

# How to Use This Resource

This resource is intended to improve civic literacy, introduce the concepts of democracy and elections, increase awareness about government, and teach students how to effectively participate as responsible citizens in their communities.

The lessons build upon each other, but they can also be used as stand-alone activities depending on the needs of your classroom and schedule. Consider consulting the *Lesson Pathways* on the following page to condense the learning into 2 or 4 classes/periods.

Below is a brief description of the components of each lesson.

## Guiding Questions

These critical queries bring a clear focus to the lesson and direct student learning. Share these questions with students at the beginning of the lesson to support an awareness of the overarching Learning Goals and to enhance engagement.

## Overview

The lesson overview outlines the big idea and provides a brief summary of the learning and activities of the lesson.

## Learning Goals

Concrete knowledge and competencies that students are expected to have acquired or are working towards based on the instruction and activities completed in each lesson.

## Tips for Teachers

Reminders or suggestions to assist with the delivery of the lesson.

## Supplies/Needs

A list of support materials you will need for the lesson.

## Strategies

Each lesson has been broken down into two parts with several strategies. You are encouraged to pick and choose from the strategies and related support tools based on the needs of your classroom and available time.

- **Starter:** Suggested opening activity, meant to pique interest in the topic and lesson.
- **Essential Learning:** Instruction of key concepts that form the basis of the lesson. Supported by videos and slide decks.
- **Activity/Activities:** Key activities that help students understand the essential concepts and practice key competencies.
- **Applied Learning:** Various activities that focus on project-based learning, real-world application or case study analysis.
- **Deeper Learning:** Activities that guide students to explore a key concept more deeply. These tasks promote critical thinking, analysis, and meaningful connections to the broader lesson.
- **Discussion:** A suggested discussion protocol to support meaningful reflection and conversation about the topic.
- **Consolidation:** Concluding questions and tasks to summarize and reflect on what was learned throughout the lesson.

## Questions to Help Guide Assessment

These questions help teachers monitor their students' progress towards achieving the Learning Goals.

## Adaptations and Supports

A few reminders and suggestions for language learners, culturally responsive pedagogy and accessibility as well as accommodation considerations.

## Background Information for Teachers

This backgrounder provides contextual information related to the lesson theme. The purpose is to enhance teacher knowledge and understanding. Not all terms and concepts are covered in the lesson.