

# Unit 3: US Government

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **Social Studies 3**  
Time Period: **March**  
Length: **3 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Summary

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In the unit, "US Government", students will explore the concept of rights and responsibilities as a citizen. They will learn how citizens are vital to a community and how they can improve communities by working for the common good. They will learn that people in communities form governments to develop rules and laws to govern community members. Students will learn how the Founding Fathers of the United States contributed to the development of the United States government. They will be introduced to the United States Constitution as the document that helps protect our rights. Students will learn about the three branches of government, the responsibilities of each branch, and how the branches work together. Students will learn about government at the state and local level. Students will understand the process of selecting leaders, solving problems, and making decisions and how they differ from other world communities. Students will understand the importance of governments and world communities in providing services that people cannot provide as individuals and that the government has the authority to make, carry out, and enforce laws.

## Standards

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SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.2	Investigate different ways individuals participate in government (e.g., voters, jurors, taxpayers).
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.3	Explain how the United States functions as a representative democracy and describe the roles of elected representatives and how they interact with citizens at local, state, and national levels.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.5	Explain how government functions at the local, county, and state level.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.6	Distinguish the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of the national government.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPD.1	Describe the roles of elected representatives and explain how individuals at local, state, and national levels can interact with them.  Rules, laws, and policies are designed to protect the rights of people, help resolve conflicts, and promote the common good.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPR.3	Evaluate school and community rules, laws and/or policies and determine if they meet their intended purpose.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPR.4	Explain how policies are developed to address public problems.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsHR.1	Describe how fundamental rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights contribute to the improvement of American democracy (i.e., freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of petition, the right to vote, and the right to due process).
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsCM.4	Examine the responsibilities of differing positions of authority and identify criteria that are likely to make leaders qualified for those positions.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsCM.6	Cite evidence from a variety of sources to describe how a democracy depends upon and responds to individuals' participation.
CAEP.9.2.4.A.1	Identify reasons why people work, different types of work, and how work can help a person achieve personal and professional goals.
CAEP.9.2.4.A.2	Identify various life roles and civic and work - related activities in the school, home, and community.

CAEP.9.2.4.A.4

Explain why knowledge and skills acquired in the elementary grades lay the foundation for future academic and career success.

TECH.8.1.5

Educational Technology: All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.

## Student Learning Objectives

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Students will learn to...

- explain how the United States government is organized and how the United States Constitution defines and limits the power of government.
- compare and contrast how government functions at the community, county, state, and national levels, the services provided, and the impact of policy decisions made at each level.
- compare and contrast responses of individuals and groups, past and present, to violations of fundamental rights.
- explain the process of creating change at the local, state, or national level.
- explain how and why it is important that people from diverse cultures collaborate to find solutions to community, state, national, and global challenges.
- explore how national and international leaders, businesses, and global organizations promote human rights and provide aid to individuals and nations in need.
- evaluate what makes a good rule or law.
- contact local officials and community members to acquire information and/or discuss local issues.
- identify the purpose of the Declaration of Independence.
- explain how the Declaration of Independence relates to our system of government today.

## Essential Questions

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What is government?

Why do we have government?

How do key historical events, documents and individuals lead to the formation of a government?

## Enduring Understandings

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Students will understand that...

- governments can be organized into local, state, and federal government
- there are different powers and functions of government.
- government have different services and responsibilities.
- Civil Rights are important to Americans.
- elections and voting are part of government.
- national governments are similar and different than the United States'.

## Application

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Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- explain how the United States government is organized and how the United States Constitution defines and limits the power of government.

- compare and contrast how government functions at the community, county, state, and national levels, the services provided, and the impact of policy decisions made at each level.
- compare and contrast responses of individuals and groups, past and present, to violations of fundamental rights.
- explain the process of creating change at the local, state, or national level.
- explain how and why it is important that people from diverse cultures collaborate to find solutions to community, state, national, and global challenges.
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- evaluate what makes a good rule or law.
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## **Skills**

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Students will be skilled at:

- identifying and understanding the events that lead to the United States declaring its independence.
- reasoning why there are checks and balances and how the 3 branches of government achieve this.
- explaining how communities work together to promote and protect the needs of individuals and organizations
- evaluate the fairness and strength of a law.
- comparing and contrasting the Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, and The Bill of Rights.