



SOCIAL STUDIES
 Course: Civics
 Middle School: Grade 7

Essential Course Information

- Course Revision
- Full Year

Course Overview

Exploring the structure of the United States government on a local, state, and national level, this course challenges students to understand, analyze and evaluate the fundamental concepts and philosophies that led to the creation and elements of the United States Constitution. Students will explore the impact of American democracy through engaging, interactive activities that introduces social, economic and political concepts, while encouraging students to take the learning beyond the classroom in order to be an involved and active citizen in the 21st Century.

Unit	Estimated Class Time	Overview
<p align="center">Unit 1</p> <p><u>Principles of Democracy</u></p>	<p align="center">10 weeks</p>	<p>In this unit, students will examine the origins of American ideals and values and their effects on a growing diverse population. Students will evaluate who are Americans and what are characteristics of an effective citizen in order to analyze social issues in American society.</p>
<p align="center">Unit 2</p> <p><u>The Powers of the Constitution</u></p>	<p align="center">14 weeks</p>	<p>In this unit, students will examine the United States Constitution and its effects on American democracy. Students will evaluate how the principle of limited government influences the basic roles and responsibilities of the three branches in order to analyze how citizens and the government solve social, political and economic issues .</p>
<p align="center">Unit 3</p> <p><u>Rights and Reforms</u></p>	<p align="center">8 weeks</p>	<p>In this unit, students will examine how the branches of the federal government work together to address reform movements in American society. Students will analyze how the country has changed both politically and socially in relation to our American ideals.</p>
<p align="center">Unit 4</p> <p><u>Active Citizenship in the 21st Century</u></p>	<p align="center">8 weeks</p>	<p>In this unit, students will analyze how citizens can effectively identify and combat societal issues. Students will evaluate how citizens utilize the power and resources of the government to create positive changes in society.</p>

Content Continuum

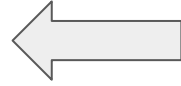
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US History Through Reconstruction

7

Civics

Active citizenship and American democracy



8

World History

Early Humans through the Renaissance

INSTRUCTIONAL / SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

1. Textbook: Civics in Practice: Principles of Government and Economics. Holt McDougal.
2. Supplemental readings and online resources to enhance understanding of course content and skills
 - DBQ Project
 - Thinking Like a Historian: Stanford History Education Group
 - I Civics
 - NJ Amistad Commission and others.

All existing resources will be evaluated for alignment to new curriculum

KEY FEATURES OF REVISION

- Social studies curriculum was revised in 2015.
- Student access to digital resources has expanded greatly.
- Integration of performance based assessments and common writing tasks.
- Incorporations of activities and assessments that develop 21st century skills.

English Language Learner, Special Education and Differentiation Strategies will be included at a later date

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