

Kids Voting USA

Social Studies Standards Correlation
6-8 Classroom Activities

Strand 3 – Civics/Government

The goal of the civics strand is to develop the requisite knowledge and skills for informed, responsible participation in public life; to ensure, through instruction, that students understand the essentials, source, and history of the constitutions of the United States and Arizona, American institutions and ideals (ARS 15-710). Students will understand the foundations, principles, and institutional practices of the United States as a representative democracy and constitutional republic. They will understand the importance of each person as an individual with human and civil rights and our shared heritage in the United States. Students will understand politics, government, and the responsibilities of good citizenship. Citizenship skills include the capacity to influence policies and decisions by clearly communicating interests and the ability to build coalitions through negotiation, compromise, and consensus. In addition, students will learn that the United States influences and is influenced by global interaction.

Elections and the Voting

Activity ~ Poll on Apathy

Objective: Students poll voters to examine voter responsibility.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th Grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Apathy Cartoon Analysis

Objective: Students analyze political cartoons portraying apathy to examine the value of voting.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th Grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Solutions

Objective: Students gather information to prepare to vote.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Rate the Candidates

Objective: Students carefully study the candidates to make a voting decision.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Party Planks

Objective: Students examine the concepts of parties and party planks.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 2 PO 4

- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Registration Simulation

Objective: Students simulate registration to become familiar with the process.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Polling Places

Objective: Students find their polling places to prepare to vote.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Our National Symbol

Objective: Students participate in a primary election simulation and in a caucus simulation to explore and compare the processes.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 2 PO 4
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Voting Simulation

Objective: Students vote in a simulated polling place to become familiar with the voting process.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 2 PO 4
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Watching the Returns

Objective: Students monitor the election returns to stay politically active.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Election Accountability

Objective: Students gather and track information that pertains to campaign promises.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Literature Connection Activity ~ *Landslide! A Kid's Guide to the U.S. Elections* by Dan Gutman

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Democracy and the People

Activity ~ Types of Government

Objective: Students understand what democracy is within the context of other forms of government.

6th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 5 PO 1

7th grade

- Concept 5 PO 2

8th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 5 PO 1

Activity ~ A Body of Information

Objective: Students consider all the ways that democracy impacts our lives.

6th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 4

8th grade

- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 3 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2

- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 4

Activity ~ Political History Interview

Objective: Students interview an adult to learn firsthand about the American democratic experience.

6th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 3 PO 4
- Concept 3 PO 5
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Citizen's Jeopardy

Objective: Students learn about American democracy by studying 25 facts and then playing Jeopardy in two teams.

6th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 3 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ If Elected . . .

Objective: Students consider the power of American democracy in action, making decisions as an elected leader would.

6th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 2 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 1
- Concept 2 PO 2
- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ The “Right” Way

Objective: Students identify the rights guaranteed to them by the Bill of Rights

6th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1

7th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 2 PO 1
- Concept 2 PO 5
- Concept 3 PO 5

Activity ~ A Declaration

Objective: Students read an excerpt from the *Declaration of Independence* and interpret it in their own words.

6th grade

- NA

7th grade

- NA

8th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1

Activity ~ Democracy: Who? What? Where?

Objective: Students investigate questions about their government and other governments around the world.

6th grade

- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 5 PO 1

7th grade

- Concept 2 PO 1
- Concept 5 PO 2

8th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 1 PO 2
- Concept 2 PO 1
- Concept 2 PO 2
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 4
- Concept 5 PO 1

Activity ~ Pen Pals

Objective: Students contact other students around the globe to learn about different democracies.

6th grade

- Concept 5 PO 5

7th grade

- Concept 5 PO 2

8th grade

- Concept 5 PO 1

Activity ~ A Message from Nelson Mandela

Objective: Students compare and contrast aspects of American and South African democracy.

6th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 5 PO 1

7th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 2 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 5
- Concept 5 PO 1

8th grade

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 1 PO 2
- Concept 2 PO 1
- Concept 2 PO 2
- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 2 PO 4
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 3 PO 4
- Concept 3 PO 5
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 5
- Concept 5 PO 1

Literature Connection Activity ~ *Government: How Local, State, and Federal Government Works* by Mark Friedman

Objective: Students learn how the government operates and how it affects them.

6th grade

- NA

7th grade

- NA
- 8th grade
- Concept 2 PO 1
 - Concept 2 PO 2
 - Concept 4 PO 1
 - Concept 4 PO 4

Culminating Activity ~ Democracy, Taking a Stand

Objective: Students learn the characteristics of a democratic society and explore their roles as citizens.

