

# Teacher's Guide

AG IN THE CLASSROOM—HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION UNDERSTAND THEIR CONNECTION TO AGRICULTURE

### Visitor's Guide to Colorado's Capitol

Colorado General Assembly  
Colorado Legislative Council  
Room 029, Capitol Building  
Denver, CO 80203

A full color brochure/poster highlights history, Colorado facts and the capitol building.

### Your Vote Your Voice

League of Women Voters of Colorado  
Education Fund  
1410 Grant Street, B-204  
Denver, CO 80203  
303-863-VOTE

A brochure describing current year election process.

### Cooperative Program Publications

Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Services  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Several booklets and publications, including "Cooperative Principles and Legal Foundations," "Agricultural Cooperatives: Pioneer to Modern."

### Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assn., Inc.

12076 Grant Street, P.O. Box 33695  
Denver, CO 80233  
303-452-6111

### Colorado Cooperative Council

PO Box 506  
Eaton, CO 80615  
970-454-4054

### Colorado Rural Electric Assn.

1313 West 46th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80211  
303-455-2700

### Colorado Credit Union League

4905 West 60th  
Arvada, CO 80001  
303-427-1697

### Kids Voting Colorado

P.O. Box 18865  
Denver, CO 80218-0865  
303-839-6303

see the USDA Cooperative Information Report 45, Section 2, Cooperative Business Principles included in your reader package

Comments, questions, suggestions and feedback about the Colorado Reader are welcome.

Contact: Colorado Reader Publisher:

Colorado Foundation for Agriculture

Bette Blinde, Director, P.O. Box 10, Livermore, CO 80536

Phone (970) 881-2902, Fax: (970) 881-2587

### Activities & Discussion

The democratic process or "rule by the people" is most often associated with the legislative branch of government and the election process. To expand the students' awareness of other examples of democracy in action discuss the organization and operation of service clubs, community organizations and cooperative businesses - all controlled by a democratically elected board of directors. Democracy gives a voice to each person in the decision-making process. To be effective, individuals must accept responsibility to participate in the process.

**DISCUSSION:** Ask students to identify service clubs and organizations serving their community. How are they controlled? Who makes the decisions and how are they made? Who elects the board of directors and how are they elected?

**DISCUSSION:** Ask students to identify businesses serving their community. Which are cooperatives? How is a cooperative different from other businesses? Students may be familiar with these types of cooperatives: credit unions - which have a presence in both urban and rural communities; and utility cooperatives which provide gas and electric service to many communities outside the urban areas. In Colorado, more than 70% of the land area is served by 22

rural electric cooperatives. Farmers and ranchers, as well as many residents of rural communities, are served by supply and marketing cooperatives. Farm credit cooperatives provide financing for farmers and ranchers.

Emphasize the rights and responsibilities of individual citizens  
(continued on page 2)

### Page 2: Answers

#### Majority means:

- most
- fewest
- average

#### Minority means:

- most
- fewest
- average

#### Debate means:

- discuss opposing points
- lunch in the Senate
- majority leader's desk

#### Which of the following best describes a political party?

- the conventions held to nominate candidates
- a group of people that agrees on goals for government
- hamburgers and apple pie

#### Which of the following shows the order of steps a bill will take to become a law in Colorado?

- introduction in House, committee debate, introduction to Senate, committee debate, both Houses vote on bill, send to governor to sign into law
- governor signs, House debates, Senate votes
- sponsor takes the bill to the governor; both Senate and House vote, committees debate, majority leader signs or vetoes bill

#### Why do you think a governor would veto a bill?

The governor might veto a bill if he doesn't agree with it.

#### Why do you think a governor would allow a bill to become a law without his or her signature?

The governor might not sign a bill if he doesn't agree with it, but knows if he vetoes it, the bill will pass by 2/3 vote when returned to house.

(continued from page 1)

for effective representative government and likewise the responsibility to be active members of their cooperatives and other organizations serving the greater community in which they live.

Cooperative businesses are a unique example of democracy in action. Privilege is not without responsibility whether in government, community organizations or cooperatives. Discuss the negatives that result from apathy and lack of participation and focus on the importance of active participation in government, community and cooperatives.

"We must all hang together, or assuredly, we shall all hang separately." - Benjamin Franklin. What does this mean today? See if your students can reach a consensus.

