

# 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

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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.CivicsPI.7	Explain how national and state governments share power in the federal system of government.
SEL.PK-12.5.1	Establish and maintain healthy relationships
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.8	Describe how the United States Constitution defines and limits the power of government.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.6	Distinguish the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of the national government.
CAEP.9.2.4.A.2	Identify various life roles and civic and work - related activities in the school, home, and community.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.5	Explain how government functions at the local, county, and state level.
SEL.PK-12.5.2	Utilize positive communication and social skills to interact effectively with others
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.
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.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.9	Research and compare the differences and similarities between the United States and other nations' governments, customs, and laws.
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.
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.
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.
SEL.PK-12.3.4	Demonstrate an awareness of the expectations for social interactions in a variety of settings
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.4	Describe the services our government provides the people in the community, state and across the United States.
SOC.6.1.5.CivicsPI.2	Investigate different ways individuals participate in government (e.g., voters, jurors, taxpayers).

## Essential Questions

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- 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**

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### **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**

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### **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

