

Kids Voting USA

Social Studies Standards Correlation
9-12 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 Experience

Activity ~ Election Judge Trainers

Objective: Students learn the significance of voting as they assist at the polls during an election.

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

Activity ~ Voting and Local Government

Objective: Students research the individuals, groups, and committees that make up their local city government and determine what part voting plays in how local government operates.

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

Activity ~ Campaign Issue

Objective: Students write papers describing several candidates' positions on selected campaign issues.

- Concept 4 PO 4

- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Selling the Candidates

Objective: Students analyze candidates' television advertisements to identify techniques of persuasion and fallacies to logic.

- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Build Your Voter IQ

Objective: Students gather, use, and disseminate information about voter registration/voting procedures and conduct a voter registration drive.

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Registration Simulation

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

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Voting Simulation

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

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ An Hour or Two

Objective: Students work for a cause or candidate in the community

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

Activity ~ Registering New Voters

Objective: Students distribute voter registration information to adults who are not currently registered to vote.

- Concept 4 PO 3

Activity ~ Assisting People with Disabilities

Objective: Students develop and carry out plans to assist individuals with disabilities in registering to vote and voting.

- Concept 4 PO 3

Literature Connection Activity ~ *Presidential Leadership* edited by James Taranto and Leonard Leo

Objective: Students examine the qualities of effective presidents.

- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 5

Culminating Activity ~ Candidates' Night

Objective: Students organize a Candidates' Night at their high school prior to an election.

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

American Democracy and Citizenship

Activity ~ Democracy: What is it Really?

Objective: Students internalize the meaning of democracy as a process for both individuals and societies.

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

Activity ~ Democracy as Sport

Objective: Students internalize the meaning of democracy by connecting it to their favorite sport.

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

Activity ~ It's Party Time

Objective: Students use their knowledge of political parties to analyze the actions of current political leaders.

- Concept 2 PO 5
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Experiencing America

Objective: Students conduct research and interview adults about historical events.

- Concept 4 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Voter Survey

Objective: Students survey adults to learn why they vote or don't vote.

- Concept 4 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Register Your Opinion

Objective: Students Explore Voter Registration and voting and write letters to the government expressing their own opinions.

- Concept 4 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Save Your Rights

Objective: Students select the rights most important to them and develop a rationale for protecting Constitutional guarantees.

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 1

Activity ~ Global Neighbors

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

- Concept 5 PO 1

Activity ~ Athenian Democracy

Objective: Students learn the basic structure of Athenian government and how it functioned; they compare Athenian democracy with American democracy.

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 1 PO 3

Literature Connection Activity ~ *Common Sense, Rights of Man, and Other Essential Writings of Thomas Paine* by Thomas Paine

Objective: Students become familiar with the tenets that are the basis of American democracy.

- Concept 1 PO 1
- Concept 1 PO 3

Culminating Activity ~ Act from the Heart

Objective: Students use evidence to emphasize a point, recognize the relationship between goal, action, and outcomes. They also demonstrate an understanding of democracy in the process.

- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 4

Suffrage and the Right to Vote

Activity ~ Supreme Court Voting Rights Cases

Objective: Students study Supreme Court voting rights decisions to gain a greater appreciation for what shapes the right to vote.

- Concept 2 PO 7
- Concept 4 PO 1

Activity ~ In the Right

Objective: Students become familiar with suffrage and how it has evolved over the years.

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

Activity ~ 1965 Alabama Literacy Test

Objective: Students experience the injustices of voter discrimination.

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 1

Activity ~ We, the Women

Objective: Students take the part of women suffragists and their opponents to understand the need for legal protection.

- Concept 3 PO 2
- Concept 4 PO 1

Activity ~ Voting Rights Act of 1965

Objective: Students consider the impact of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

- Concept 4 PO 1

Activity ~ Nelson Mandela Votes in the election of 1994

Objective: Students compare voting injustices in South Africa to those in the United States.

- Concept 5 PO 1
- Concept 5 PO 2

Activity ~ Stop that Teenager before He Votes

Objective: Students evaluate and respond to commentary on teen voters.

- Concept 4 PO 1

Activity ~ The Power of One

Objective: Students learn to overcome apathy and appreciate how one vote can make a difference.

- Concept 4 PO 3
- Concept 4 PO 4

Literature Connection Activity ~ *Voting and the Spirit of American Democracy* edited by Donald W. Rogers

Objective: Students investigate the history of voting rights in America.

- Concept 4 PO 1

Culminating Activity ~ A Game of Cards

Objective: Students recognize the progressive empowerment of groups in the United States.

- Concept 4 PO 1
- Concept 4 PO 4

Active Citizenship

Activity ~ In the News: Fact or Fiction

Objective: Students write a newspaper article that incorporates a headline, lead paragraph, body, and conclusion.

- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ The Public Agenda

Objective: Students gather and classify media coverage to determine national, state, and local issues.

- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Choosing an Issue

Objective: Students research an issue of interest to them and write a report about what they learned.

- Concept 4 PO 4
- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Debate the Issue

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

- Concept 4 PO 4

Activity ~ The Election of 1800

Objective: Students design campaign signs, buttons, and bumper stickers for John Adams, Federalist Party, and Thomas Jefferson, Democratic-Republican Party.

- Concept 2 PO 5

Activity ~ Voicing Your Opinion

Objective: Students attend a meeting (school board, town, city council, etc.) and voice their views on a selected issue either verbally or in writing.

- Concept \$ PO 4

Activity ~ Letter to the Editor

Objective: Students write letters to the editor of a local newspaper about a candidate or issue.

- Concept 4 PO 4

Activity ~ Political Cartoons

Objective: Students analyze symbolism and messages in political cartoons and draw one on a current issue.

- Concept 4 PO 5

Activity ~ Koosh Ball Catch

Objective: Students play and modify a ball game to discover the power of group deliberation in a democracy.

- Concept 4 PO 4

Activity ~ Creative Expressions

Objective: Students create an artistic display or a public performance to educate the school community about different perspectives on a school issue.

- Concept 4 PO 4

Activity ~ My Turn: Targeting a Problem for Teens

Objective: Students learn about different problems affecting teenagers, choose one, and brainstorm ways to make a difference.

- Concept 4 PO 4

Activity ~ Helping an Organization

Objective: Students identify an organization working on an issue of concern to them and assist the organization with one of its projects.

- Concept 4 PO 4

Activity ~ Teaching an Elementary Lesson

Objective: Students teach a lesson on an aspect of civic participation to an elementary class.

- Concept 4 PO 4

Literature Connection Activity ~ *Teen Power Politics* by Sara Jane Boyers

Objective: Students implement service projects to create positive change in their communities.

- Concept 4 PO 4

Culminating Activity ~ Service-Learning Action Plan -Part One: Identify Areas for Service

Objective: Students list problems facing their community and choose an area for service.

- Concept 4 PO 4

Culminating Activity ~ Service-Learning Action Plan -Part Two: Determine Service Solutions

- Concept 4 PO 4

Culminating Activity ~ Service-Learning Action Plan -Part Three: Plan and Take Action

- Concept 4 PO 4

Culminating Activity ~ Service-Learning Action Plan -Part Four: Celebrate Your Success

- Concept 4 PO 4

Kids Voting Arizona

State Elections: Content Outline for all Grade Levels

I. Foundations of Arizona Government

II. The Election Process

III. Forms of Government

- Concept 2 PO 8
- Concept 2 PO 9