



Oregon State Capitol Lesson Plan: There Ought to be a Law Grade 4



The following plans were developed by a committee of educators and designed to meet state department of education social studies standards.

Before Your Capitol Visit

There Ought to be a Law

Duration

Two 30-minute class periods. (More class time may be needed.)

Description/Objective

Students will learn the process of writing and presenting a bill to be considered for a law.

Oregon Standards

Social Science Standards: 4.14: Explain the organization and functions of Oregon Government.

Literacy Standards: 4R1.7: Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (i.e., in charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

Oregon English and Language Arts Standards

Knowledge of Language

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
 - a. Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.

NCSS Standards

Theme 10: Civic Ideals and Practices

Capitol History Gateway Messaging

Message 3: It is easy to get involved in Oregon's democracy.

Resources

1. 'There Ought to be a Law' power point
2. How a Bill Becomes a Law document
3. Bottle Bill Fact Sheet (Attachment C)
4. 'Reader Theater' Script for classroom participation - House committee hearing on Oregon's Bottle Bill (Attachment D)
5. Character Cards for Reader Theater Bottle Bill Hearing (Attachment E 1-15)
6. K-W-L Chart (Attachment F)

Vocabulary

Bill, Law, Legislator, Representative, Senator, Governor, Hearing, Committee, Testify, Debate, Vote, Veto, Chairman, Majority Rules

Activities/Procedure

1. Teacher led brainstorming using K-W-L Chart for responses: Why do we have laws? How are laws made? Who makes the laws? Name a law. What is a bill?
2. Record responses for future in-class discussion. (For expected responses see attachment.)

3. Resources include the Oregon Bottle Bill fact sheet, classroom “Readers Theater” and **THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW** document. The teacher will instruct students on the origin and development of the bill. Resources provide an example of how the bill progresses through the process; from committee hearings to the debate and votes in the House and Senate Chamber, to Oregon’s governor signing the bill.
4. Referring to the K-W-L Chart, students will add information and/or change what has been learned.
5. A ‘Readers Theater’ has been developed using Oregon’s Bottle Bill as the real-life example allowing students to become actively involved in a committee hearing. The script, a short fact sheet for the Oregon Bottle Bill, and the ‘character cards’ are provided in the following attachments: (Attachment C, D and E1-15).

Extension Activities

1. Given a list of Oregon student led bills the classroom can take an idea and write a bill.
2. Divide the room into groups of three to five (keeping it an odd number eliminates an issue in voting within each group). Each group would write their own bill. Each group should have a secretary, a researcher and a presenter. Groups of five could add the following roles; recorder and fact checker.
3. Once the ‘idea’ has been decided, the researcher from each group would find evidence of why their bill should be made law. (In the school setting this idea could be as simple as gum chewing or a school mascot.)
4. When the research has been completed and compiled the bills would be collected by the teacher for review.
5. The next step would be the presentation to the class of each bill. The groups that do not present become the committee. The committee chair should rotate with each new bill presentation.
6. Since legislator votes are taken publicly, the teacher could decide if this would be acceptable or decide to have a secret ballot.
7. Depending on the vote of each bill the teacher becomes the *governor* and will sign those bills that receive a majority vote.

Oregon Bottle Bill Background Information Fact Sheet (Attachment C)

Richard Chambers, a logging equipment salesman, picked up litter during his hiking, climbing and kayaking trips around Oregon. In 1968, Mr. Chambers called his State Representative, Paul Hanneman. Mr. Chambers told Representative Hanneman that he had seen a newspaper article from British Columbia, Canada, wanting to ban (get rid of) non-refundable bottles and cans. Mr. Chambers wanted to add a deposit on bottles and cans to encourage people to return them to the store for a refund of their deposit.

Mr. Chambers started a letter writing campaign using colorful stationary to attract the attention of the people he was writing to. He also had people sign a petition to show support for the bill. When they had enough support, House Bill 1157 was written. Representative Hanneman sponsored the bill and a committee heard testimony.

