

Civics and Government Benchmarks - 8th Grade

Standard 1: Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law and the American political system.

SS.8.CG.1.1 Compare the views of Patriots, Loyalists and other colonists on limits of government authority, inalienable rights and resistance to tyranny.

- Students will describe colonial forms of government prior to the American Revolution.
- Students will evaluate the Loyalists' and Patriots' arguments for remaining loyal to the British Crown or seeking independence from Britain.

SS.8.CG.1.2 Compare and contrast the 1838 Florida Constitution and 1868 Florida Constitution.

- Students will explain how the 1868 Florida Constitution conformed with the Reconstruction Era amendments to the U.S. Constitution (e.g., citizenship, equal protection, suffrage).

SS.8.CG.1.3 Explain the importance of the rule of law in the United States' constitutional republic.

- Students will discuss the impact of the rule of law on U.S. citizens and government.
- Students will recognize how the rule of law influences a society.
- Students will identify how the rule of law protects citizens from arbitrary and abusive government.
- Students will evaluate the impact of the rule of law on governmental officials and institutions (e.g., accountability to the law, fair procedures, decisions based on the law, consistent application and enforcement of the law, transparency of institutions).

Standard 2: Evaluate the roles, rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government and the political system.

SS.8.CG.2.1 Identify the constitutional provisions for establishing citizenship.

- Students will explain how the 14th Amendment establishes citizenship.

SS.8.CG.2.2 Compare the legal obligations of citizens at the local, state and national levels.

- Students will recognize the legal responsibilities of citizens (e.g., obeying the law, paying taxes, serving on a jury when summoned, registering with the Selective Service).

SS.8.CG.2.3 Analyze the role of civic virtue in the lives of citizens and leaders from the Colonial period through Reconstruction.

- Students will understand how the idea of civic virtue changes in response to the attitudes of citizens and leaders over time.

SS.8.CG.2.4 Explain how forms of civic and political participation changed from the Colonial period through Reconstruction.

- Students will describe significant acts of civic and political participation from the Colonial period through Reconstruction.

SS.8.CG.2.5 Analyze how the Bill of Rights guarantees civil rights and liberties to citizens.

- Students will explain the meaning and purpose of each amendment in the Bill of Rights.
- Students will describe how the Bill of Rights affects citizens and government.

SS.8.CG.2.6 Evaluate how amendments to the U.S. Constitution expanded opportunities for civic participation through Reconstruction.

- Students will identify constitutional amendments that address voting rights.
- Students will describe how specific constitutional amendments expanded access to the political process for various groups over time.

Standard 3: Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions and organization of government.

SS.8.CG.3.1 Trace the foundational ideals and principles related to the U.S. government expressed in primary sources from the colonial period to Reconstruction.

- Students will identify foundational ideals and principles related to the U.S. government expressed in primary sources (e.g., the Mayflower Compact (1620); Common Sense (1776); the Declaration of Independence (1776); the U.S. Constitution (1789); the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments (1848); the Gettysburg Address (1863); Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address (1865)).