**Page 6: Answers**

Rewrite the following words and divide them into syllables:

cooperative  
coop/er/a/tive

member  
mem/ber

employee  
em/ploy/ee

democracy  
de/moc/ra/cy

representative  
rep/re/sent/a/tive

legislative  
leg/is/la/tive

government  
gov/ern/ment

**Activity**

Objective: To give class members the opportunity to practice parliamentary procedure, experience the democratic process and become more familiar with the basic cooperative principle of democratic control.

**Review Definitions:**

1. Democratic process of decision making
2. Parliamentary

procedure

**3. Cooperative business or organization**

For this activity, students will organize a cooperative to market snacks at school functions. Profits will be used to purchase a needed piece of equipment for the school. A \$1.00 membership fee has been determined to be acceptable. The total collected fees will provide funds for a beginning inventory.

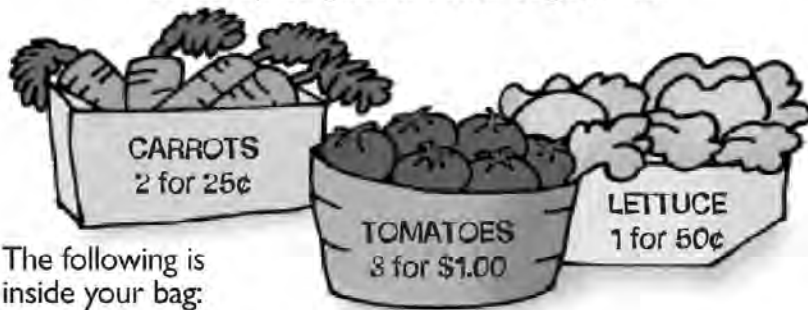
- I. Election of directors. Teacher presides over the nomination and election process. Upon election of the chairperson he/she presides (with teacher oversight). Elect vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer. Be sure that nominations come from the total group and each position is filled by democratic election (secret ballot is desirable with only the winner being announced).
- II. The next agenda item is deciding which snacks will be sold. Limit to non perishables that will keep between activities. Remind the group that the more variety of snacks they purchase, the fewer of any one item they will have to sell. Thus, they may run out of some items in their inventory. Examples might be candy, snack foods, individual cookies, soda, fruit juices, etc.
- III. Another agenda item might be the selection of the equipment to be purchased with the funds generated. If the class has identified equipment in advance there will be more commitment to the project. Be realistic in your estimate of funds generation. Have class discuss, under leadership of the chairperson, the

various needs using appropriate parliamentary procedure to insure order. After all suggestions have been made, eliminate those that are in the unrealistic price range. Now vote on the final decision with a majority (one more than half) required. Continue to vote until a majority is reached to illustrate the majority rules principle.



All of the businesses above are cooperatives. How many can you count? 6

The farmers market is having a sale – so you decide to stock-up on your favorite vegetables.



The following is inside your bag:

4 carrots, 6 tomatoes, 2 heads of lettuce

What is the total cost of the vegetables?           \$3.50          

If you pay with a \$5 bill, what is your change?           \$1.50          

**Cooperatives are based on cooperation.**

**What does cooperation mean?**

- the act or process of convincing someone of your point of view
- negotiating or discussing agreeable terms of employment
- working together and combining resources to achieve a goal
- all of the above

**LABEL THE PARTS OF A COOPERATIVE:**

Decisions are made by this elected group, called the

**B O A R D of D I R E C T O R S**

Its directors are elected by members and hire the manager, who hires other employees of the business.

Income pays the expenses of operating the cooperative.



Goods and services provided by the cooperative

Co-op headed by a **M A N A G E R**

Sold to and bought by:

**M E M B E R S**



Profit is used to expand the business or is returned to members.

IV. Conduct other business as time and interest permits continuing to emphasize that the democratic decision-making process is one of the founding

EXECUTIVE: A person or group having administrative

(continued on page 4)

principles of a cooperative organization whereby members exercise control in making key decisions.

**Activity**

Draw a chart showing the organization of your school.

**Newspaper Activity**

**What do you think** are the three most important issues facing our state? Write them down. (Look in the Denver Post's main section and the Denver and the West section). Through class discussion decide the important issues and write a class platform about them.

