

# XV. What if Nobody Bothered to Vote?

# 15 Activity

## WHAT?

Students will write an editorial or letter to the editor about voter apathy relating to municipal issues.

## WHY?

- 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 describe how people from selected racial, ethnic, and religious groups attempt to maintain their cultural heritage while adapting to the larger Texas culture
- 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 8: Critical-Thinking Skills



## HOW?

### Materials needed:

A copy of the scenario description, “It was Election Day in Our Town” for each student

**Suggested Teaching Time:** 1 class period

### Suggested Procedures:

1. Present students with the scenario and ask them to consider the questions.
2. Have students prepare their letters to the editor and story endings. Circulate among students to gauge their understanding.
3. Have students share their work with the class.

**Follow-Up Possibilities:** Have students rate the effectiveness of their letters. Discuss the characteristics that make especially good letters more effective than the others. Ask a precinct chair to come to class to share experiences with students.

**Evaluation:** Evaluate the students’ letters and stories.