

# Unit 1: Introduction to Law and the Legal System

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **Introduction to Law**  
Time Period: **1 marking period**  
Length: **10 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of our legal system and how our system originated.

- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of our legal system and how our system originated.

## Transfer

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Students will be able to examine the framework of our legal system and compare and contrast our system with legal systems from other countries in the past.

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For more information, read the following article by Grant Wiggins.

[http://www.authenticeducation.org/ae\\_bigideas/article.lasso?artid=60](http://www.authenticeducation.org/ae_bigideas/article.lasso?artid=60)

## Meaning

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## Understandings

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Students will understand that...

- laws and values are different
- rights have to be balanced with responsibilities

- there are different kinds of laws and what they are
- our Constitutional framework is very unique
- our legal system was a culmination of different legal systems in the past and how each has affected our system

### **Essential Questions**

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Students will keep considering...

- what law is and how it was formed
- how unique our legal system is and why it has lasted
- the origins of our legal system

### **Application of Knowledge and Skill**

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#### **Students will know...**

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Students will know...

- how laws and values differ
- how individuals balance rights and responsibilities
- the framework of our Constitution

- the origins of our legal system (Hammurabi, Greeks, Romans, English)

### **Students will be skilled at...**

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Students will be skilled at...

- comparing and contrasting laws and values
- analyzing rights and responsibilities
- distinguishing between different types of laws
- examining our Constitutional framework
- investigating how legal systems in the past have affected our legal system

### **Academic Vocabulary**

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human rights, criminal laws, felonies, misdemeanors, civil laws, civil action, defendant, plaintiff, prosecutor, beyond a reasonable doubt, preponderance of the evidence, limited government, separation of powers, statues, checks and balances, judicial review, unconstitutional, federalism, Bill of Rights.

### **Learning Goal 1**

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Students will be able to examine what law is and the uniqueness of our Constitution.

- Students will be able to examine what law is and the uniqueness of our Constitution.

CRP.K-12.CRP1

Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.

CRP.K-12.CRP1.1

Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater

	good.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2	Civics, Government, and Human Rights
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a	Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.
SOC.6.1.12.A.4.b	Analyze how ideas found in key documents (i.e., the Declaration of Independence, the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolution, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Gettysburg Address) contributed to demanding equality for all.
SOC.6.1.12.A.16.a	Examine the impact of media and technology on political and social issues in a global society.
SOC.6.1.12.D.2.b	Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.
SOC.6.1.12.D.15.a	Compare United Nations policies and goals (i.e., the International Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals) intended to promote human rights and prevent the violation of human rights with actions taken by the United States.
SOC.6.1.12.CS2	Revolution and the New Nation: The war for independence was the result of growing ideological, political, geographic, economic, and religious tensions resulting from Britain's centralization policies and practices. The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to provide a framework for the American system of government, while also protecting individual rights. Debates about individual rights, states' rights, and federal power shaped the development of the political institutions and practices of the new Republic.
SOC.6.2.12	World History/Global Studies: All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically and systematically about how past interactions of people, cultures, and the environment affect issues across time and cultures. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions as socially and ethically responsible.
SOC.6.3.12.D.1	Analyze the impact of current governmental practices and laws affecting national security and/or individual civil rights/privacy.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.8	Assess the impact of litigation and court decisions on employment laws and practices.
TECH.8.1.12.C.CS2	Communicate information and ideas to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
TECH.8.1.12.D.CS2	Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.
TECH.8.1.12.E.CS2	Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a

variety of sources and media.

TECH.8.2.12.D.4

Assess the impacts of emerging technologies on developing countries.

## Target 1

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identify the different types of laws and the responsibility that goes with them.

- identify the different types of laws and the responsibility that goes with them.

CRP.K-12.CRP2

Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.

CRP.K-12.CRP2.1

Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.

CRP.K-12.CRP5

Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.

CRP.K-12.CRP5.1

Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organization, and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials, and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and the profitability of the organization.

CRP.K-12.CRP8

Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

CRP.K-12.CRP8.1

Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem. They are aware of problems when they occur and take action quickly to address the problem; they thoughtfully investigate the root cause of the problem prior to introducing solutions. They carefully consider the options to solve the problem. Once a solution is agreed upon, they follow through to ensure the problem is solved, whether through their own actions or the actions of others.

SOC.6.1.12.B.13.b

Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental movements and their influence on public attitudes and environmental protection laws.

SOC.6.1.12.D.2.b

Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.

SOC.6.3.12.D.1

Analyze the impact of current governmental practices and laws affecting national security and/or individual civil rights/privacy.

TECH.8.1.12.B.CS1

Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.

TECH.8.1.12.C.CS2

Communicate information and ideas to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.

TECH.8.1.12.D.CS2

Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

TECH.8.1.12.E.CS2

Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.

## Target 2

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Investigate our Constitutional framework and what makes it unique.

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- Investigate our Constitutional framework and what makes it unique.

CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP8.1	Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem. They are aware of problems when they occur and take action quickly to address the problem; they thoughtfully investigate the root cause of the problem prior to introducing solutions. They carefully consider the options to solve the problem. Once a solution is agreed upon, they follow through to ensure the problem is solved, whether through their own actions or the actions of others.
CRP.K-12.CRP11.1	Career-ready individuals find and maximize the productive value of existing and new technology to accomplish workplace tasks and solve workplace problems. They are flexible and adaptive in acquiring new technology. They are proficient with ubiquitous technology applications. They understand the inherent risks-personal and organizational-of technology applications, and they take actions to prevent or mitigate these risks.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a	Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.
SOC.6.1.12.A.4.b	Analyze how ideas found in key documents (i.e., the Declaration of Independence, the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolution, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Gettysburg Address) contributed to demanding equality for all.
SOC.6.1.12.A.14.b	Analyze how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to define the rights of the individual, and evaluate the impact on public policies.
SOC.6.1.12.D.2.b	Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.
SOC.6.1.12.CS2	Revolution and the New Nation: The war for independence was the result of growing ideological, political, geographic, economic, and religious tensions resulting from Britain's centralization policies and practices. The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights were

designed to provide a framework for the American system of government, while also protecting individual rights. Debates about individual rights, states' rights, and federal power shaped the development of the political institutions and practices of the new Republic.

TECH.8.1.12.B.CS1	Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
TECH.8.1.12.C.CS2	Communicate information and ideas to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
TECH.8.1.12.D.CS2	Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.
TECH.8.1.12.E.CS2	Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.

## Learning Goal 2

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Students will be able to analyze the origins of our Constitution and legal system.

- Students will be able to analyze the origins of our Constitution and legal system.

CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP6.1	Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices, and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization.

SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a	Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3	Civics, Government, and Human Rights
SOC.6.1.12.A.14.b	Analyze how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to define the rights of the individual, and evaluate the impact on public policies.
SOC.6.1.12.D.2.b	Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.
SOC.6.1.12.CS2	Revolution and the New Nation: The war for independence was the result of growing ideological, political, geographic, economic, and religious tensions resulting from Britain's centralization policies and practices. The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to provide a framework for the American system of government, while also protecting individual rights. Debates about individual rights, states' rights, and federal power shaped the development of the political institutions and practices of the new Republic.
TECH.8.1.12.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.12.B.CS1	Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
TECH.8.1.12.C	Communication and Collaboration: Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.

## Target 1

Examine how Hammurabi's Codes and the Greek's definition of democracy helped shape our legal system.

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- Examine how Hammurabi's Codes and the Greek's definition of democracy helped shape our legal system.

CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
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with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.

CRP.K-12.CRP6

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CRP.K-12.CRP8

Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

CRP.K-12.CRP8.1

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SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a

Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.

SOC.6.1.12.A.16.a

Examine the impact of media and technology on political and social issues in a global society.

SOC.6.1.12.D.2.b

Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.

SOC.6.2.12

World History/Global Studies: All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically and systematically about how past interactions of people, cultures, and the environment affect issues across time and cultures. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions as socially and ethically responsible.

TECH.8.1.12.B.CS1

Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.

TECH.8.1.12.C.CS2

Communicate information and ideas to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.

TECH.8.1.12.D.CS2

Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

TECH.8.1.12.E.CS2

Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.

## Target 2

Examine how the Roman's Twelve Tables and basic human rights helped shape our Bill of Rights.

- Examine how the Roman's Twelve Tables and basic human rights helped shape our Bill of Rights.

CRP.K-12.CRP1

Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.

CRP.K-12.CRP1.1

Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term

consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.

CRP.K-12.CRP5

Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.

CRP.K-12.CRP5.1

Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organization, and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials, and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and the profitability of the organization.

CRP.K-12.CRP6

Demonstrate creativity and innovation.

CRP.K-12.CRP6.1

Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices, and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization.

CRP.K-12.CRP8

Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

CRP.K-12.CRP8.1

Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem. They are aware of problems when they occur and take action quickly to address the problem; they thoughtfully investigate the root cause of the problem prior to introducing solutions. They carefully consider the options to solve the problem. Once a solution is agreed upon, they follow through to ensure the problem is solved, whether through their own actions or the actions of others.

SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a

Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.

SOC.6.2.12.A.5.e

Assess the progress of human and civil rights around the world since the 1948 U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

SOC.6.3.12.D.1

Analyze the impact of current governmental practices and laws affecting national security and/or individual civil rights/privacy.

TECH.8.1.12.D.CS2

Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

TECH.8.2.12.D.4

Assess the impacts of emerging technologies on developing countries.

## **Summative Assessment**

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All assessments are differentiated and aligned to the social studies standards and curriculum.

Alternate assessments may include problem based learning, projects or presentations, or a common paper/pencil assessment or combination of any of these.

Common summative assessments will be devised by the teachers teaching this course during a common planning time.

## **21st Century Life and Careers**

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CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

## **Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities**

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Do Nows

Teacher observation

Q and A

Cooperative learning opportunities

Surveys

Guided notes

Benchmark

pre/post tests

projects

current events

## **Accommodations/Modifications**

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Enrichment opportunities: extra credit for those who choose to do outside the classroom work

Differentiation: 504 accommodations and IEP modifications

## **Unit Resources**

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Internet

Power Points

Surveys

Supplemental text/teacher resources

Videos

Student notebook/journal

Flocabulary: Week in Rap, Three Branches of Government, Hammurabi Codes

## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

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