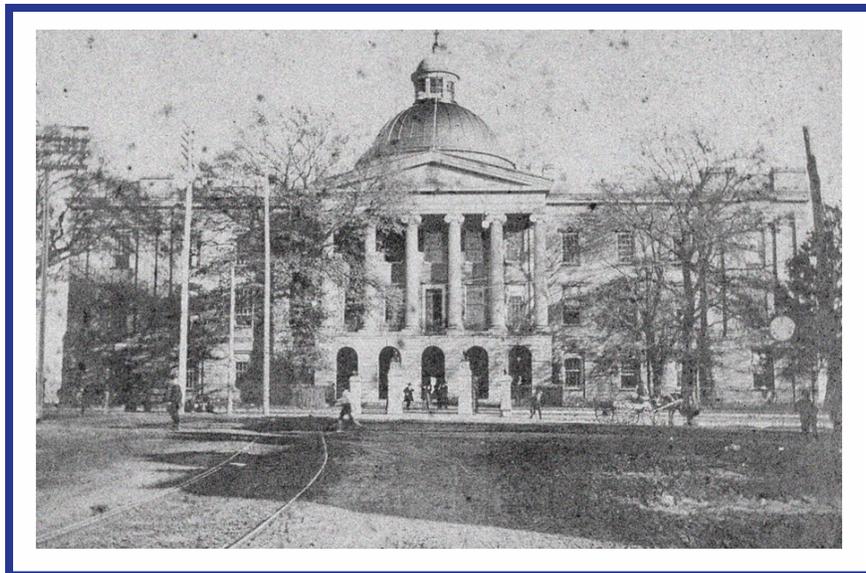


*The Old Capitol Museum  
Directing Democracy  
Resource Guide*





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# Directing Democracy Program Goals

**Grade Level:** This program can accommodate 4th grade through high school.

**Goals:**

- Discuss the three branches of the Mississippi state government.
- Learn the various duties and responsibilities of several state government offices.
- Describe the various stages of the state election process.

**Objectives:**

Students will learn:

- The differences and make-up of the three branches of the state government.
- To identify the various state officials and understand the role each one plays in the state government.
- The step-by-step process that goes into the election of state officials.

Common Core Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies 6-12

RH.6-8.4, RH.6-8.5, RH.6-8.7, RH.9-10.4, RH.9-10.7, RH.11-12.4

## Mississippi Social Studies Competencies

(4th) Mississippi Studies	6th Grade	(9th) Mississippi Studies	US Government
1a, 1b, 1c	1a, 1b, 1c, 3a	2a, 2b	3a, 3b, 7a,

