

# Lesson Plan – “A Capitol Script”

For use in conjunction with the publication, “A Capitol Script”

*Developed for grades 6 and 7*



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**Lesson: Using “A Capitol Script” to Learn About Virginia**

**Grade Level:** Grades 6-7

**Resource:** “A Capitol Script”

(<https://capclass.viriniageneralassembly.gov/Publications/Publications.html>) The publication is designed for electronic or printed use and can be used in its entirety or selected sections.

**Notes for teachers:**

1. This resource includes suggested questions for students to answer as they navigate the publication, “A Capitol Script”. These questions are only suggestions and are intended to be used in a variety of ways including, but not limited to: independent work, group/whole class discussion, or a gallery walk around the room with the questions posted. Choose the questions that best fit your student needs.



## “A Capitol Script”

### Setting the Stage

1. Describe the power given to each branch of Virginia’s state government.

a. Executive Branch

b. Legislative Branch

c. Judicial Branch

### A Preview of Legislative Terms

1. Choose one term with which you are unfamiliar. Write that term and its definition.

### Setting the Scene

1. Create a timeline using the information on this page.

2. Virginia is known as the “mother of presidents”. What information could be used to support this statement?



### The Cast of Characters

1. Complete the chart below with information about each position.

<b>Position Title</b>	<b>Description of Position</b>
<b>Senator</b>	
<b>Delegate</b>	
<b>Lieutenant Governor</b>	
<b>President pro tempore</b>	
<b>Senate Majority Leader</b>	
<b>Senate Minority Leader</b>	
<b>Clerk of the Senate</b>	
<b>Clerk of the House of Delegates</b>	
<b>Legislative Assistants</b>	
<b>Pages</b>	

### Act 1: Preparation

1. Describe the role Senators play throughout the year.

2. Who may introduce legislation?

### Act 2: The Committee Process

1. Who refers bills to committee in the Senate?

2. Who refers bills to committee in the House?

Explain the committee process.



### **Act 3: Floor Sessions: Senate of Virginia**

1. Explain the three readings of a bill during Senate Floor sessions.
  - a. First Reading
  
  
  
  - b. Second Reading
  
  
  
  - c. Third Reading
  
2. Describe the meaning of a citizen legislature.

### **Act 3: Floor Sessions: Virginia House of Delegates**

1. Similar to the Senate, bills in the House must be read three times. What is the difference in second reading between the House and Senate?

### **Desks in the Senate and House of Delegates**

1. The buttons on desks in both chambers are similar. Describe the difference(s) between a Senator's desk and a Delegate's desk.

### **Act 3 Extra**

1. Bills passed in the body of origin must be passed by the other body. In some cases, the other body amends the original form of the bill. If each body insists on its own form of a bill, what happens next?

### **Act 4: Governor's Action**

1. Describe the three actions the Governor can take on a bill that passes both bodies.



2. Unless a specific effective date is provided in a bill, when do all laws from a regular session go into effect?

3. Describe why a special session would convene.

4. Explain the purpose of a reconvened session.

### **Act 5: YOU**

1. List at least three ways you can get involved in your community.

2. What four requirements must be met for a person to vote in the Commonwealth of Virginia?

3. Where can eligible citizens obtain applications and register to vote?

### **The Finale**

1. Where can Senators and Delegates be reached when the Virginia General Assembly is in session?

2. Where should correspondence be directed when the General Assembly is not in session?