

North Carolina Legislative Branch Poster Riddles

Overview

In this activity, best suited as a warm-up or EOC review activity, students will utilize the North Carolina Legislative Branch poster created by Carolina K-12 (formerly the NC Civic Education Consortium) to learn about the legislative process in North Carolina. Students will complete a riddle worksheet related to the poster. Copies of the poster in handout size can be downloaded for free in Carolina K-12's Database of K-12 Resources.

Grade

10

North Carolina Essential Standards for Civics & Economics

- CE.C&G.2.1 - Analyze the structures of national, state and local governments in terms of ways they are organized to maintain order, security, welfare of the public and the protection of citizens (e.g., federalism, the three branches, court system, jurisdictions, judicial process, agencies, etc.)
- CE.C&G.2.2 - Summarize the functions of North Carolina state and local governments within the federal system of government (e.g., local charters, maintain a militia, pass ordinances and laws, collect taxes, supervise elections, maintain highways, types of local governments, etc.).
- CE.C&G.2.6 - Evaluate the authority federal, state and local governments have over individuals' rights and privileges (e.g., Bill of Rights, Delegated Powers, Reserved Powers, Concurrent Powers, Pardons, Writ of habeas corpus, Judicial Process, states' rights, Patriot Act, etc.)
- CE.C&G.3.2 - Compare lawmaking processes of federal, state and local governments (e.g., committee system, legislative process, bills, laws, veto, filibuster, cloture, proposition, etc.)

Essential Questions

- What are the major processes of the legislature in North Carolina?
- What are the major political structures in the North Carolina legislature?
- What part of North Carolina law establishes the legislature?
- How does the budget process work in the North Carolina legislature?

Materials

- Riddle Worksheets
- Pens/Pencils
- North Carolina Legislative Branch Poster
 - 8" x 10" poster available in the Database of K-12 Resources:

Duration

20 minutes

Procedure

1. Based on the discretion of the instructor, this activity can be completed in small groups or individually, using a full-sized copy of the legislative poster or an 8 x 10 print out of the legislative poster.
2. Give each student a copy of the attached riddle worksheet as well as a poster (either one per student or one per group.) The worksheet is comprised of 15 riddles. The riddles were designed to spell out "The Tar Heel State" after completion. A key is attached.

3. Tell students to work either together or individually to find the correct answers for each question using the poster and their own knowledge. Teachers may also want to offer a prize to the first student or group of students who complete all questions correctly. Let students know how much time they have to complete the activity and allow them to begin.

4. Once students are finished, discuss:
 - How many Senators are there in the North Carolina General Assembly? How many Representatives?
 - What document establishes the rules for North Carolina's government?
 - How long are the terms that legislators serve?
 - When (or how often) are budgets passed in the legislature?
 - When both chambers cannot agree on a piece of legislation, what kind of committee do they form? What do you think a conference committee does?
 - How does the Governor influence the legislative process? (Discuss offering the first budget, signing and vetoing bills, and allowing bills to become law after ten days).
 - Why is the legislative branch of North Carolina important?

A Legislative Riddle

Side 1 - Key

Name(s):

1. Members come and make their presence known. However, this total number of Senators is set in stone. Answer: **Fifty**.
2. They call me a proposed law. They call me a bill. Whatever I'm called, I must be analyzed, **Researched**, and debated in the House and Senate still.
3. The budget is not funny-looking or lame, but it must be passed in this type of year all the same. **Odd-Numbered**.
4. Legislators get together to figure out a problem's solution. Their existence is established by the North Carolina **Constitution**.
5. I'm a President in a way, a Lieutenant in another. My official title though, is the **Lieutenant Governor**.
6. It's called many things in many nations, but in North Carolina, the "budget bill" is a bill of **Appropriations**.
7. When a Governor's legal boundaries are breached, the House can vote to have him or her **Impeached**.
8. When disagreements arise between chambers, legislators don't wince. Instead they form a committee whose first name is **Conference**.
9. **Bicameral** means I consist of two bodies (or two legislative chambers). Whoever called me that was a not a talented namer.
10. If the Governor signs this, North Carolina follows it to a tee. I'm also the nickname of a U.S. President who took office in 1993. Answer: **Bill**.
11. There are dozens of these in each chamber, but we're not talking about donuts, roses or bakers. These **committees** are where bills are discussed amongst lawmakers.

A Legislative Riddle

Side 2--Key

12. In both chambers of the legislature, this number is the same. This number describes how long Senator and Representative terms allow for legislative fame.

Answer: **Two**

13. Some say the House chamber is weaker, but nevertheless it is led by its **Speaker**.

14. If the Governor doesn't sign or veto within **Ten** days, a bill becomes law in North Carolina anyways.

15. If I'm the Governor and I don't think a bill is neat-o, I can huff, puff, and whine about it, or simply issue a **Veto**.

Fill in your answers below. What does the Puzzle Spell? **The Tar Heel State.**

1					F	I	F	T	Y										
2		R	E	S	E	A	R	C	H	E	D								
3	O	D	D	-	N	U	M	B	E	R	E	D							
4					C	O	N	S	T	I	T	U	T	I	O	N			
5	L	I	E	U	T	E	N	A	N	T		G	O	V	E	R	N	O	R
6					A	P	P	R	O	P	R	I	A	T	I	O	N	S	
7				I	M	P	E	A	C	H	E	D							
8					C	O	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E					
9				B	I	C	A	M	E	R	A	L							
10					B	I	L	L											
11	C	O	M	M	I	T	T	E	E	S									
12								T	W	O									
13				S	P	E	A	K	E	R									
14							T	E	N										
15					V	E	T	O											

A Legislative Riddle

Side 1

Name(s): _____

1. Members come and make their presence known. However, this total number of Senators is set in stone. Answer: _____.

2. They call me a proposed law. They call me a bill. Whatever I'm called, I must be analyzed, _____, and debated in the House and Senate still.

3. The budget is not funny-looking or lame, but it must be passed in this type of year all the same. _____.

4. Legislators get together to figure out a problem's solution. Their existence is established by the North Carolina _____.

5. I'm a President in a way, a Lieutenant in another. My official title though, is the _____.

6. It's called many things in many nations, but in North Carolina, the "budget bill" is a bill of _____.

7. When a Governor's legal boundaries are breached, the House can vote to have him or her _____.

8. When disagreements arise between chambers, legislators don't wince. Instead they form a committee whose first name is _____.

9. _____ means I consist of two bodies (or two legislative chambers). Whoever called me that was a not a talented namer.

10. If the Governor signs this, North Carolina follows it to a tee. I'm also the nickname of a U.S. President who took office in 1993. Answer: _____.

11. There are dozens of these in each chamber, but we're not talking about donuts, roses or bakers. These _____ are where bills are discussed amongst lawmakers.

A Legislative Riddle

Side 2

12. In both chambers of the legislature, this number is the same. This number describes how long Senator and Representative terms allow for legislative fame.

Answer:

13. Some say the House chamber is weaker, but nevertheless it is led by its _____.

14. If the Governor doesn't sign or veto within _____ days, a bill becomes law in North Carolina anyway.

15. If I'm the Governor and I don't think a bill is neat-o, I can huff, puff, and whine about it, or simply issue a _____.

Fill in your answers below. What does the Puzzle Spell? _____.

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