

Social Studies

SEVENTH GRADE

Citizenship

The goal of education in civics and government is informed, responsible participation in political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of the constitutional democracy which established the republic of the United States of America. These standards incorporate the strands of economics, geography, history, and political science with an obvious emphasis on political science. They address representative democracy, law, personal economics, and civic responsibility. Unique to this course is the opportunity for students to actively participate in a community-based, civic-education project.

Students will:

1. Describe influences of ancient Greece, the Magna Carta, and the Mayflower Compact on the government of the United States
 - Identify essential characteristics of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights as the foundation of the government of the United States
 - Describe the influence of John Locke
 - Explain essential characteristics of the political system of the United States
2. Compare the government of the United States with other governmental systems.
3. Describe essential characteristics of state and local governments in the United States.
 - Identify major offices and officeholders of state and local governments
 - Explain the historical background of the 1901 Constitution of Alabama and its impact on state and local governments
 - Describe how local and state governments are funded
4. Compare duties and functions of members of legislative, executive, and judicial branches of local, state, and national governments.
 - Identify geographic and political districts of legislative, executive, and judicial branches of national, state, and local governments
 - Describe the organization and jurisdiction of courts within the judicial system of the United States at local, state, and national levels
 - Explain concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances among the three branches of state and national governments

5. Explain the importance of juvenile, adult, civil, and criminal laws within the judicial system of the United States.
 - Explain rights of citizens under the Constitution
 - Explain what is meant by the term *rule of law*
 - Understand consequences of breaking the law
 - Contrast juvenile and adult laws and their respective court systems
 - Identify laws that most affect youth at home, school, and in the community

6. Describe how people organize economic systems for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services to address the basic economic questions of which goods and services will be produced, how they will be produced, and who will consume them.
 - Use economic concepts to explain historical and current developments and issues in global, national, or local contexts
 - Analyze the distribution of urban areas to determine how they are linked together

7. Describe the relationship between the consumer and the marketplace in the economy of the United States regarding scarcity, opportunity cost, trade-off decision making, characteristics of a market economy, and supply and demand.
 - Describe the influence of the stock market upon individuals and the economy
 - Analyze distribution and production maps to determine patterns of supply and demand
 - Describe effects of government policies on the free market
 - Identify laws protecting rights of consumers and avenues of recourse when those rights are violated

8. Apply principles of money management to the preparation of a personal budget that addresses housing, transportation, food, clothing, medical expenses, and insurance as well as checking and savings accounts, loans, investments, credit, and comparison shopping.

9. Identify individual and civic responsibilities of citizens of the United States.
 - Describe differences in rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities between citizens and noncitizens
 - Explain how United States citizenship is acquired
 - Interpret an immigration map
 - Identify character traits that are beneficial to individuals and to the republic of the United States

10. Describe changes in social and economic conditions in the United States during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
 - Describe the impact of print and electronic media and the Internet on the American way of life

11. Describe examples of conflict, cooperation, and interdependence of groups, societies, and nations, using past and current events.
 - Trace the political and social impact of the modern Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to the present, including Alabama's role
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12. Explain how the United States can be improved by individual and collective participation and by public service.
 - Identify options for civic and community action
 - Participating in the political process
 - Identify ways adults participate in the political process
 - Apply a problem-solving model to a community project, including constructing a policy statement, budget, and an action plan to achieve one or more goals related to an issue of public concern.

Geography

In this one-semester geography course, students increase their knowledge about the physical nature of the world and about the relationships between people and their environments. They also study geography in the context of economics, politics, and culture. In this world geography course, content standards focus on the cultural geography of the Eastern Hemisphere.

Students will:

1. Describe the world in spatial terms using maps, major physical and human features, and urban and rural land-use patterns.
 - Explain the use of map essentials, including type, size, shape, distance, direction, location, scale, and symbols
 - Use geographic technology to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective
 - Analyze relationships among people, places, and the environment by mapping information about them, including trade patterns, governmental alliances, and immigration patterns
2. Analyze regional characteristics for factors that contribute to change and for their relative importance.
 - Use field observations, maps, and other tools to identify and compare physical characteristics of places
 - Compare physical and human characteristics of various places using observational data and geographic resources
3. Describe processes that shape the physical environment, including long-range effects of extreme weather phenomena and human activity.
 - Compare how ecosystems vary from place to place and over time

4. Locate cultural hearths in Europe, Asia, and Africa on maps, globes, and satellite images.
 - Describe physical and human characteristics used to define regions in the Eastern Hemisphere
 - Relate place names to cultural and/or political perspectives
5. Identify physical, economic, political, and cultural characteristics of selected regions in the Eastern Hemisphere, including Europe, Asia, and Africa.
6. Explain factors that contribute to conflict within and between countries of the Eastern Hemisphere.
7. Describe historical and contemporary economic trade networks of regions in the Eastern Hemisphere based upon their geographic location and available resources.
8. Describe positive and negative environmental effects of human actions on the four basic components of Earth's physical systems: atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere.
9. Analyze environmental consequences of major technological changes in human history for both intended and unintended outcomes.
 - Identify the impact of urban growth on the environment
10. Describe ways people in the Eastern Hemisphere prepare for natural hazards and disasters.
11. Compare the distribution of natural resources in various parts of the world by mapping locations of major deposits.
 - Relate the importance of energy resources to the development of human societies
 - Discuss the relationship between a country's standard of living and its accessibility to natural resources
12. Describe problems involved in balancing the impact of human habitation on the environment and the need for natural resources essential for sustaining human life.
 - Assess differing attitudes of people regarding the use and misuse of resources
 - Predict the future spatial organization of Earth if present conditions and patterns of consumption, problem-solving innovations, production, and rates of population growth and decline continue
 - Apply a problem-solving model to a geographic issue, including the development of sound arguments for specific actions on the issue