

# Civics - Middle School Course Syllabus

## Description:

Learning about civics gives students the skills and knowledge necessary to be active citizens who have a positive impact on their communities. In this course, students discover the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the United States. They learn about the structure of the government and how it works at the local, state, and federal levels. This course examines elections, the lawmaking process, and how citizens can impact public policy. Students also discover ways the United States interacts with countries around the world. Geography and economics support the learning of civics in this course. Engaging in this study prepares students to be informed citizens who are ready to participate in the American democracy!

**Estimated Completion Time:** 2 segments / 32–36 weeks.

## Major Topics and Concepts:

### Segment 1

#### Citizenship

- 01.00 Citizenship Introduction
- 01.01 How Do We Define the United States?
- 01.02 What Is Culture?
- 01.03 What Can Maps Tell Us?
- 01.04 How Are Citizenship and Ecology Connected?
- 01.05 What Is a U.S. Citizen?
- 01.06 What Is Effective Citizenship?
- 01.07 Who Shows Great Citizenship? (Advanced)
- 01.08 Citizenship Review and Discussion-Based Assessment
- 01.09 Citizenship Unit Exam

#### Foundations

- 02.00 Foundations Introduction
- 02.01 Who Influenced the Founding Fathers?
- 02.02 Which Important Documents Influenced America?
- 02.03 Why Is the Declaration of Independence Important?
- 02.04 What Is the Intent of the Constitution?
- 02.05 How Do the Branches of Government Work?
- 02.06 How Are the Powers Balanced?
- 02.07 How Are Rights Protected?
- 02.08 How Can the Constitution Change?
- 02.09 What Should Be the Next Amendment? (Advanced)
- 02.10 Foundations Review and Discussion-Based Assessment
- 02.11 Foundations Unit Exam

## **Sharing Power**

- 03.00 Sharing Power Introduction
- 03.01 What Is Federalism?
- 03.02 How Are States Governed?
- 03.03 What Is Rule of Law?
- 03.04 How Are Laws Made?
- 03.05 How Does Lawmaking Shape Society? (Advanced)
- 03.06 How Do the Courts Work?
- 03.07 How Does a Jury Trial Ensure Justice?
- 03.08 How Can We Solve Local Problems?
- 03.09 Sharing Power Review and Discussion-Based Assessment
- 03.10 Sharing Power Unit Exam
- 03.11 Segment One Review and Exam

## **Segment 2**

### **Active Citizens**

- 04.00 Active Citizens Introduction
- 04.01 How Do Citizen Perspectives Differ?
- 04.02 What Is Judicial Review?
- 04.03 How Can Art Inspire Action? (Advanced)
- 04.04 What Are the Rights of the Accused?
- 04.05 What Are the Rights of Speech?
- 04.06 How Can We Influence Government?
- 04.07 How Do Elections Impact Society?
- 04.08 What Are Demographics?
- 04.09 Active Citizens Review and Discussion-Based Assessment
- 04.10 Active Citizens Unit Exam

### **Going Global**

- 05.00 Going Global Introduction
- 05.01 How Do Other Nations Govern?
- 05.02 How Does Geography Affect Society?
- 05.03 Why Should Nations Diversify?
- 05.04 What's New in the World? (Advanced)
- 05.05 What Are National Policies?
- 05.06 How Does Currency Affect Trade?
- 05.07 How Do We Participate in a World Community?
- 05.08 Going Global Review and Discussion-Based Assessment
- 05.09 Going Global Unit Exam

### **American Money**

- 06.00 American Money Introduction

- 06.01 How Does Scarcity Affect Us?
- 06.02 What Are Incentives?
- 06.03 What Is the Role of Competition?
- 06.04 How Does Banking Work?
- 06.05 Why Should We Pay Taxes?
- 06.06 What Are the Priorities? (Advanced)
- 06.07 How Does Borrowing Money Affect Us?
- 06.08 American Money Review and Discussion-Based Assessment
- 06.09 American Money Unit Exam
- 06.10 Segment Two Review and Exam

### **Service Learning**

- Service Learning Project Part A
- Service Learning Project Part B

### **Course Assessment and Participation Requirements:**

To achieve success, students are expected to submit work in each course weekly. Students can learn at their own pace; however, “any pace” still means that students must make progress in the course every week. To measure learning, students complete self-checks, practice lessons, multiple choice questions, projects, discussion-based assessments, and discussions. Students are expected to maintain regular contact with teachers; the minimum requirement is monthly. When teachers, students, and parents work together, students are successful.

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