

ISLAND ACTIVITY

Learning Objectives: The student will

1. Analyze the intellectual origins of our government;
2. Problem-solve major issues necessary to create a government.

TEKS: 6.11 A, 6.12 A, 6.21 B & D, 6.23 B; 7.21 B & D; 7.23 B; 8.19 D; 8.29 B & E; 8.31 B

Materials Needed: Transparency of scenario and steps

Vocabulary: Government, rules, laws, intellectual

Teaching Strategy:

1. Have the students read the scenario and then follow directions for each step.
2. Tell the students that their decision should reflect an understanding of the intellectual origins of our government. For each use of these intellectual origins (philosophies or documents) in the creation of their new government, they will receive a bonus point.

Extension for GT/Pre-AP: After going through the above exercise, instruct students to pretend they are survivors of “the island” experience and have arrived back home. They should write a newspaper article about those experiences. The articles should include decisions made by the group and how they worked.

Modifications for Special Education/ESL: Activity should be done in pairs/groups. Questions should be simplified for limited English students. Use key words.

1. What will you do for shelter .
2. How will you choose a leader ?
3. Who can own property?



THE ISLAND

(An Exercise in Developing Structure
in a Structureless Society)

You are on an island. It is three miles long and one mile wide. The highest elevation on the island is 300 feet at the north end. A cave was found within this hill that contains 500 pounds of wheat in an unmarked waterproof container. There is a fresh spring on the island. The island is somewhere in a warm-water ocean. Thirty percent of the island is covered with vegetation. The island is not on any air or sea navigation chart. No plane or ship passes within sight of the island. Whatever means you had for getting on the island is destroyed. If you were on a ship, the ship has sunk to a depth of three miles in the open sea. The ship had no contact with any other ship or station. The port authority in the last port from which you departed had no knowledge of your destination or location. If you traveled by air, all contact with air traffic control was lost at least 1,000 miles from your current location. No SOS or May Day call was sent. Your physical condition on the island is exactly as it is at this moment. After the immediate needs such as food and shelter are met, you must answer the following questions.

Step One: Do you need a leader? List the reasons for and against having a leader. What character traits should the leader possess? Describe the powers this leader must have.

Step Two: What should be done about ownership of private property?

Step Three: What should happen if the group of the island disagrees with actions or decisions of the leader?

Step Four: Do you need laws? What laws are necessary on the island? Describe who should make the laws and how they will be enforced.

Step Five: What should be done if another group lands on the island?