division of powers. This chart can be put on a PowerPoint slide or overhead.
5. Hand out the “Government Agency Riddles” worksheet.
6. Students should work independently to solve the riddles.
7. A classroom discussion should follow to assess whether the responses given at the beginning of class should be moved to another category.

VIII. Bibliography/Resources

The United States Constitution

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Government Agencies Riddles

Read the following situations and decide which Federal Agency you would contact to request assistance. Write the number matching the agency on the line before the situation.

Federal Agencies (Riddles 1—8)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1—Internal Revenue Service | 5—Department of Commerce |
| 2—Post Office | 6—Department of Defense |
| 3—Social Security Administration | 7—Dep. of Health & Human Services |
| 4—Department of Agriculture | 8—Department of Justice |

_____ Your family owns a turkey farm and you want to find out the latest information and regulations concerning Avian Influenza.

_____ You want to find out if you qualify for Indian Health Services.

_____ You recently moved and want to have your mail forwarded to the new address.

_____ You want to become a Drug Enforcement Agent and would like to know the qualifications for this job.

_____ Your father wants to know if his new yacht is deductible on his tax return.

_____ Your neighbor wants to find out if she is eligible for a minority business loan.

_____ Your grandfather never received his Medal of Honor from World War II and your family wants to give it to him for his 105th birthday.

_____ Your grandmother is ready to retire and wants to know how to apply for her government benefits.

State Agencies (Riddles 9—16)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 9—Department of Corrections | 13—Department of Social Services |
| 10—Dept. of Game, Fish, & Parks | 14—Division of Motor Vehicles |
| 11—Higher Education Center | 15—Department of Health |
| 12—Department of Revenue | 16—Archaeological Research Center |

_____ You decide to prove you can dig to the center of earth. As you dig deeper and deeper, you start to dig up artifacts that appear to be over 200 years old.

_____ Your parents would like you to compare all the state universities before choosing one to attend.

_____ You don't want to get the flu this year, but can't afford to pay for the vaccine. You want to get information on which health clinics are offering a free vaccine.

_____ You decide to make good use of your computer skills and open your own repair business. You need to find out how to file state sales tax.

_____ You think your next door neighbor has violated his parole conditions.

_____ You work part time at a day care and a two-year-old girl repeatedly shows up with severe bruising on her arms and neck. You are worried about her safety at home.

_____ You build an off road rock crawler from old jeeps and junk yard trucks. You need to get a license plate for this homemade creation.

_____ You are driving home at night through a heavily forested area and see a truck driving off with a dead deer in the back. It is not hunting season and you manage to get the license plate number.

City/County Agencies (Riddles 17—24)

17—Finance Office

18—Police Department

19—Parks and Recreation

20—Public Schools

21—Sheriff's Department

22—Treasurer's Office

23—Division of Motor Vehicles

24—Extension Services

_____ You live next to the city's public swimming pool. You wake up one morning and find that someone had sprayed graffiti on the Snack Shack, as well as your garage. Who do you contact to report this?

_____ After purchasing a new vehicle, you have 30 days to get license plates. Where do you go to get the plates?

_____ Your new house has city water and garbage services. Where do you send the payment for these services to?

_____ Your father wants to sponsor a softball team this summer. Who should he call to find out the sponsor's fee?

_____ One mile out of the city's limit, you are in a car accident. Which agency will respond to the situation?

_____ Your sister is finally old enough to get a learner's permit to drive a car. Where does she go to get the application?

_____ After taking Ag classes in high school, you decide to become an advisor for the 4-H club. Who do you call to inquire about this position?

_____ Your three-year-old sister has speech problems. Who should your parents contact for an evaluation and assistance?