

XII. Working in Jobs that Help Make Our Town Better

12 Activity

WHAT?

Students will research and gather information about the many departments and job opportunities available in city government. They will apply the information by participating in a career fair and presenting their research in a creative way.

WHY?

- To analyze the effects of the changing population distribution in Texas
- To explain the changes in the types of jobs and occupations that have resulted from the urbanization of Texas
- To describe the structure and functions of government at municipal, county, and state levels
- To analyze the economic impact of the free enterprise system in local, national, and international markets
- To analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions
- To use a problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages/disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution
- To use a decision-making process to identify a situation that requires a decision, gather information, identify options, predict consequences, and take action to implement a decision

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills addressed in this lesson:

Geography:

- Understand the location and characteristics of places and regions of Texas
- Understand the effects of the interaction between humans and the environment in Texas

Economic:

- Understand the factors that caused Texas to change from an agrarian to an urban society
- Understand the interdependence of the Texas economy with the United States and the world

Government:

- Understand the basic principles reflected in the Texas Constitution
- Understand the structure and functions of government created by the Texas Constitution

Citizenship:

- Understand the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens
- Understand the importance of the expression of different points of view in a democratic society

Culture:

- Understand the concept of diversity within unity in Texas

Social Studies Skills:

- Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology

Communicate in written, oral, and visual form

- Uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings

TAAS:

- Objective 1: Civic Values and Responsibilities
- Objective 2: Economic Influences on U. S. History
- Objective 6: Sociological and Cultural Influences on U. S. History
- Objective 7: Interpret Social Studies Data
- Objective 8: Critical-Thinking Skills



HOW?

Materials needed:

- Copies of the lesson hand-out for each student
- List of municipal government jobs in your town

Suggested teaching time: 20 to 50 minutes

Suggested Procedures:

1. Introduce the concept of jobs in city government. If your town is smaller, students may not be as aware of the job possibilities because they do not come in contact with the many departments described in this lesson.
2. Give students the worksheet and allow them time to complete it.
3. Have students pair up to compare answers
4. Have students choose one job title on the list at the end of the lesson.
5. Have students research and gather information through interviews to prepare an oral and visual presentation about their specific job.
6. Students will set up their presentations and invite other classes to their career fair about city government.

Follow-Up Possibilities: Invite a guest speaker from a city department to describe his or her perspective on the municipal process. Have students visit a city council meeting and report on it. Invite a panel of persons from different areas of city government to discuss the similarities and differences of their perspectives. Students may wish to write a letter to a city department in which they are interested to inquire about training requirements for various jobs.

Evaluation: Grade the assignment according to completeness and sincerity of effort.

Answer Key:

Possible answers, and there will no doubt be others that students choose :

1. **City Aviation Department:** air traffic controller, electrician, engineer, gardener
2. **City Police Department:** artist, biologist, chemist, computer programmer, finger print expert, first aid instructor, lab technician, lawyer, librarian, mechanic, park ranger, photographer, planner, social worker, switchboard operator, undercover officer, video photographer, writer
3. **Fire Department:** architect, chemist, electrician, engineer, first aid instructor, photographer, planner, switchboard operator, truck driver
4. **Emergency Medical Services:** medical technician, first aid instructor, lawyer, mechanic, nurse, switchboard operator
5. **City Parks and Recreation Department:** accountant, architect, back hoe operator, construction worker, custodian, food service worker, gardener, lifeguard, mechanic, park ranger, planner, printer, trash collector, truck driver, waiter
6. **City Hospital:** accountant, architect, cashier, chemist, cook, custodian, first aid instructor, gardener, lab technician, medical technician, nurse, planner, plumber, printer, psychologist, social worker, switchboard operator, waiter
7. **City Cemetery:** backhoe operator, construction worker, gardener
8. **City Convention Center:** accountant, cashier, custodian, electrician, food service worker, gardener, planner, waiter
9. **Municipal Court:** cashier, custodian, food service worker, judge, lawyer, librarian, switchboard operator
10. **City Fine Arts Center:** artist, cashier, custodian, food service worker, gardener, librarian, musician, printer, video photographer, writer
11. **City Utility Department:** accountant, biologist, cashier, computer programmer, construction worker, custodian, electrician, engineer, lawyer, mechanic, meter reader, planner, writer
12. **City Environmental and Conservation Department:** architect, biologist, chemist, custodian, engineer, gardener, lawyer, photographer, planner, trash collector, writer
13. **City Health Clinics:** accountants, custodian, first aid instructor, lab technician, medical technician , nurse, planner, psychologist, social worker
14. **City Human Services Department:** accountant, architect, cashier, custodian, electrician, engineer, librarian, nurse, planner, plumber, psychologist, roofer, social worker
15. **City Inspections Department:** electrician, engineer, plumber, roofer, writer
16. **City Library:** cashier, custodian, gardener, historian, librarian, video photographer, writer
17. **Municipal Public Works Department:** accountant, architect, backhoe operator, construction worker, electrician, engineer, lawyer, photographer, planner, truck driver
18. **City Purchasing Department:** accountant, cashier, computer programmer
19. **City Planning Office:** architect, engineer, historian, librarian, photographer, planner, writer
20. **Municipal Public Information Office:** artist, computer programmer, lawyer, librarian, photographer, printer, writer

