Buffer Lessons: Unit Overview

CHV2O, Civics and Citizenship, Grade 10 (Open), Buffer Lessons. Five stand-alone 75-minute lessons for flex days, assembly-shortened weeks, the day before a holiday or a supply teacher.

The big question

How can one class period still build real civic skills?

Each lesson works on its own at any point in the course, needs no earlier lesson and uses only the materials included. Lesson 1 is a team review game that spirals the whole course, with a one-page Playbook so it works before or after any unit. Lesson 2 builds the course's most transferable skill, judging evidence, with polls, graphs and statistics. Lesson 3 applies civics to students' first jobs, with Ontario rules checked in November 2026. Lesson 4 is a creative team simulation: design a government for a new island. Lesson 5 is supply-teacher-ready: an original article, questions and a ballot question lab, runnable from the handout alone with no technology.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**Civics Showdown**	1	Can you use the whole course on the spot?	B2.2, B3.1, A1.4, A1.3	Five team rounds: who decides, Charter rights, the four concepts, fact or fake; a wager on a final judgement; Civics Playbook
2	**Numbers in the News**	1	When is a number good evidence?	A1.2, A1.3, A1.5, A2.1	Margin of error; five questions for any number; four traps; misleading graphs; Data Detective; Fix the Headline
3	**Know Your Rights at Work**	1	Which laws follow you into your first job?	B2.7, B3.4, B3.2, C1.5	Ontario's minimum wage and job rules; health and safety rights; a pay stub check; six workplace cases; student minimum wage perspectives
4	**Island Nation**	1	How would you design a fair government?	B1.2, B2.4, C1.3, A2.2	Founding council simulation: system, three branches, a charter, a voice check, crisis cards, pitch and vote
5	**Should the People Decide?**	1	When should voters decide directly?	B2.8, B1.2, A1.5, B1.5	Original article on Canadian referendums; four questions; judge and write ballot questions; no tech, no prep

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Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Team Answer Sheets and the Final Challenge, Data Detective, Fix the Headline, Workplace Cases, Founding Council Workbook, Questions and Ballot Question Lab, exit tickets
Assessment as learning	Self-checks on success criteria in every lesson; team reflection; minimum wage position
Assessment of learning	None: these lessons are formative and flexible. They can be used as practice for any unit summative or the final exam.

Sources

Included:

- **Original texts:** the Civics Playbook, the article “Let the People Decide?”, the Riverbend and Maple Grove sources, the Nova island scenario and all workplace cases, labelled as invented
- **Real facts (checked November 2026):** Ontario and federal minimum wages and employment standards, Occupational Health and Safety Act rights and minimum ages, Charter cases (Frank v. Canada, 2019; R. v. Jordan, 2016), the Emergencies Act, Canadian and Ontario referendum results, Ontario's municipal ballot question rules

Lesson 5 is written so a supply teacher can run it from the handout alone; the script is in the lesson sequence. Lesson 3 uses figures that change: check Ontario's minimum wage and employment standards on ontario.ca before teaching (rates change every October 1).

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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