# *Directing Democracy*

## *Terms to Know*

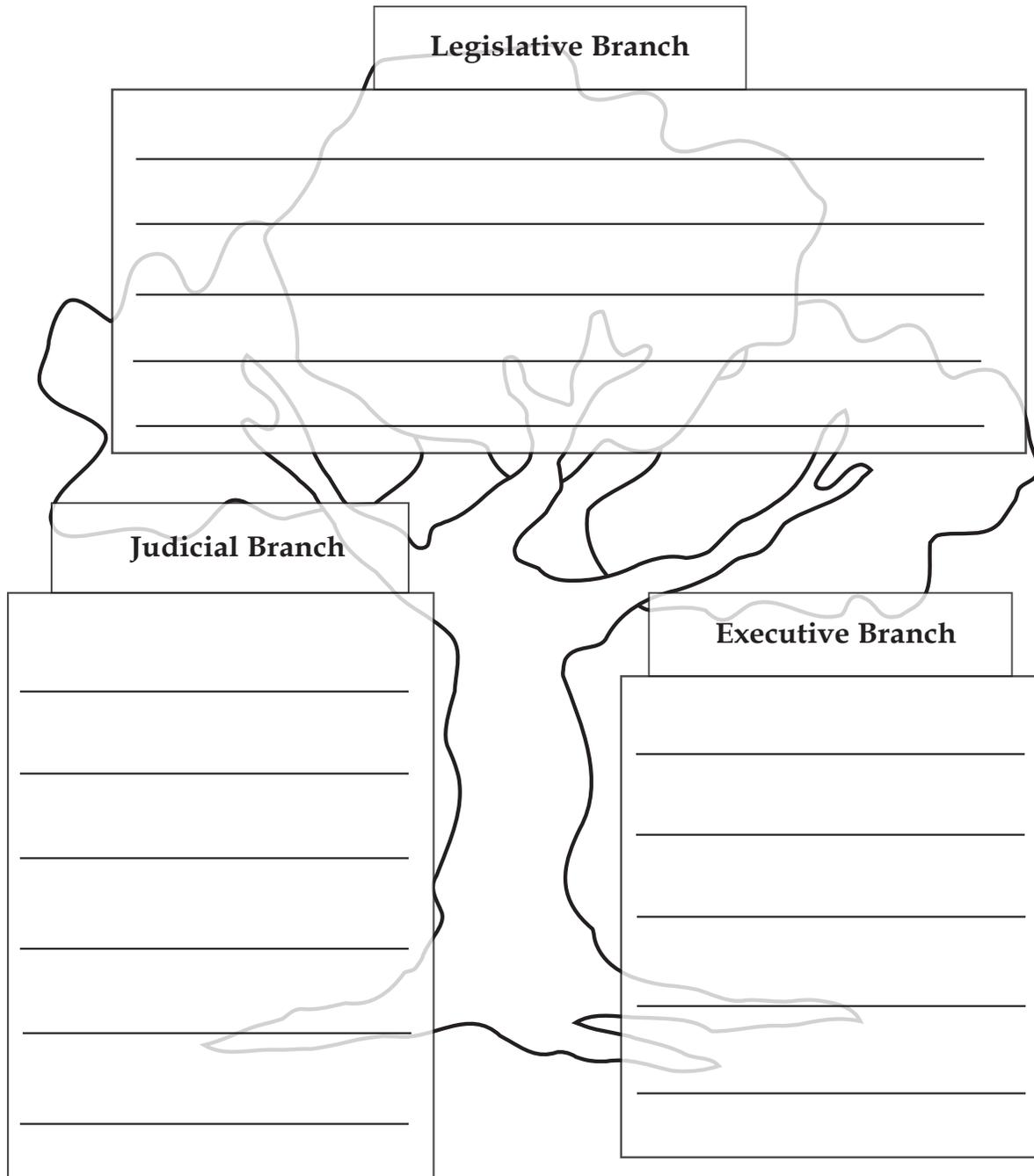
- 1. Attorney General** – chief legal officer and lawyer of the state
- 2. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court** – presiding judge on the State Supreme Court
- 3. Executive Branch** – branch of government responsible for enforcing state laws and programs
- 4. General Election** – election that determines who will serve in an office for an allotted term
- 5. Governor** – the head of the executive branch responsible for enforcing laws and approving or vetoing legislation
- 6. House of Representatives** – one of two chambers of the state legislature; representatives are apportioned based on population
- 7. Judicial Branch** – branch of government responsible for interpreting laws and reviewing the decisions made by lower courts
- 8. Legislative Branch** – branch of government responsible for creating laws
- 9. Lieutenant Governor** – the president of the state senate responsible for appointing the members of senate committees, casting the tie breaking vote, and succeeding to the governorship at the death, resignation, or removal of the governor
- 10. Political Party** – a group of ideologically like-minded individuals who band together to accomplish common goals through the political system
- 11. Primary Election** – election held by political parties to determine who will be their candidates for various offices before the general election
- 12. Runoff Election** – special election between two candidates held by a political party if no candidate for a specific office received over fifty percent of the primary vote
- 13. Secretary of State** – head of the state department responsible for monitoring elections, administering public lands, and overseeing publications of state and agency documents
- 14. Senate** – one of two chambers of the state legislature; sections of the state are represented by one individual, regardless of population
- 15. Speaker of the House** – presiding officer of the State House of Representatives and leader of the majority party responsible for appointing the members of House committees
- 16. Veto** – the power of the governor to stop the enactment of legislation by refusing to sign it into law

*Old Capitol Museum  
Directing Democracy  
Activity 1*

\*Post-visit activity  
\*Grade levels 4th-high school

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Directions: Using the list on Page 2 of Activity 1, either cut and paste or write the duty or job title associated with the correct branch of government on the chart below. After completing the chart use the back of the page to answer the question at the bottom of the page.*



Which government positions on a National level would fall under each of these branches?  
What about on the local level?

