



Unit 1: Historical Foundations

15-20
Days

This unit explores the history of the Constitution. Students will discover and discuss the relevance of events such as the Declaration of Independence, the Philadelphia Convention, and the ratification process. Students will be introduced to and start the community service project. The states and capitals test will also be successfully completed.



Unit 2: The U.S. Constitution

20-25
Days

This unit covers the organization of the three main branches of government. Students will explain the main powers of each branch and how the system of checks and balances limits those powers. The principles, structure, and interpretation of the U.S. Constitution will be discussed in preparation for the U.S. Constitution Test (mid-term).



Unit 3: The Bill of Rights and the Amendments

10-15
Days

This unit introduces the Bill of Rights and the remaining amendments and reviews the process of creating an amendment. Students will explain the Bill of Rights and the rights covered by them, list the remaining amendments, and understand the process used to create them.



Unit 4: Political Identity and Responsibilities of Citizenship

10-15
Days

This unit will explore political parties , political ideologies, the role of special interest groups, and the election process. Students will also identify responsibilities of the average American citizen. Volunteer service , government involvement, the role of jury duty, and the right to vote will also be discussed. The completion of the community service project will be a key component in this unit.



Unit 5: Illinois and Local Government

10-15
Days

This unit explains the structure of state and local governments. Students will discover the components of the Illinois Constitution and the role that local governments play at the city, township, and county levels. A comprehensive final exam will serve as the closer for this unit.