

A Government Tree Graphics

Objective:

The student will create a web in Inspiration that visually represents the three branches of local, state, and national government. The student will analyze the similarities and differences among the branches of each level of government.

Technology Skills:

- Create graphics

TEKS:

- 4.16 (B) identify and explain the basic functions of the three branches of state government

Duration of Lesson: 1 computer lab session

Prerequisites:

- Making a graphic organizer in Inspiration

Before the Computer- Teacher: Prepare an outline of the three branches of government at each level, leaders in each, and the function of each for guiding the production of the learning web.

Procedure:

1. Select "Picture" in Inspiration. Label three symbols at the bottom of the page, "local", "state", and "national".
2. Link the three branches of government (executive, judicial, and legislative) from each symbol created in step 1, and add text links above each branch to provide more information about each one. After adding all the information, you should have a "government tree" that helps you to visualize the structure of our state, local, and national government.
3. Add graphics to the tree.
4. The following website has a nice visual representation of the three branches of the U.S. government: <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/government/branches.html>. It also provides an explanation of the function of each branch.

Assessment:

- Did the student label the government tree correctly?
- Did the student include the three branches for each level of government?
- Did the student include the function of each branch and leaders?
- Did the student incorporate appropriate graphics?

Adaptation Ideas:

- Construct a web for the three different types of rocks, how a bill becomes a law, etc.

Extension Ideas:

- Let students research the website (*Ben's Guide to U.S. Government*) provided above.
- Challenge students to add to the tree the names of local, state, and national leaders. They may have to research on the Internet to find the names of some of the leaders.

Modification Ideas:

- Allow the students to construct a "government tree" for the state level only.