Mr. Chambers brought people to the hearing to testify in support of the bill, including a river guide who testified about bottle and cans littering the water. He also brought a farmer who had lost four cows because the cows had ingested (eaten) glass and metal pieces from bottles and cans thrown into his pastures.

The beverage companies opposed the bill, saying that it would cost bottle companies too much money. Mr. Chambers suggested that a five-cent deposit be charged on each container. He said this would help with the price beverage companies would have to pay. The beverage companies still would not support the bill. However the committee voted, passed the bill, and sent it to the House floor for debate and a vote. The bill failed in the House.

Mr. Chambers would not be stopped. He kept up his letter writing with the help of another Oregon resident, Don Waggoner. More petitions were signed and a new bill was written. Once again Representative Hanneman sponsored the bill. A new committee heard testimony in support and in opposition to the bill. Opposition to the bill came from the grocery store owners who felt that the cost of processing the bottles and cans would be too expensive.

One store owner who supported the bill was John Piacentini, owner of Plaid Pantry. He challenged people to return soda and bottles to his stores. He said he would give a half cent for every bottle or can they brought in. Within two weeks, people brought 150,000 cans and bottles to his stores. There were so many bottles and cans that Governor McCall had to have the National Guard help remove them.

In 1971, House Bill 1036 passed and was signed by Governor Tom McCall.

(Author, Judith Lowery based on the information gathered from: Beverage Container Act. Author, Mark Henkels. Oregon Encyclopeida.org.)

Reader Theater Script for Oregon Bottle Bill Hearing (Attachment D)

Chairperson Charley: Welcome to the hearing on House Bill 1036, known as the Oregon Bottle Bill. We have a lot of people here today. If you want to testify, make sure that you sign the sheet as you enter the hearing room. Include your full name and whether you are testifying in support or against the bill. Committee members may be asking you questions after you have testified. Please make sure to limit your comments to no longer than two minutes.

I would first like to call on Richard Chambers.

Mr. Chambers: Chairperson Charley and committee members, my name is Richard Chambers and I support House Bill 1036. I am asking for your support today because of my love for Oregon. I love the outdoors and enjoy the forests and rivers. I noticed there is trash left all over the place by people who don't seem to care. The thing that bothers me most are the bottles and cans left behind. When I first started this campaign with House Bill 1157, I thought that everyone would agree with me. Since it didn't pass the first time, I am trying again. I have written a lot of letters and people have signed petitions. Today I brought some of those people with me to testify in support of the bill. I am asking the committee to vote yes on House Bill 1036 and send it to the House for debate and a vote. My hope is that this time it becomes law.

Chairperson Charley: Are there any follow-up questions for Mr. Chambers?

Committee Member Marge: Yes Chairperson Charley, I have a question. Mr. Chambers what are your ideas for helping the store owners to recycle the bottles and cans their customers will bring back to the store?

Mr. Chambers: We are proposing a plan that requires a refundable deposit for each bottle and can purchased. When the customer brings the empty containers back to the store, they get a deposit refund. The beverage companies would pick-up the empty bottles and cans and the deposit will help with costs. When a beverage company delivers a case of bottles or cans, they would pick up the empty cases that customers brought back. The only thing that the store owner would have to do is count the bottles and cans returned and store them until picked-up.

Chairperson Charley: Thank you for your testimony Mr. Chambers.

Chairperson Charley: The next name on the testimony sign-up sheet is Kathy Kayaker.

Kathy Kayaker: I love to kayak all over Oregon. Often my paddles hit bottles and cans that are floating in the water. I try to safely pick them up but most of the time they just float around making a mess. They spoil the water and sometimes I see fish trying to bite at them. The fish must think its food. It is so sad. I want my water and campgrounds clean and this bill will make that happen.

Chairperson Charley: Thank you for your testimony Kathy Kayaker.

