

Play by the Rules

Chapter 4: Weapons, Guns & Fireworks

Objectives: The student will be able to

- Define and give examples of weapons;
- Discuss laws regarding handguns and other weapons; and
- Show an understanding of laws regarding fireworks.

Alabama Course of Study, Seventh Grade Civics: Objective 5

Character Education: Cooperation, courtesy, compassion, creativity, patience, respect for others, self-respect and tolerance

Materials: *Play by the Rules* book, **Worksheets 4-1** and **4-2**

Method(s): Brainstorming, directed reading, cooperative activity, role play and group discussion

Activities:

Review: Review **Worksheet 3-4** and discuss a few articles.

Brainstorming: Have students generate a list of anything that can be a weapon and write them on the board. This list might include typical weapons and even unconventional things that could be used as a weapon.

Directed Reading:

1. Read the introductory paragraph on p. 23. Ask students, “Do you know that a car, a rock or a pencil is considered to be a dangerous instrument, depending on the circumstances in which they are used? These items are capable of causing death or serious physical injury.”
2. Read aloud “What is a deadly weapon?” and “What is a dangerous instrument?”

Is it a Weapon?

1. Distribute **Worksheet 4-1**. Read aloud the story at the top of the Worksheet.
2. Ask the following questions:
 - a. Is the law clear? Why or why not?
 - b. Why was the law passed?
3. Ask for six student volunteers to role play the six scenarios on **Worksheet 4-1**. As they are preparing, tell the rest of the class that they are members of the city council who will be hearing from six citizens concerning the new law.

- Students should present themselves to the mock city council with their scenario. The class will then ask questions and vote on whether to allow the conduct in each of the scenarios. They should offer reasons for their decision and other possible solutions.

Directed Reading Continued: Continue reading pp. 23-25. Ask the students the following questions:

- If persons under age 18 cannot own a rifle or shotgun, how can they legally hunt?
A juvenile may borrow a rifle or shotgun from an adult. (A juvenile must also be accompanied by an authorized adult if under age 16.) (p. 23)
- May persons under 18 purchase guns or ammunition? *No (p. 24)*
- What laws and punishments relate to bringing guns in or near school?
It is a very serious crime. Under Alabama law, if you bring a gun to school you will be guilty of a felony or misdemeanor depending on intent. You will also be suspended or expelled from school. (p. 24)
- Are there laws concerning shooting fireworks? If so, what are the laws?
Yes. It is illegal to shoot fireworks within 600 feet of churches, hospitals or schools, or within 200 feet of where fireworks are sold or stored. It is also illegal to throw or shoot fireworks into or from vehicles, at a person or into a group of people. If you cause damage, you or your parents must pay for it. (p. 25)

Name That Crime:

- Distribute **Worksheet 4-2**.
- Read the story to the class.
- Instruct students to work in pairs and make a list of any illegal actions found in the story.
- List the students' responses on the board and discuss why each is or is not an illegal action.

Evaluation: Observation, feedback, questioning, accuracy of activities and Scoreboard (for Scoreboard directions see "Assessment.")

Outside Resource Person (ORP): The following ORPs might be utilized: law enforcement officer, school resource officer (SRO) or attorney.

Taking Home the Law: Tell the students to take **Worksheet 4-2** home to test their parents or guardians.

Extra Innings: TG p. 135