

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Civics



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Course Overview

This Civics course is designed to give students an overview of all aspects of U.S. government and what it means to be a U.S. citizen. Students will define civics, politics, and government and then explore the basic principles, purposes, and types of government. Students will take a deeper dive into the foundations of U.S. government by examining the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and other amendments. Students will also analyze the three branches of government, federalism, civic rights and liberties, and the role of political parties and interest groups. They will take a global perspective by examining foreign affairs, including U.S. foreign policy, other nation's political structures and foreign policies, the relationship between the United States and other countries, as well as international organizations. They will examine the meaning of citizenship, including who is a U.S. citizen, how people become citizens, and citizens' privileges, rights, and responsibilities. Students will also analyze civic participation and civic virtue by studying historical and contemporary examples of how citizens influenced the government.

Each lesson features formative assessments that gauge students' understanding of the material presented in the lesson. Mid-way and at the end of each unit, there is a summative quiz that covers the content prior to it. At the end of each unit, there is a review lesson before the unit test. In each unit, there are two projects that may require students to conduct research, synthesize information, and write essays. Finally, at the end of the course, there is a final exam.

- Unit 1: Describe the basic principles, types, and purposes of government with an introduction to the concept of a constitution, the U.S. Constitution, and the structure of federalism
- Unit 2: Explain the factors that influenced U.S. government and American society with a closer look at government structures at the national, state, and local level, as well as American political culture
- Unit 3: Examine the three branches of government, how public policy is created, the powers of state and local governments, individual rights, and political parties
- Unit 4: Analyze foreign affairs, including the U.S. relationship with other nations and global contemporary politics
- Unit 5: Explain citizenship, the rights of citizens, and civic virtue

Unit 1: INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT			
Assignments			
Civics	1.	Course Overview	12. The Concept of a Constitution
	2.	Civic Life and Politics	13. Introducing the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights
	3.	Purposes of Government	14. Federalism
	4.	Characteristics of Government	15. Project: Government Debate
	5.	Rule of Law	16. Quiz: Principles of Government in Foundational Documents
	6.	Types of Government	17. Alternate Quiz: Principles of Government in Foundational Documents*
	7.	Project: Government Role Play	18. Review: Introduction to Government
	8.	Quiz: Characteristics and Purposes of Government	19. Test: Introduction to Government
	9.	Alternate Quiz: Characteristics and Purposes of Government*	20. Alternate Test: Introduction to Government*
	10.	Principles of Government	21. Glossary and Credits
	11.	Articles of Confederation	

Unit 2: FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN POLITICS**Assignments**

Civics	1. Introduction to American Politics	10. American National Identity
	2. The Declaration of Independence	11. American Political Culture
	3. Examining the U.S. Constitution	12. American Values and Principles
	4. Examining Constitutional Amendments	13. Civic Discourse
	5. Characteristics of American Society	14. Project: American Democracy in Action
	6. Project: Constitutional Protection of Individual Rights	15. Quiz: American Identity, Values, and Principles
	7. Quiz: Foundational Documents of American Government	16. Alternate Quiz: American Identity, Values, and Principles*
	8. Alternate Quiz: Foundational Documents of American Government*	17. Review: Foundation of American Politics
	9. Pre-Reconstruction in America: Political and Social Impacts of Civil Rights Movement	18. Test: Foundation of American Politics
		19. Alternate Test: Foundation of American Politics*
		20. Glossary and Credits

Unit 3: GOVERNMENT AT WORK**Assignments**

Civics	1. Principles of American Democracy	11. Individual Rights
	2. Government Structure	12. American Politics
	3. Three Branches of Government	13. Creating Public Policy
	4. Creating National Policies	14. Project: Creating Public Policy
	5. Government Taxation	15. Quiz: American Politics and Public Policy
	6. Project: Exploring Purposes, Values, and Principles of American Democracy	16. Alternate Quiz: American Politics and Public Policy*
	7. Quiz: The Federal Government	17. Review: Government at Work
	8. Alternate Quiz: The Federal Government*	18. Test: Government at Work
	9. State and Local Governments	19. Alternate Test: Government at Work*
	10. Political Leadership	20. Glossary and Credits

Unit 4: FOREIGN AFFAIRS**Assignments**

Civics	1. World Affairs	11. International Foreign Policies
	2. World Political Systems	12. International Individual Rights
	3. Nation States	13. Contemporary Global Politics
	4. Interactions among Nation States	14. Project: Contemporary Politics: America in the World
	5. U.S. Relationships with Other Nations	15. Quiz: U.S. and International Foreign Policy
	6. Project: World Affairs	16. Alternate Quiz: U.S. and International Foreign Policy*
	7. Quiz: The United States and World Affairs	17. Review: Foreign Affairs
	8. Alternate Quiz: The United States and World Affairs*	18. Test: Foreign Affairs
	9. International Organizations	19. Alternate Test: Foreign Affairs*
	10. U.S. Foreign Policy	20. Glossary and Credits

Unit 5: U.S. CITIZENSHIP		
Assignments		
Civics	1. Introducing Citizenship	11. Careers in Public Service
	2. The Privileges of Citizenship	12. Act Locally
	3. The Rights of Citizens	13. Connect Local to National
	4. Responsibilities of Citizens	14. Project: Call to Action
	5. Civic Dispositions	15. Quiz: Citizen Participation in Public and Private Sectors
	6. Project: Citizens of the Globe	16. Alternate Quiz: Citizen Participation in Public and Private Sectors*
	7. Quiz: Citizen Privileges, Rights, and Responsibilities	17. Review: U.S. Citizenship
	8. Alternate Quiz: Citizen Privileges, Rights, and Responsibilities*	18. Test: U.S. Citizenship
	9. Civic Participation	19. Alternate Test: U.S. Citizenship*
	10. Political and Social Participation	20. Glossary and Credits

(*) Indicates alternative assignment