

LISBON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
UNIT DESIGN OUTLINE

Unit Title: Foundations

Unit Designers: Jacqlyn Young

Level(s): Grade 9 Time Span: 5 Weeks

Content Area:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Prep | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/PE | <input type="checkbox"/> M&C Languages | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English Language Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Tech | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual & Perf. Arts |

Summary of Unit:

In this unit the roots of American Government are analyzed, the Principles of the Constitution are critiqued, and the relevance of the Bill of Rights is evaluated.

Content Standards/Performance Indicators:

B. Civics & Government

B.1. Knowledge, Concepts, Themes, and Patterns of Civics/Government: Students understand the ideals, purposes, principles, structures, and processes of constitutional government in the United States and in the American political system, as well as examples of other forms of government and political systems in the world.

- d. Describe the purpose, structures, and processes of the American political system

E. History

E.1. Historical Knowledge, Themes and Patterns: Students understand major eras, major enduring themes, and historic influences in United States and world history, including the roots of democratic philosophy, ideals, and institutions in the world.

- c. Trace and critique the roots and evolution of democratic ideals and constitutional principles in the history of the United States and the world using historical sources

English Language Arts

D. Language

D.2. Mechanics: Students demonstrate the use of the structures and conventions of Standard American English in their communication.

- a. Use appropriate punctuation, spelling, and sentence and paragraph structure to suit purpose, situation, and audience.

Key Pre-Requisites:

Knowledge:

- Basic colonial history.
- The role of the government.
- Basic structures and characteristics of the government.

Skills:

Pro/con, & analysis.

Enduring Understandings:

American political ideas were adopted and adapted political theories, and the result of Enlightenment thinking.

The U.S. Constitution is a “living” (changing) document.

The success of our Representative Democracy depends on the Civic engagement and education of the citizenry.

The power of the Federal Government is divided between three different branches, and each branch may “check” and balance the other.

Essential Questions that Guide and Focus This Unit:

From what backgrounds, philosophies, and documents did we borrow our political theories?

What is the purpose of the Constitution, and does it achieve its purpose?

What are the values of the Bill of Rights, and from whence do those values come?

How does the Constitution prevent any one branch from acquiring and abusing too much power?

Key Knowledge and Skills students will acquire as a result of this unit:

Knowledge:

Foundations of the American Political System.

The difference between duty and responsibility.

Skills:

Compare and contrast information.

Making inferences.

Analysis of the political spectrum.

How will students provide evidence of their understandings?

Constitutional convention simulation.

Postings on class discussion board (www.nicenet.org)

Project: Principles of the Constitution / Storybook CLAS

Teaching and Learning experiences used to help students understand:

Bill of Rights simulation

Discussions (in class and online)

Comprehension and reaction questions

Reviews of relevant news articles and political cartoons

Provisions for Extending Learning:

Work on the www.youthforhumanrights.org website (comparing global human rights with those spelled out in the Constitution.

Comparing the structure of the Maine state government to that of the Federal government.

How will technology be used to increase student achievement?

Online discussion boards created for each section on www.nicenet.org

Relevant articles, video clips & audio clips from www.npr.org, www.cnn.com, etc.

Online (and PDF) copies of *The Bill of Rights in Action*, provided by The Constitutional Rights Foundation.

Instructional Resources:

Glencoe *Civics & Government* textbook & related resources

Choices readings and structured debates on Independence and/or the Constitutional Convention

www.nicenet.org

www.npr.org

www.youthforhumanrights.org

Attach a copy of the unit assessment tool, including criteria for evaluation of student performance/product.

Principles of the Constitution