
SUBJECT: Civics

GRADE: 7

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Civics is an introductory course that explores how the government of the United States runs. It is also designed to help students become good and active citizens in the future.

COURSE BENCHMARKS:

1. Determine the meaning of citizenship and the importance of being a productive citizen.
2. Analyze the foundations of the United States government.
3. Distinguish between the three branches of the federal government.
4. Understand some of the basic concepts of economics.

Benchmark 1: Determine the meaning of citizenship and the importance of being a productive citizen.

Indicators:

- A. Develop an awareness of the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship.
- B. Interpret the immigration policy of the United States
- C. Identify the process of how an alien becomes a U. S. citizen.
- D. Comprehend censuses figures and distinguish between past and present population growth patterns.

Benchmark 2: Analyze the foundations of the United States government and political system.

Indicators:

- A. Compare democracy with other forms of government.
- B. Examine the influences of the Declaration of Independence on American government.
- C. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
- D. Explain the events that occurred during the proposal and ratification of the United States Constitution.
- E. Develop an understanding of the main principles of the U. S. Constitution.
- F. Explain how the flexibility of the U. S. Constitution has allowed it to be influential throughout U. S. history.
- G. Describe the American two-party political system.
- H. Explain the role interest groups play in the U. S. political process.
- I. Explain the electoral process.
- J. Describe sources of government revenue and areas of government spending.
- K. Explain the impact of the media on politics.
- L. Compare the different systems of government.

Benchmark 3: Distinguish between the three branches of the federal government.

Indicators:

- A. Understand the characteristics of Congress and the qualifications of its members.
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of the steps involved in passing a bill through Congress.
- C. Understand the characteristics of the Executive Branch.
- F. Define the roles and powers of the federal court system.

Benchmark 4: Understand some of the basic concepts of economics.

Indicators:

- A. Explain the concepts of scarcity, needs versus wants, value versus wealth, and tradeoffs.
- B. Describe the factors of production: Land, labor, and capital.
- C. Explain the different market structures in a free market economy.
- D. Explain how productivity is measured.
- E. Explain the relationship between supply and demand.
- F. Compare the free enterprise system with the other major economic systems.
- G. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations.
- H. Describe the role of labor unions.
- I. Explain some of the socioeconomic issues confronted by the U. S. government.
- J. Explain the role of the U. S. Government in the U. S. economy.
- K. Explain the impact of globalization.
- L. Describe the U. S. banking and Federal Reserve System.
- M. Explain the United States budget process.