

Unit 3: The U.S. Constitution & American Government

Unit #:	APSDO-00022652	Duration:	3.0 Week(s)	Date(s):	
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Team:
 Donna Nestler-Rusack (Author), Elizabeth Sanborn, Lisa Cleveland, Stephen Greco, Eugene Macy

Grades:
 8

Subjects:
 Social Studies

Unit Focus

In this unit, students will examine the structure, powers and functions of our federal, state and local governments. In addition, students will understand the basic principles of the U.S. Constitution and their rights and liberties contained in the Bill of Rights. The assessment for this unit includes an Action Project where students write a letter to their state or federal elected representative in an attempt to influence public policy. Primary instructional materials for this unit include *The American Nation* textbook, historical documents, and additional secondary sources.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Established Goals	Transfer	
<p>Common Core <i>History/Social Studies: 8</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1</i> Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.1</i> Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4</i> Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using 	<p>T1 (T3) Use textual evidence to form generalizations, make predictions and draw conclusions.</p> <p>T2 (T4) Communicate information and ideas based on purpose, task and intended audience using appropriate language.</p> <p>T3 (T5) Apply social studies concepts and content to make connections to a given situation, problem or challenge.</p> <p>T4 (T7) Actively engage in a problem or idea that is meaningful to self and society.</p>	
	Meaning	
	Understandings	Essential Questions
	<p>U1 (U100) Governments make and enforce the rules for society.</p> <p>U2 (U103) Governments allow individuals and groups varying access to participation and power.</p>	<p>Q1 (Q704) How do I make my voice heard and effect change?</p> <p>Q2</p> <p>What is the relationship between a citizen</p>

<p>search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.8</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis reflection, and research. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.9</i> 	<p>U3 (U701) A democratic society relies on its citizens to be active and well-informed.</p> <p>U4 (U702) People`s rights and individual needs must be balanced with the rights and needs of others.</p>	<p>and their government?</p>
Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill		
Knowledge		Skills
<p>K1</p> <p>The goals of our federal republic are outlined in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution</p> <p>K2</p> <p>There are seven basic principles that the U.S. Constitution is based on</p> <p>K3</p> <p>The structure, power and function of each branch of government are established in the Articles</p> <p>K4</p> <p>The process of how a bill becomes a law is very similar for both federal and state governments</p> <p>K5</p> <p>The system of checks and balances and separation of powers prevents concentration of power</p> <p>K6</p> <p>The Constitution is a living document that is changed by formal amendment, political and legal actions</p> <p>K7</p>	<p>S1</p> <p>Cite specific textual evidence from primary and secondary sources to support analysis</p> <p>S2</p> <p>Synthesize multiple sources on a topic to demonstrate understanding</p> <p>S3</p> <p>Construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims with supporting evidence</p> <p>S4</p> <p>Evaluate causes of a given problem (e.g., local, national, global)</p>	
<p>Connecticut Goals and Standards <i>Social Studies : 8</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze ideas and principles contained in the founding documents of the United States, and explain how they influence the social and political system. <i>CIV.8.2</i> • Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources, while acknowledging the strengths and limitations of the arguments. <i>INQ.6-8.10</i> • Evaluate the relevance and utility of a historical source based on information such as maker, date, place of origin, intended audience and purpose. <i>HIST.8.8</i> • Explain the origins, functions and structure of government with reference to the U.S. Constitution, state constitutions and selected other systems of government. <i>CIV.8.1</i> 		

	<p>The Bill of Rights guarantees specific civil rights and liberties</p> <p>K8</p> <p>State and local governments provide services that affect our daily lives</p> <p>K9</p> <p>Civic virtue and democratic values are essential components in our democratic society</p>	
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