Interprets the constitution

Carries out laws

Vetoes or approves laws

Writes laws

Approves budgets for state departments

Reviews decisions made by lower courts

Enforces laws

Can impeach officials

Mississippi Supreme Court

Governor

House of Representatives

Senate

Lieutenant Governor

*Old Capitol Museum  
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Activity 2*

\*Pre or Post-visit activity  
\*Grade levels 4th-high school

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Directions: Using the wordbank below, write the title of the job that corresponds to the position below. Answer the question below the word bank using the back of the page if necessary.*

1. This person is the only individual who may represent Mississippi in court.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. This judge is elected by Mississippians and gains this title through seniority.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. This person approves or vetoes bills passed by the Mississippi Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. This person serves as president of the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. This person is head of the majority party in the Mississippi House of Representatives.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. This person oversees the publication of state and agency documents and serves at the "Keeper of the Capitol."

\_\_\_\_\_

**WORD BANK:**

Secretary of State  
Attorney General  
Speaker of the House

Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court  
Lieutenant Governor  
Governor

Look up these positions to find a full list of each person's duties. How are these positions important to the running of our state government?

# *Old Capitol Museum Directing Democracy Activity 3*

Directions: Choose four students to run for class president. Allow the class to vote for the candidate on a piece of paper. Post the number of votes each candidate received on the board. Allow students to answer the following questions about the vote.

\*Pre or Post-visit activity  
\*Grade levels 4th-high school

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Directions: After voting on a class president, answer the following questions.*

1. Who won the majority of the votes?
2. How many votes did the winner receive?
3. Using the following formula, figure out the percentage of votes that the winning candidate received.

$$\text{NUMBER OF WINNER'S VOTES} \div \text{TOTAL VOTES} = \text{WINNING PERCENTAGE}$$

4. Use the same formula to find out the percentage of votes that each candidate received.
5. Was the winning percentage greater than 50%? If not, how is a runoff election used to determine a winner?
6. Do you find the method for choosing the winning candidate fair? Why or why not?

*Old Capitol Museum  
Directing Democracy  
Activity 4*

\*Pre or Post-visit activity  
\*Grade levels 4th-high school

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Directions: Match the names of our state officials with their current position then answer the question at the bottom of the page.*

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| _____ 1. Speaker of the House                                 | A. Lynn Fitch             |
| _____ 2. Chief Justice of the Mississippi State Supreme Court | B. Phil Bryant            |
| _____ 3. State Treasurer                                      | C. Phillip Gunn           |
| _____ 4. Governor   | D. Cindy Hyde-Smith       |
| _____ 5. State Auditor  | E. William L. Waller, Jr. |
| _____ 6. Commissioner of Insurance                            | F. Delbert Hoseman        |
| _____ 7. Lieutenant Governor                                  | G. Stacey Pickering       |
| _____ 8. Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce             | H. Mike Chaney            |
| _____ 9. Secretary of State                                   | I. Jim Hood               |
| _____ 10. Attorney General                                    | J. Tate Reeves            |

Why is it important to know who our state officials are and what their platforms are?

**ENRICHMENT:**

Research the platform of one of your state officials. In what ways could his/her platform impact their decisions and performance?

# *Directing Democracy*

## *Answer Key*

### **Activity 1:**

#### **Legislative Branch:**

Writes Laws

Approves budgets for state departments

Can impeach officials

House of Representatives

Senate

Lieutenant Governor

#### **Judicial Branch:**

Interprets the constitution

Reviews decisions made by lower courts

Mississippi Supreme Court

#### **Executive Branch:**

Carries out laws

Vetoes or approves laws

Enforces laws

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

### **Activity 2:**

1. Attorney General, 2. Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, 3. Governor, 4. Lieutenant Governor, 5. Speaker of the House, 6. Secretary of State

### **Activity 4:**

1. C, 2. E, 3. A, 4. B, 5. G, 6. H, 7. J, 8. D, 9. F, 10. I

*Please complete and  
return the evaluation  
form at the back of the  
packet.*

# *The Old Capitol Museum*

## Teacher Evaluation Form

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Tour \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the total number and age range of students participating?
2. How well did this program and tour hold your students' attention? Which part, if any, of the program and tour did not hold your students' attention?
3. Does this program add to your teaching of the same subject? How? If not, how could it be changed to benefit you in the classroom?
4. Was the power point presentation informative and appropriate for your students?  
Please explain.
5. How could this program and tour be improved?
6. How useful were the enrichment activities for your students? What suggestions do you have to make them more effective?
7. Please give your additional comments on the back of the sheet.

Please mail or fax the completed evaluation form to the address or fax number below.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Old Capitol Museum

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[www.oldcapitolmuseum.com](http://www.oldcapitolmuseum.com)





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