



Standards Alignment for Grades 6-8

Activity 1 Research the Issue

National Standards for Civics and Government

- IV. What is the relationship of the United States to other nations and to world affairs?
 - A. How is the world organized politically?
 - B. How has the United States influenced other nations and how have other nations influenced American politics and society?
- V. What are the roles of the citizen in American democracy?
 - A. What is citizenship?
 - B. What are the rights of citizens?
 - C. What are the responsibilities of citizens?
 - E. How can citizens take part in civic life?

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

People, Places, and Environments

- The study of people, places, and environments enables us to understand the relationship between human populations and the physical world.

Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

- It is important that students know how institutions are formed, what controls and influences them, how they control and influence individuals and culture, and how institutions can be maintained or changed.
- Students identify those institutions that they encounter.

Power, Authority, and Governance

- The development of civic competence requires an understanding of the foundations of political thought, and the historical development of various structures of power, authority, and governance. It also requires knowledge of the evolving functions of these structures in contemporary U.S. society, as well as in other parts of the world.

Production, Distribution, and Consumption

- People have wants that often exceed the limited resources available to them. Students will gather and analyze data, as well as use critical thinking skills to determine how best to deal with scarcity of resources.

Global Connections

- Global connections have intensified and accelerated the changes faced at the local, national, and international levels.

Civic Ideals and Practices

- An understanding of civic ideals and practices is critical to full participation in society and is an essential component of education for citizenship, which is the central purpose of social studies. Learning how to apply civic ideals as part of citizen action is essential to the exercise of democratic freedoms and the pursuit of the common good.

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts

Key Ideas and Details

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3

Identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies (e.g., how a bill becomes law, how interest rates are raised or lowered).

Craft and Structure

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7

Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Activity 2

Meet the Policy Makers

National Standards for Civics and Government

- III. How does the government established by the Constitution embody the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy?
 - B. What does the national government do?
 - D. Who represents you in local, state, and national governments?
 - F. How does the American political system provide for choice and opportunities for participation?
- IV. What is the relationship of the United States to other nations and to world affairs?
 - A. How is the world organized politically?
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- The development of civic competence requires an understanding of the foundations of political thought, and the historical development of various structures of power, authority, and governance. It also requires knowledge of the evolving functions of these structures in contemporary U.S. society, as well as in other parts of the world.

- Through study of the dynamic relationships between individual rights and responsibilities, the needs of social groups, and concepts of a just society, learners become more effective problem-solvers and decision-makers when addressing the persistent issues and social problems encountered in public life.

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Activity 3 **Taking Action**

National Standards for Civics and Government

- I. What are civic life, politics, and government?
 - A. What is civic life? What is politics? What is government? Why are government and politics necessary? What purposes should government serve?
- III. How does the government established by the Constitution embody the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy?
 - B. What does the national government do?
 - D. Who represents you in local, state, and national governments?
 - F. How does the American political system provide for choice and opportunities for participation?
- V. What are the roles of the citizen in American democracy?
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