Unit 2 - The Citizens in Government

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Civics**
Time Period: **October**
Length: **4 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer

Evaluate the effectiveness of the fundamental principles of the Constitution (i.e., consent of the governed, rule of law, federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights) in establishing a federal government that allows for growth and change over time.

Enduring Understandings

Participation is essential to the preservation of the US political system.

The role and responsibility of citizens are plentiful and rewarding.

Societies respond to change in a variety of ways based upon a number of factors, which include gender, race, economic status and geographic habitation.

Informed citizens make the best economic choices.

Social, political, economic, and cultural factors affect the decisions of who gets which goods and services.

The role of the government in the free market is a hotly debated issue that varies depending on a variety of factors

Essential Questions

What purpose do political parties serve, and what are the advantages of a two-party system?

How do political parties raise money, and how does Congress regulate fund-raising.

What protections do voters receive from the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965?

How do the major political parties select their presidential candidate?

What are the major stages of a presidential election?

What is public opinion, and how does propaganda attempt to influence it?

What are interest groups and how do they work to influence the government?

Why is it important for all Americans to take an active role in government?

What are the different kinds of taxes?

What are some of the services that governments use their revenue to provide?

How does government manage money and why is there a national debt?

Content

Vocabulary

Electoral College, RNC, DNC, taxes, voting requirements, federal and local deficits, Independent platform, Democratic platform, Republican platform

Learning Objectives

Explain the role of political parties in the United States.

Name the committees that help major political parties and define their responsibilities.

Describe the differences between primary elections and general elections.

Break down the role, functions of the national nominating convention, and describe how delegates are chosen.

Examine how public opinion is measured.

Describe the ways that lobbyists try to influence government and public opinion.

Analyze the four basic ways that all citizens participate in government.

Explain why voting is important and analyze why so few citizens vote.

Analyze why the cost of government is high.

Identify the steps involved in creating the federal budget.

Resources

Standards

SOC.6.1.8.A.2.a	Determine the roles of religious freedom and participatory government in various North American colonies.
SOC.6.1.8.A.2.b	Explain how and why early government structures developed, and determine the impact of these early structures on the evolution of American politics and institutions.

SOC.6.1.8.A.3.b	Evaluate the effectiveness of the fundamental principles of the Constitution (i.e., consent of the governed, rule of law, federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights) in establishing a federal government that allows for growth and change over time.
SOC.6.1.8.A.3.c	Determine the role that compromise played in the creation and adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
SOC.6.1.8.C.1.b	Explain why individuals and societies trade, how trade functions, and the role of trade during this period.
SOC.6.3.8.C.1	Examine the perspectives of multiple stakeholders involved in the local budget process (e.g., obtaining information, discussing priorities).
SOC.6.3.8.D.1	Engage in simulated democratic processes (e.g., legislative hearings, judicial proceedings, elections) to understand how conflicting points of view are addressed in a democratic society.