Chairperson Charley: Pop Company Paul, would you like to address the committee?

Pop Company Paul: This bill is going to ruin my business. I deliver pop all over Oregon with my big semi-trucks that cost a lot of money to run. If this bill becomes a law, I will have a whole bunch of empty cans and bottles that I must get rid of. I just don't have the time to do that. The little bit of money that I will get with a deposit will not pay for my time and effort or pay for the gas to run my trucks.

Chairperson Charley: Committee Member Bill, do you have a question for Pop Company Paul?

Committee Member Bill: Do you think the new recycling center industry will help with the trash problem?

Pop Company Paul: I like clean campgrounds and streets like everyone else, but the cost is just too high for my business. It is not my job to pick up trash, it is my business to deliver beverages to the stores.

Committee Member Tom: Pop Company Paul, if you charge people a deposit that they get back when returning their cans, how is that going to make your prices go up?

Pop Company Paul: I would have to charge extra money to cover the cost of hauling the empties to recycling and that is a big cost.

Chairperson: Thank you for testifying Pop Company Paul.

Chairperson: Forest Ranger Frank would you like to speak?

Forest Ranger Frank: I love my job. I love being outdoors and working in the beautiful forests of Oregon. One thing I don't like is the mess that so many visitors make while they are out in the forests. Just the other day I had to pick up trash from 2 campgrounds. I counted over 100 cans and bottles left by people who had

come for the day. If there had been a deposit on those bottles and cans, I am sure they would have taken them back home with them and not left them behind. I want to see the Bottle Bill become law. Keep our rivers and forests clean for everyone to enjoy.

Chairperson Charley: I see we have another store owner here ready to testify. Pantry Joe, would you like to testify?

Pantry Joe: Thank you Chairperson Charley. I am the owner of a store. I challenged my costumers to bring me their bottles and cans. I offered to give them half a cent for each bottle and can that they brought to the store. I said I would love to be buried in litter. In two weeks, there were 150,000 cans returned to my store. I had to ask the Governor to help carry them all away and he had the National Guard come and pick them up. I think this bottle deposit idea will work.

Chairperson Charley: Is there anyone else who would like to speak?

Dairy Farmer Doris: I would like to add testimony. I have my two children with me, Dave and Diane, who help me with our dairy. They are also in a future farming club at their high school. Our cows graze on pasture and feed off the hay that we bail from our fields. Recently two of our cows died. When the veterinarian looked at them they had pieces of pop bottles and cans in their stomachs. I am here today to support this bill.

Chairperson Charley: Thank you for your testimony Dairy Farmer Doris.

Chairperson Charley: Dairy Son Dave and Dairy Daughter Diane, it's your turn to testify.

Dairy Son Dave: I am here to tell you that one of the cows that died was a prize cow I was going to show at the fair. This has got to stop. If bottles and cans are returned for money, people wouldn't just throw them away and I wouldn't have to worry about my cows getting sick and dying.

Dairy Daughter Diane: Our milking cows aren't just animals to us. They are our total income and part of our family. I love them and don't want to see any of them hurt again by someone throwing away their cans and bottles.

Committee Member Representative Smith: Do you have any proof that those pieces of bottles and cans killed your cows?

Dairy Son Dave: Yes, I brought my veterinarian with me to explain.

Chairperson Charley: Thank you for your testimony Dairy Son Dave and Dairy Daughter Diane.

Chairperson Charley: Victor the Vet, please come up and share your information.

Victor the Vet: I am here today to testify that I have kept the evidence. I had another vet check my findings. The two cows died from eating hay that had pieces of glass and aluminum in their feed.

Chairperson Charley: Thank you for sharing your information Victor the Vet.

Chairperson Charley: Hello Store Owner Sam. Please share your reason for being here today to testify?

