

# Becoming Wisconsin: From Indian Lands to Territory to Statehood

## Activity 5.2: Government Word Sort

### Teacher Materials

*Preparation/Organization* Students may work on this activity in small groups or on their own. Be sure to prepare enough copies of Student Page 1 for each group or individual to have one.

#### *Procedure*

1. Remind students that there are special words that we use when we talk about government. Explain that these are not necessarily difficult words to learn or to remember; they are just specialized words that we need to know.
2. If you are having students work in small groups, form those groups now. Otherwise, tell students that each of them will be sorting words into categories, using special words about government.
3. Distribute copies of the student page. Then have students take turns reading the words aloud. Briefly discuss the differences between similar terms, such as *capital/capitol* and *legislative/legislator*.
4. Then have students read the directions with you. When you are sure that students understand what to do, have them complete the activity. If necessary, allow students to use pp. 90–97 of *Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story* or its glossary to find word definitions.
5. When students have finished, have them discuss the categories they created. Make sure they explain their reasoning so that others can benefit from their work.

#### *Answers*

Accept all reasonable answers. The following categories and words are likely student responses:

How to Participate in the Government: *elect, represent, vote.*

Branches of Government: *executive, judicial, legislative.*

Levels of Government: *federal, state.*

People Involved in the Government: *citizen, delegate, governor, legislator, representative, senator.*

Places Related to the Government: *capital, capitol, territory, township.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 5.2 Government Word Sort

Cut out these words. Then sort them into categories that make sense to you. Make sure you can explain why you sorted them that way—but remember, there is no one right way to do this word sort.

<b>capital</b>	<b>capitol</b>	<b>citizen</b>
<b>delegate</b>	<b>elect</b>	<b>executive</b>
<b>federal</b>	<b>governor</b>	<b>judicial</b>
<b>legislative</b>	<b>legislator</b>	<b>represent</b>
<b>representative</b>	<b>senator</b>	<b>state</b>
<b>territory</b>	<b>township</b>	<b>vote</b>