



## CITIZEN'S JEOPARDY

(40-50 minutes over two days)

### OBJECTIVE

Students learn about American democracy by studying 25 facts and then playing Jeopardy in two teams.

### MATERIALS

*Citizen's Jeopardy* handout; small prizes

### GET READY

- ✓ Duplicate one copy of the Jeopardy answers for each student.
- ✓ Obtain some small prize for the winning team and an even smaller one for the losing team, for example: red and blue pencils and flag stickers.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Distribute the Jeopardy answers and spend 10 minutes reviewing the list. Consider using a cooperative review technique, such as:
  - ✓ *"Pairs Compare:" Each pair turns the handout over and writes down as many of the facts from the sheet as they can remember. Then, two pairs consult: one pair should quiz the other pair on how many facts they can remember correctly, and then the other pair takes their turn.*
- ✓ Assign the page for homework review.
- ✓ Draw a Jeopardy board with categories and amounts on the board. (Erase each amount as it is chosen.) Categories run horizontally on the top of the board. Amounts run vertically on the left side of the board, with smaller amounts up top and larger amounts below.

- ✓ Divide the class in half and play in two teams with two captains. You can choose the two people with birthdays closest to yours to be captains.
- ✓ Make sure the students do not have the *Citizen's Jeopardy* handout within view while you play.
- ✓ Call on teams alternately. The captain chooses a category and an amount, and the team confers to answer. If correct, they win the points; if incorrect, they lose the points. If they do not answer, the question goes to the other team.
- ✓ Appoint a scorekeeper to keep track of points on the board.
- ✓ Make a random question a Daily Double (allowing teams to wager any amount of points accrued up until then) and ask it to try and help the lagging team. For the Final Jeopardy answer, when teams may wager all or any part of their scores, compose an answer specific to your community.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What did you learn about democracy, specifically American democracy, by participating in this exercise?*
- ★ *What information, if any, surprised you?*
- ★ *What insights did this activity give you about your community?*

### MORE!

Add a second Double Jeopardy board that is related to local election issues.



# CITIZEN'S JEOPARDY

## HISTORY

- 10 10,000 B.C. – the date when villages began to develop into cities
- 20 3,500 B.C. – the date people began to live in permanent settlements
- 30 Order, Peace, and Security – the first needs of ancient cities
- 40 Caretaker of Crops and Chief Planner of Defense – the first areas of authority in ancient cities
- 50 Old English Laws – the model colonists used for their local governments

## TYPES OF ELECTIONS

- 10 Local Election – an election to elect members of the city council and mayor
- 20 Initiative Election – a method of enacting ordinances that begins with petitions by citizens
- 30 Recall – a petition process by which voters can remove an elected official from office in midterm
- 40 Bond Election – an election to determine whether a city may borrow money by selling bonds
- 50 Charter Election – an election to determine whether a city will adopt its own constitution and to elect people to draft it

## CITY BOARDS AND SERVICES

- 10 Library – the board that runs the libraries
- 20 Parks and Recreation – a board to plan, build, and oversee parks and other recreation for city residents, such as races, sports classes, etc.
- 30 Sanitation – the service of collecting garbage and keeping the city clean
- 40 Planning and Zoning – a board that plans the use of buildings or activities that can occur in each area of the city

- 50 Public Works – anything constructed by government with public funds for the use or pleasure of the general public, such as libraries, etc.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- 10 Annex – to bring property into boundaries
- 20 County Board of Supervisors – elected officials that run local and state elections among other things
- 30 Grant-In-Aid – federal money given to states or cities to help pay for programs
- 40 Public Utility – an organization that provides essential products or services, such as light, water, gas
- 50 Corporation – people joined together and given the authority to act as a single entity, as a city

## FORMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 10 Strong Mayor-Council/Assembly – council/assembly governs; mayor appoints department heads and controls them
- 20 Weak Mayor-Council/Assembly – council/assembly governs; mayor appoints few, if any department heads and has limited control over them
- 30 Council/Assembly-Manager – council/assembly appoints manager to carry out policies and she/he appoints department heads
- 40 Commission – elected commissioners each head a department and together govern the city
- 50 Home-Rule – the authority for locally elected officials to make local decisions