



## Lesson Four: The Governor Leads



*Governor's Home Office, third floor of mansion*



*Hosting President John F. Kennedy for breakfast*

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the governor's role in California government
- Identify the governor's responsibilities
- List several desirable qualifications for a governor



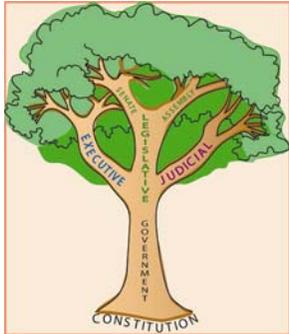


## Pre-tour Activity 1: The Governor in Action

### Materials

- ☑ Organizational chart showing the branches of California state government
- ☑ Local newspapers of different dates
- ☑ Scissors and paste
- ☑ Large drawing paper
- ☑ Lined paper/journal

### Instructional Procedures

1. Discuss the three branches of the California state government and their roles with students. The Executive Branch is made up of the governor and various state agencies whose jobs are to administer state policy and laws. A governor's term of office is for four years. The Legislative Branch is made up of assemblypersons and senators, known as legislators, who make the laws. The Judicial Branch is made up of judges and the courts, whose jobs are to interpret the laws. Use the state government organizational chart to illustrate.
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2. Distribute the newspapers throughout the class. Explain to the students that they are to look for examples of the governor in action in the newspaper articles, photos, editorials, political cartoons, and letters to the editor. They will cut out at least one item that tells about the governor in action and paste it on the drawing paper.
  3. Students will read their items and write answers to the following questions:
    - Who is the governor?
    - What is the governor doing? Look for verbs in the article.
    - When is the event or action happening?
    - Where is the event or action taking place?
    - How does the governor handle the action?
    - Why is the governor doing it?
    - Is the legislative or judicial branch involved? If yes, how?If there is time, students can trade articles and answer these questions for the new article.



## Pre-tour Activity 2: Job Qualifications

### Materials

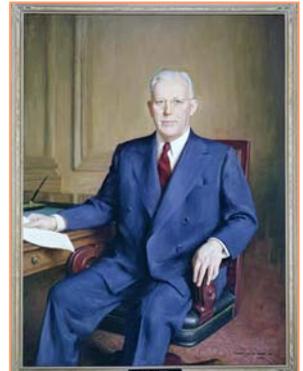
- Transparencies made from the portraits of Governors George Pardee, Earl Warren, Edmund G. “Pat” Brown, and Ronald Reagan
- Chart paper
- “Biographies” handout
- Lined paper/ journal

### Instructional Procedures

1. Show students the transparencies or photos of each of the following governors: George Pardee, Earl Warren, Edmund G. Brown, and Ronald Reagan. These are just four of the thirteen governors that lived in the mansion.
2. Explain to the students that each of these men was a leader in California. Each was governor and lived in the Governor’s Mansion at 16th and H Streets in Sacramento. Governor from 1903 to 1907, George Pardee was the first California governor to live in the mansion. Earl Warren was governor from 1943 to 1953, when he was appointed Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Governor from 1959 to 1967, Edmund G. “Pat” Brown implemented a statewide water plan. His son, Edmund “Jerry” Brown, Jr., would later be elected governor also. Ronald Reagan, California’s governor from 1967 to 1975, later became President of the United States. His family was the last to live in the Governor’s Mansion. Today governors are sometimes women, from different ethnicities, religions, and life styles. Why were all the governors who lived in the mansion men?
3. Start a class discussion about what characteristics prepared these men to be California’s governor. What characteristics are important for a leader? What do you think they did to persuade people to vote for them? What kind of education do you think they had? Record the students’ answers on the board or chart paper.
4. Have the students read the four biographies. As they read they should take notes based on the questions asked during the class discussion. Discuss their findings.
5. Working in small groups, ask the students to write job qualifications for a California governor. Each group should share their job qualifications. As a class use these job qualifications to develop a composite “Governor of California, Job Qualifications.”



George Pardee



Earl Warren



Edmund G. Brown



Ronald Reagan

## Biographies

### George Pardee, 21st Governor, 1903-1907

The son of a prominent physician and politician (who served as mayor of Oakland, State Senator and State Assemblyman), George Pardee was destined to follow in his father's footsteps. Born in San Francisco in 1857, he was raised in the family home in Oakland. He attended the University of California and Cooper Medical College before completing his studies in Germany. As a physician he joined his father's practice, specializing in diseases of the eye and ear. He served on the Board of Health, the Oakland City Council, and as the mayor of Oakland. Governor Gage appointed him to the University of California's Board of Regents. George Pardee took office as governor in January 1903.

*Artist: Clara McChesney (1907)*



### Earl Warren, 30th Governor, 1943-1953

A native of Los Angeles, Earl Warren was born in 1891. He studied law, and after service in the U.S. Army, he became city attorney for the city of Oakland. He then served as deputy district attorney and ultimately district attorney for the County of Alameda. In that position he became known for his brilliant and tenacious investigative skills. This reputation led to his election as state attorney general. Warren was inaugurated as governor in 1943 and served for ten years. His third term was cut short when he was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

*Artist: Howard E. Smith (1953)*



## Edmund G. “Pat” Brown, 32nd Governor, 1959-1967

Born in San Francisco in 1905, Edmund Brown was nicknamed “Pat” when, as a boy selling Liberty Bonds during World War I, he ended his speeches by shouting Patrick Henry’s line, “Give me liberty or give me death!” Later, Brown studied law, graduating first in his class. He practiced law in San Francisco. Always active in political causes, Brown was elected district attorney of San Francisco County. In 1950 he was elected attorney general of California; he served two terms. In January of 1959 he took office as governor.

*Artist: C.J. Fox (date unknown)*



## Ronald Reagan, 33rd Governor, 1967-1975

The son of a shoe salesman, Ronald Reagan was born in Illinois in 1911. Reagan graduated from Eureka College with an A.B. degree. He worked as a construction worker, lifeguard, radio announcer and actor. He was elected to the board of directors of the Screen Actors Guild and served as president of the Motion Picture Industry Council for two terms. During his tenure on the council he became active in California politics. Although he had not held public office before, he was elected Governor of California and was inaugurated in January of 1967. He later became president of the United States.

*Artist: Robert Rishell (1974)*





## Post-tour Activity: Visiting the Governor

### Materials

- ☑ “My Visit to the Governor’s Mansion” worksheet

### Instructional Procedure

1. Pose the following question to the class: *How was the mansion an extension of the Governor’s Office in the State Capitol?* Remind them that people often use social and personal contact as a way to try to influence people to politically support or promote a cause they feel deeply about. Do the students think that it would be more effective to talk with the governor about an issue at his office or his home? Why?
2. Ask students to imagine they have just visited Governor Pardee, Brown, or \_\_\_\_ and his family at the Governor’s Mansion. (They choose which governor.) Have them write a letter to a friend describing their visit to the Governor’s Mansion. Their letter should be dated with the correct date for the time period. Write some of the following questions on chart paper or a chalkboard to generate thoughts. Students need to fully place themselves in that time period.

#### Sample Questions:

- What was the purpose of your visit? Are you a friend of the family? Are you a politician?
- What were you wearing?
- How did you get there?
- Did the family have entertainment? If so, who? What was dinner like? Did you spend the night in the mansion? What was that like?
- Did you meet anyone interesting?
- Describe your favorite architectural feature.
- Describe your favorite room. Why is it your favorite?
- Will you visit the mansion again? Why? Or why not?



Indira Gandhi  
& Mrs. Pat Brown