Store Owner Sam: Thank you Chairman Charley. I would like to give the committee my own views on this bill. I love to be out in the forest too and go camping with my family. We don't like to see trash all over our campgrounds. However, this bill is going to bankrupt my business. I can't afford to hire someone to collect the bottles and cans from my customers and store for recycling. This will cost money that I don't have. I run my store by myself and one other person. If my customers bring all these containers back, I won't be able to handle the extra work and wait on my customers at the same time. I don't have extra space, so I would have to build a place to store the cans and bottles. I just don't have the money to do this.

Chairperson Charley: Do any of the committee members have questions for Store Owner Sam?

Committee Member Marge: Yes, I would like to ask Store Owner Sam if it would help if the beverage company picks up the bottles and cans each delivery?

Store Owner Sam: I don't have room to store the empties until the beverage company picks them up.

Chairperson: Thank you for your testimony Store Owner Sam.

Chairperson: I think we have enough testimony to take a vote on whether this bill should go to the House for debate and a vote. Thank you all for coming to testify today. Is the committee ready to vote?

(Script written by Judith Lowery based on the information gathered from: Beverage Container Act. Author, Mark Henkels. Oregon Encyclopedia.org)

Chairperson Charley E1



I am Chairperson Charley and when I am not being a State Representative I am a doctor. I like being a doctor but also wanted to help make good laws for everyone in Oregon.

Committee Member Sally E4



I am committee member Sally and when I am not being a State Representative I own a small restaurant.

Committee Member Bill E 2



I am committee member Bill and when I am not being a State Representative I am a dentist in a small town.

Committee Member Marge E 3



I am committee member Marge and when I am not being a State Representative I am a lawyer.

Committee Member Tom E5



I am committee member Tom and when I am not being a State Representative I am a farmer.

Forest Ranger Frank E7



I am Forest Ranger Frank and I love my job because it gets me outside to our beautiful parks. One of my jobs in the park is to make sure that when people come to camp that it is clean and free from trash.

Richard Chambers E6



I am Richard Chambers and I sell logging equipment. When I am not working I like to go hiking and fishing and boating in Oregon's forests and streams.

Pantry Joe E8



I am Pantry Joe and I own a small store. I didn't think people would use a bottle deposit, but I was wrong.

Dairy Son David E9



I am David and I am in high school where my farming club project is to show my dairy cow at the county and state fair. Only I can't this year because she died from having pieces of bottles and cans in her stomach.

Dairy Daughter Diane E11



I am Diane and I am in the seventh grade this year. I want to join the farming club when I get to high school and show my cow at the county and state fair.

Pop Company Paul E10



I am Pop Company Paul and I own one of the largest pop delivery companies in Oregon. My job is to get beverages to the stores that I serve.

Kayak Kathy E12



I am Kathy Kayaker and I am a teacher. When I am not teaching I like to kayak on the lakes and rivers in Oregon. I take pictures of the beautiful country and share them with my students to show them the different geography of Oregon.

Store Owner Sam E14



I am Store Owner Sam and I own a small store that my family helps me operate. I like to go out into the forests and camp when I am not busy at my store.

Dairy Farmer Doris E13



I am Dairy Farmer Doris and I own a dairy and have hundreds of milking cows. Our dairy produces milk for hundreds of families in Oregon.

Victor the Vet E15



I am Victor the Vet and I take care of both large and small animals in the large rural area where Doris has her dairy farm.

K-W-L Chart (Attachment F)

What I Know - What I Want to Know - What I Learned

Name: **SAMPLE SHEET**

Date: _____

Question	What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned
Why do we have laws?	To maintain order To keep us safe For everybody to be equal		
How are laws made?	Someone has an idea for a law and asks a legislator to write a bill.		
Who makes laws?	Representatives and Senators		
Name a law?	Traffic Laws Bicycle Helmet Law Seatbelt Law		
What is a bill?	An idea for a law		

What I Know - What I Want to Know - What I Learned

Name: _____

Date: _____

Question	What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned
Why do we have laws?			
How are laws made?			
Who makes laws?			
Name a law?			
What is a Bill?			