**Social Studies Home Learning Activities**

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| Standard Benchmark  Civics 1 | Students will understand that governments have a variety of structures and exist for many purposes and that in America these are explained in the United States and State constitutions. |
| Grade Band | 4-5 |
| Vocabulary/Key Concepts | government, structures, purposes |

**Government in Our Lives**

**Focus Questions:** Why do we have governments? What are the purposes of governments?

**Activity 1**

Imagine a world with lots of people and no rules. What would that be like – pleasant or unpleasant? Would it remain that way over time?

See chart below.

In column 1, create a list of things you did from the moment you wake up in the morning (e.g. got out of bed, walked across the floor to the bathroom…).

In column 2, identify one way that government may have had its hands in everything you did e.g. made sure that the people who made my bed made it strong enough to hold me., created laws to ensure that ingredients in toothpaste are safe, provided pipes and clean water that are used to brush teeth and shower etc.).

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| **Things I Did After I Woke Up Today** | **How Might Government Have Been Involved?** |
| 1. Got out of bed | Made sure that the people who made my bed made it strong enough to hold me. |
| Then I… |  |
| Then I… |  |
| Then I… |  |
| Then I… |  |
| Then I… |  |
| Then I… |  |
| Then I… |  |
| Then I… |  |

**Activity 2**

Look at your big list and make it smaller by creating a few categories that shrinks all of the things you did into the main purposes of government. For example, one big category might be “governments protect people”. Another might be

The categories help you to identify purposes of governments. Once you create the categories, place each thing you did since waking up in the category under which it seems to fit best.

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| **Category 1**  **Governments Protect Us** |
| Things I did or observed today that fall under this category   * Got out of a bed that government made sure was safe. * Add others here… |

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| **Category 2**  **Governments Provide Services** |
| Things I did or observed today that fall under this category   * Brushed my teeth with clean water that came from our government * Add others here… |

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| **Category 2**  **Governments \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| Things I did or observed today that fall under this category   * You add here… |

**Activity 3**

Walk around your home or look outside your window and try to identify ten things in your home or community that government does or should do and place them under the categories that you created.

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| **Things I see Around the House That Governments Do or Should Do** | **Things I see Outside That Governments Do or Should Do** |
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**Activity 4**

Watch the news or read a newspaper and describe things that governments are doing in some of the news stories.