

SS Unit 7: American Government (Grade 4)

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Social Studies 4**
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **4 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Established Goals/Standards

SEL.PK-12.3.4	Demonstrate an awareness of the expectations for social interactions in a variety of settings
SEL.PK-12.5.1	Establish and maintain healthy relationships
SEL.PK-12.5.2	Utilize positive communication and social skills to interact effectively with others
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.1	Describe ways in which people benefit from and are challenged by working together, including through government, workplaces, voluntary organizations, and families.
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.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.2	Investigate different ways individuals participate in government (e.g., voters, jurors, taxpayers).
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPD.2	Explain how individuals can initiate and/or influence local, state, or national public policymaking (e.g., petitions, proposing laws, contacting elected officials).
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPD.3	Explain how and why it is important that people from diverse cultures collaborate to find solutions to community, state, national, and global challenges.
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.4	Describe the services our government provides the people in the community, state and across the United States.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPD.4	Compare the qualifications of candidates running for local, state, or national public office with the responsibilities of the position.
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.CivicsPI.7	Explain how national and state governments share power in the federal system of government.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.8	Describe how the United States Constitution defines and limits the power of government.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.9	Research and compare the differences and similarities between the United States and other nations' governments, customs, and laws.
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.

Essential Questions

- What is a representative democracy?
- What are the roles of the three branches of government?
- How are New Jersey's state and local governments organized?
- Who is eligible to run for elected positions in the United States?
- What is the electoral process?
- What is the US Constitution and why is it still significant today?

Enduring Understanding

The students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast New Jersey Constitution and other information relevant to social studies
- Identify fundamental values of American democracy in the Bill of Rights
- Describe how rights guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights contribute to continuation of democracy
- Recognize that government exists at the federal, state, county, and municipal levels
- Identify fundamental values and principles of American democracy
- Examine the electoral process in the United States
- Examine the viewpoints of candidates running for office this November

Resources

Student Resources:

- Scholastic
 - <https://junior.scholastic.com/pages/text-sets/election.html>
 - America's Presidential Election - 2020 Election Skills Book
- What is democracy?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6jgWxkbR7A>

Formative Assessments:

- Teacher Observations
- Performance Assessments
- Exit Slips
- Games
- Oral Assessments/Conferencing
- Daily Classwork

Summative Assessments:

- Tests
- Quizzes
- Projects

