

Chapter 30: County and Municipal Government

Local governments within South Carolina

Objective: To become familiar with the role and arrangement of South Carolina's county and municipal governments.

Standard: Government is not directly included in the 8th grade South Carolina standards; however, it provides important background information for *Standard 8-7—Modern Era*.

Investigation Activity

Help your students research the name of the mayor (*or town manager*) of the city where your school is located. It's possible that the city or town does not have a single individual who is in charge, but rather a large group or board.

Next, help your students find out who is the current governor of South Carolina, the national senators, and other representatives from the state.

Choose one or two South Carolina politicians currently serving in office (either on the local, state, or national level), and have your students research that individual (*the Internet is a great place to start*). Identify his or her political party, most enthusiastic issues (*i.e. education, taxes, crime, environment, etc.*), and overall impact on South Carolina.

Repeat the same task for some of the more notable South Carolina politicians who have served the state—or nation—over the past century (*possible choices include Woodrow Wilson, James Byrnes, Strom Thurmond, and James Clyburn, etc.*)

Group Activity

Divide your students into several groups. Each group must come up with a list of three or four **rights** that South Carolinians enjoy (*such as the right to free speech, the right to a fair trial, the right to vote the right to fair treatment regardless of race, religion, or gender, etc.*). Next, they must come up with three or four **responsibilities** that each citizen has in today's society (*such as the responsibility to obey the law, vote on political issues, treat others fairly, pay taxes, etc.*).

Have each group give an **oral presentation** revealing their list of rights and responsibilities.

Information Scavenger Hunt

All South Carolinians play a specific role in today's working society. Many people from South Carolina have even gone on to achieve fame and fortune over the past century. They have found success in business, sports, entertainment, politics, science—there have even been a couple of Nobel Prize recipients.

Send your students on a **Famous South Carolinians Scavenger Hunt**. Using the Internet and other resources, see who can find the most South Carolinians who have gained national fame over the past 100 years (*specifically focus on cities and counties near your school*). The student must provide the name of the famous person, the field of achievement, and the individual's ties to South Carolina.