

**Social Studies Standards**

**Civics 10th Grade**

**Course Overview:** The study of civics focuses on knowledge about citizenship and how we can become effective citizens, the connections between our political system, our economy, our society, and our lives, and the development of skills needed to take action involving problems and improving our own community.

**Unit 1: Citizenship (3 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, students will explore the sources of American government and aspects of American citizenship.

**Standards**

1. The student will identify the sources of American government (C.12.1).
2. The student will explain the multiple purposes of democratic government (C.12.4).
3. The student will analyze historical and contemporary examples of the tensions between the purposes of democratic government (C.12.4).
4. The student will describe and evaluate ideas of how society should be organized and political power should be exercised, and assess how such ideas have worked in practice (C.12.13).
5. The student will illustrate how governmental powers can be acquired, used, abused, or legitimized (C.12.4).
6. The student will evaluate the justification for certain rights and responsibilities of citizens (C.12.1).
7. The student will analyze the implications of certain rights and responsibilities of citizens (C.12.1; E.12.3).

**Unit 2: Roots of Democracy (5 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, students will examine the origins and development of democratic institutions and the structure and principles of the Constitution.

**Standards**

1. The student will describe how different political systems define and protect individual human rights (C.12.2).
2. The student will identify the Constitutional principles of liberty, equality, justice and power (C.12.3).
3. The student will trace how legal interpretations of underlying Constitutional principles, the Bill of Rights, and other Constitutional Amendments have changed and evolved over time (C.12.3).
4. The student will explain and analyze how different political and social movements have sought to mobilize public opinion and obtain governmental support in order to achieve their goals (C.12.14).
5. The student will describe the evolution of movements to assert rights by people with disabilities, ethnic and racial groups, minorities, and women (C.12.16; E.12.12).

**Unit 3: The National Government (5 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, students will examine the three branches that make up the national government.

**Standards**

1. The student will identify and analyze significant political benefits, problems, and solutions to problems related to federalism and the separation of powers (C.12.6).
2. The student will analyze different theories of how governmental powers might be used to help promote or hinder liberty, equality, and justice (C.12.15).
3. The student will describe how legal interpretations of Constitutional Amendments have changed and evolved over time (C.12.3).
4. The student will explain the United States' relationship to other nations and how government makes foreign policy decisions (C.12.12).

**Unit 4: Political Parties and Interest Groups (4 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, students will describe the rights of citizens to participate in political parties and politics, vote and express their opinions on government policies.

**Standards**

1. The student will identify ways people may participate effectively in community affairs and the political process (C.12.10).
2. The student will evaluate the ways in which public opinion can be used to influence and shape public policy (C.12.11).
3. The student will identify and evaluate the means through which advocates influence public policy (C.12.9; E.12.7).
4. The student will describe how past and present American political parties and interest groups have gained or lost influence on political decision-making and voting behavior (C.12.7).
5. The student will identify an issue of public concern and use information from various sources to take and communicate a position on the issue (C.12.8).

**Unit 5: State and Local Government (5 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, students will describe the make-up of our state government and the role it plays in the federal system.

**Standards**

1. The student will evaluate the ways in which public opinion can be used to influence and shape public policy (C.12.11).
2. The student will identify ways people may participate effectively in local affairs and the political process (C.12.10).
3. The student will identify and analyze significant political benefits, problems, and solutions to problems related to federalism (C.12.6).
4. The student will explain and analyze how different political and social movements have sought to mobilize public opinion and obtain governmental support in order to achieve local and state goals (C.12.14).
5. The student will identify an issue of public concern and use information from various sources to take and communicate a position on the issue (C.12.8).

**Unit 6: The Individual and the Law (4 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, students will examine the relationships between the law and the individual and citizenship and the Internet.

**Standards**

1. The student will describe how the legal system defines and protects individual rights (C.12.2).
2. The student will trace how legal interpretations of liberty, equality, justice, and power, as identified in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other Constitutional Amendments, have changed and evolved over time (C.12.3).
3. The student will describe various movements to assert rights by people with disabilities, ethnic and racial groups, minorities, and women (C.12.16).

**Unit 7: The Economy and the Individual (6 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, students will explore ways in which the government regulates the economy, the role of the government in banking, and how the government budgets its money.

**Standards**

1. The student will analyze the ways in which supply and demand, competition, prices, incentives, and profits influence what is produced and distributed in a competitive market system (D.12.10).
2. The student will use basic economic concepts (such as supply and demand; production, distribution, and consumption; labor, wages, and capital; inflation and deflation; market economy and command economy) to compare and contrast local, regional, and national economies across time and at the present time (D.12.2).
3. The student will compare, contrast, and evaluate different types of economies (traditional, command, market, and mixed) and analyze how they have been affected in the past by specific social and political systems and important historical events (D.12.7).
4. The student will compare and contrast how values and beliefs, such as economic freedom, economic efficiency, equity, full employment, price stability, security, and growth, influence decisions in different economic systems (D.12.12).
5. The student will analyze the economic roles of institutions, such as corporations and businesses, banks, labor unions, and the Federal Reserve System (D.12.14).
6. The student will explain how federal budgetary policy and the Federal Reserve System's monetary policies influence overall levels of employment, interest rates, production, and prices (D.12.5).
7. The student will explain how decisions about spending and production made by businesses and governments determine the nation's levels of income, employment, and prices (D.12.1).
8. The student will explain how interest rates are determined by market forces that influence the amount of borrowing and saving done by government officials (D.12.11).
9. The student will explain the operations of common financial instruments (such as stocks and bonds) and financial institutions (such as credit companies, banks, and insurance companies) (D.12.9).
10. The student will analyze and evaluate the role of Wisconsin and the United States in the world economy (D.12.3).

**Unit 8: The Free Enterprise System (4 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, students will investigate how the consumer affects the economy.

**Standards**

1. The student will explain how decisions about spending and production made by households determines the nation's levels of income, employment, and prices (D.12.1).
2. The student will explain and evaluate the effects of new technology, global economic interdependence, and competition on the development of national policies and on the lives of individuals and families in the United States and the world (D.12.4).
3. The student will explain how interest rates are determined by market forces that influence the amount of borrowing and saving done by investors and consumers (D.12.11).