- 6th grade
- Concept 1 PO 1
 - Concept 3 PO 1
 - Concept 3 PO 2
 - Concept 3 PO 3
 - Concept 4 PO 1
 - Concept 4 PO 2
 - Concept 4 PO 3

- 7th grade
- Concept 3 PO 2
 - Concept 4 PO 1
 - Concept 4 PO 2
 - Concept 4 PO 3
 - Concept 4 PO 4

- 8th grade
- Concept 1 PO 1
 - Concept 2 PO 1
 - Concept 2 PO 2
 - Concept 2 PO 3
 - Concept 3 PO 1
 - Concept 3 PO 2
 - Concept 3 PO 3
 - Concept 4 PO 1
 - Concept 4 PO 2
 - Concept 4 PO 3
 - Concept 4 PO 4

The Right to Vote

Activity ~ Suffrage Sequence Cards

Objective: Students order and examine the history of voting rights to gain a better understanding of the right to vote.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO3

7th grade

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 2 PO 4
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 5
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Vote Quotes

Objective: Students study famous quotes to learn the significance of the right to vote.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO3

7th grade

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 2 PO 4
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 5
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Historical Debate – Women’s Suffrage

Objective: Students debate women’s suffrage.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO3

7th grade

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 2 PO 4
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 5
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ The Long Journey

Objective: Students explore the history of Native Americans and the right to vote.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ 1965 Alabama Literacy Test

Objective: Students experience the injustice of voter discrimination.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Part of the Franchise

Objective: Students personalize the history of the right to vote.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Who has the Power?

Objective: Students evaluate the history if the right to vote in America.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Voting Barriers

Objective: Students consider the barriers to voting today, including their causes and the impact they have.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Literature Connection Activity ~ *A Time for Courage: The Suffragette Diary of Kathleen Bowen* by Kathryn Lasky

Objective: Students examine the right to vote by reading a fictional account of a girl living in the U.S. in the early 20th century.

6th grade

- NA

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 5
- 8th grade
- Concept 3 PO 5
 - Concept 3 PO 9
 - Concept 4 PO 5

Culminating Activity ~ Use It or Lose It!

Objective: Students recognize the fragile nature of the right to vote and acknowledge the need to protect that right.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

8th grade

- Concept 2 PO 3
- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 9
- Concept 4 PO 5

Active Citizenship

Activity ~ Evaluate a Web Site

Objective: Students learn how to become critical consumers of information on the World Wide Web and evaluate a Web site.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ The Decision-Making Chart

Objective: Students gather and evaluate information to help them make an informed decision.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Judging Propaganda

Objective: Students learn to identify various forms of propaganda.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Newspaper Scavenger Hunt

Objective: Students identify newspaper sections and evaluate articles to answer specific questions.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Debate the Issue

Objective: Students debate a topic and communicate effectively with one another.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Complaints and Solutions

Objective: Students simulate the important task of answering complaint mail as mayors. They troubleshoot areas of conflict in communities, with an emphasis on human rights issues.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

- Concept 3 PO 4

Activity ~ Student Interviews

Objective: Students interview their classmates about their ideas on politics and voting.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ You Can Vote

Objective: Students work together to perform various actions.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Design a Sign

Objective: Students work together to invent a slogan and sign for an issue or candidate, and use their math skills to keep sign sizes within the limits set by sign ordinances.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ It's Official

Objective: Students send letter to elected officials.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Targeting Problems in My Community

Objective: The students learn about different problems in the local community, choose one, and brainstorm ways they can make a difference.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ "How're We Doin'?"

Objective: Students survey neighbors and friends to assess the community's perception of its own problems.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1

- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Literature Connection Activity ~ *Fight On! Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration* by Dennis Brindell and Judith Bloom Fradin

Objective: Students examine what it means to create positive change in a community.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Culminating Activity: Toward a More Perfect Community

Objective: Groups of students compose an overview of their community, choose a campaign for a specific area of improvement, and plan a service project.

6th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

7th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

8th grade

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 3

Kids Voting Arizona

State Elections: Content Outline for all Grade Levels

- I. Foundations of Arizona Government**
- II. The Election Process**
- III. Forms of Government**

6th grade – NA

7th grade – NA

8th grade –

- Concept 3 PO 1
- Concept 3 PO 3
- Concept 3 PO 4