

CURRICULUM MAP

United States and Massachusetts Government and Civic Life

Grade 8

Time Frame	Topic	Content	Resources	Standards	Assessments
4 weeks	Topic 1. The philosophical foundations of the United States political system	1. Factors that influenced the formation of the United States government: -government in ancient Athens and Rome -Magna Carta and English Bill of Rights -Enlightenment philosophers -governments of Native Peoples -Colonial experiences	Textbook: AMERICAN HISTORY (Pearson: Copyright 2016) <i>Junior Scholastic</i> Primary sources related to each topic Teacher created <i>Smartboard</i> activities Bulletin Boards	8.T1	Formative 1. <i>Smartboard</i> interactive activities 2. Brainstorming 3. Debates 4. Cooperative Group work 5. Practice quizzes and tests 6. Homework
2 weeks	Topic 2. The development of the United States government	1. Declaration of Independence -Preamble -natural rights -grievances	Supplemental materials related to each topic: -differentiated presentations -videos -artifacts	8.T2	

2 weeks	<p>Topic 3. The institutions of the United States government</p>	2. Articles of Confederation -strengths -weaknesses	Commonwealth Museum visit (history of Massachusetts)	8.T3	<p>Summative</p> <p>1. Tests -essay -multiple choice -concept completion</p> <p>2. Projects -home created -classroom created</p> <p>3. Presentations</p>
3 weeks		3. Constitutional Convention -leaders -Great Compromise - $\frac{3}{5}$ Compromise -Slave Trade Compromise	Edward M. Kennedy Institute visit (interactive Senate experience)		
2 weeks		4. Ratification -process -Federalist and Anti-Federalist debates			
4 weeks		5. Constitution -Goals and principles -Preamble -Articles -Amendments			
2 weeks		1. Elections for Congress, the presidency, and nomination and confirmation process for Supreme Court Justices			
2 weeks		2. Powers and limits of the branches of government -Legislative -Executive -Judicial			

2 weeks	Topic 4. Rights and responsibilities of citizens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. American citizenship 2. Naturalization process 3. Democratic values 4. Responsible citizenship 		8.T4	
4 weeks	Topic 5. The Constitution, Amendments, and Supreme Court decisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes to, and evolution of, the Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -elastic clause -amendments -Supreme Court cases 		8.T5	
1 week	Topic 6. The structure of Massachusetts state and local government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare and contrast the United States Constitution and Massachusetts Constitution 		8.T6	
1 week		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Compare and contrast the functions of state and local governments 			
1 week		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Powers and limits of state governments as outlined in the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution 			
1 week		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Protections provided by Massachusetts Constitution beyond those found in United States Constitution 			
1 week					

1 week		5. Responsibilities of government at the federal, state, and local level			
1 week		6. Components of Massachusetts local government -mayors -city and town councils -town managers -select boards -school committees -town meeting -county courts and sheriffs' departments			
1 week	Topic 7. Freedom of the press and news/media literacy	1. First Amendment of the United States Constitution		8.T7	
1 week		2. Article 16 of the Massachusetts Constitution			
1 week		3. Purpose of: -news articles -editorials -editorial cartoons -"op-ed" commentaries			
1 week		4. Digital news and social media in a democracy			
2 weeks		5. Evaluate and analyze print and online media -credibility			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">-competing information-opinion-point of view			
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