**Put together your own front**

**page** of a newspaper announcing the results of the November election. Write the main story with the news of the candidates you think will win. Use your imagination to fill up the rest of the page. (Examples: write an interview with a winner's spouse; include a map showing which candidates carried which state, etc.).

**Vocabulary:**

**DEMOCRACY:** Government by the people; a social condition of equality and respect for the individual within the community.

**GOVERNOR:** Chief executive of a state in the U.S.

**REPRESENT:** To serve as the official and authorized delegate or agent for; act as a spokesperson for.

**MANAGER:** A person who is in charge; a person who manages a business or other enterprise.

**MEMBERS:** Persons who belong to a group or organization

**MAJORITY:** The greater number or part; a number more than half of the total number of a given group.

**MINORITY:** The smaller in number of parts; a group of persons or things numbering less than half of the total.

# POP QUIZ

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the three branches of government in the United States?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Cooperatives are:
  - a. democratically run businesses
  - b. controlled by the members
  - c. user-owned
  - d. all of the above
3. The Colorado General Assembly is made up of what two groups?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. TRUE or FALSE: There are 35 senators and 65 members of the house. \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers to Pop Quiz (above):

1. Executive, Legislative, Judicial
2. d
3. Senate, House of Representatives
4. True

.....  
 (continued from page 3)

or managerial authority in an organization; the chief officer of a government, the branch of government charged with putting into effect the country's laws; the administration.

**LEGISLATIVE:** The legislative body of a government; having the power to create laws.

**JUDICIAL:** Of or pertaining to courts of law or to the administration of justice.

## Activity

Have your students spell and define the following words:

- democracy
- governor
- represent
- manager
- members
- majority
- minority
- executive
- legislative
- judicial

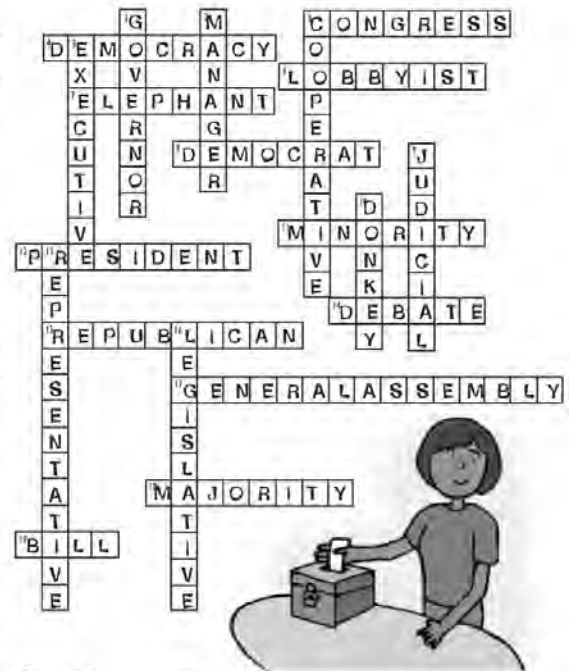
## Page 8: Crossword Answers

### CROSSWORD • CROSSWORD • CROSSWORD

#### Across

3. the federal legislative branch of government
4. a government based on "rule by the people"
6. representative of a business or industry who specializes in political legislation
7. official symbol of the Republican Party
8. one of two main political parties whose symbol is a donkey
11. the main party with the fewest number of legislators representing it in Congress or General Assembly
12. the executive branch of the federal government is headed by the \_\_\_\_\_
14. to argue opposing viewpoints of a subject or law
15. one of two main political parties whose official symbol is an elephant
17. the legislative branch of state government (2 words)
18. the main party with the most legislators representing it in Congress or General Assembly
19. a proposed law or legislation that must be voted on by Congress or the General Assembly before moving on to become a law.

Keywords:	
democracy	bill
Congress	governor
lobbyist	manager
elephant	cooperative
democrat	executive
minority	judicial
president	donkey
debate	General Assembly
republican	representative
majority	legislative



#### Down

1. leader of the executive branch of state government
2. the person hired to run a business
3. user-owned business; also know as a co-op
5. one of three branches of government; the state branch is lead by a governor
9. this branch of government interprets the laws
10. a symbol developed in the 1870s by cartoonist Thomas Nast to represent the Democrat party
13. the United States government is a \_\_\_\_\_ democracy
16. the branch of government that makes the laws