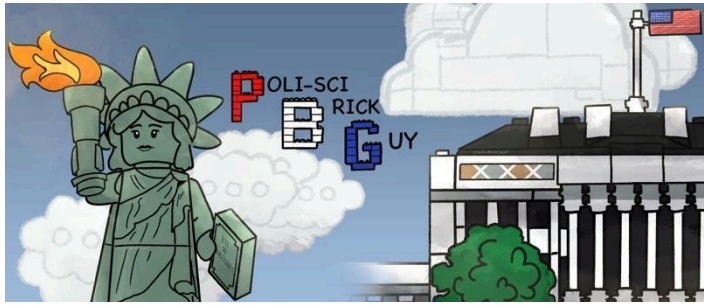




Lesson Plan: Levels of Voter Turnout in American Politics

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Overview	This lesson examines the factors that influence voter turnout in the United States and explores why some citizens participate in elections while others do not. Using data analysis and discussion students will investigate trends in voter participation and consider the implications of low and high turnout for representative democracy.
Essential Questions	• Why do some citizens vote while others choose not to participate in elections? • What factors have the greatest impact on voter turnout in the United States? • What strategies are most effective in encouraging political participation and voter engagement?
Lesson Objectives	• Compare voter turnout rates across different types of elections and explain reasons for variation. • Interpret data related to voter turnout trends and voting behavior.
Suggested Unit in A.P. Government	Unit 5.2

Core Skills Used	Data Analysis, Source Analysis
Activity Duration	20-45 minutes
Materials	• <i>LEGO Video:</i> Levels of Voter Turnout • Student Activity Document
Procedure	Video (2 min): Show the LEGO video “ Levels of Voter Turnout ”
	Activity (15-20 min): 1. Have students work through the Student Activity Document. 2. For the last section, split the class into 5 groups to read this site. Assign each group one of the subsections to read and take notes over. Then, jigsaw the information. Alternatively, each group could present to the class.
	Debrief (5-10 min): Discuss their findings on the Student Activity Document.
	Optional Extension (10 min): Have students explore how to register to vote and voting procedures in their local area.