The levels game

During this activity, students will discover that there are different levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal). They will also further discover the government’s influence on their daily lives.

A BIT OF THEORY

The government and its decisions have an impact on our daily lives. Just take a look around and you’ll see!

Our political system is made up of different levels of government that share powers and jurisdictions: federal, provincial and municipal.

Federal and provincial jurisdictions

How the powers are shared between the federal government and those of the provinces and territories is defined in the Canadian Constitution. Some jurisdictions are held by only one level of government, while others are shared between the federal and provincial governments.

Examples of federal jurisdictions:

- National defence
- Postal service
- Banking and monetary systems (currency)
- Indigenous affairs
- Foreign affairs and trade
- Criminal law
- Employment insurance
- Citizenship
- Fisheries and oceans
Examples of provincial jurisdictions:

- Education
- Health care
- Social services
- Municipal affairs
- Administration of justice
- Civil law

Examples of the distribution of jurisdictions (federal and provincial):

- Natural resources
- Agriculture
- Immigration
- Transportation
- Culture
- Labor
- Environment

Municipal jurisdictions

Municipal politics play an important role in our democratic life, and the elected representatives at this level are responsible for the issues that most closely affect the community.

Examples of municipal jurisdictions:

- Culture, sports and recreation (libraries)
- Social and community development
- Public transportation
- Housing, social housing, property assessments
- Assistance for the homeless
- Urban development (planning)
- Economic development
- Parks
- Security services
- Municipal court
- Waste collection (garbage pick-up)
- Local roads
- Water supply and wastewater treatment (water and sewage)
1. Explain to students the various levels of government and the areas of jurisdiction for which they are responsible by referring to the “A bit of theory” section.

2. Ask students to examine the pictograms on the activity sheet. These pictograms illustrate different areas of jurisdiction.

3. Invite them to group the pictograms by level of government. To do so, you can ask the students to cut out the pictograms and work in teams.
The levels game

As you just learned, there are different levels of government: federal, provincial, municipal, and school. This activity will test your understanding of the jurisdictions that are under the responsibility of each level. Cut out the pictograms below. Each represents a jurisdiction. Group them according to whether they fall under federal, provincial or municipal jurisdiction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Deploying soldiers to help a country that has suffered an earthquake</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ordering work to expand a hospital</strong></th>
<th><strong>Broadcasting the Olympic Games</strong></th>
<th><strong>Building a shopping mall</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Issuing driver’s licences</strong></td>
<td><strong>Producing collector coins</strong></td>
<td><strong>Managing the programs and services offered to Indigenous people</strong></td>
<td><strong>Improving the quality of the library</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Giving funding to schools</strong></td>
<td><strong>Setting up bike paths</strong></td>
<td><strong>Issuing a recreational fishing permit for the weekend</strong></td>
<td><strong>Increasing the minimum wage</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Deciding on the fare for public transport</strong></td>
<td><strong>Maintaining a park in your city</strong></td>
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