

Who's Running the Country?

A major cross-curricular project for Citizenship on politics, democracy and power.

Special Offer to Professional Learning Community Subscribers – HALF PRICE OFFER

By Kerrie Sharron

KS2-KS3

The Arab Spring is an ideal hook to start children thinking about power and democracy.

This Democracy Project is a KS2-3 citizenship scheme of work introducing students to different forms of government and the values underlying them. It introduces pupils to the 'big' themes of politics through an experiential, talk-based approach.

The project is structured around the class creating its own country. The class then live a story of events that happen to their country and through newspaper articles and leaflets, they are part of an evolving story of change. Students must use their imaginations to be part of this world – and to participate in the changes happening to them.

Using debate, scenario-based role-play and problem solving, students empathise with the experience of different types of government. This process helps them to develop the necessary tools to debate issues arising in the political sphere.

The final project involves students creating their own 'ideal' government and gives the opportunity for them to apply their learning about values, processes and concepts from previous lessons and develop their own beliefs.

This pack is successful in its simplicity. By focusing only on basic concepts students can take away firmer and deeper understandings of meanings. Creative thought is critical to the unit!

The pack comprises of:

- Teacher's Manual.
- Book of Photocopiable Resources and Activity Sheets.
- 2 x A3 full colour posters.
- CD of Powerpoint slides to accompany the lesson plans detailed in the manual, plus other resources.

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