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UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1860

In fifth grade, students continue their formal study of United States history. As with fourth grade, the strands of history, geography, civics, and economics are fully integrated. Students study United States history beginning with the Civil War and continue to the present. The geography strand emphasizes the influence of geography on U. S. history. The civics strand emphasizes concepts and rights as outlined in amendments to the U. S. Constitution. The economics strand uses material from the historical strand to further understanding of economic concepts.

Government/Civic Understandings

SS5CG1 The student will explain how a citizen's rights are protected under the U.S. Constitution.

a. Explain the responsibilities of a citizen.

- Support and defend the Constitution.
- Stay informed of the issues affecting your community.
- Participate in the democratic process.
- Respect and obey federal, state, and local laws.
- Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.
- Participate in your local community.
- Pay income and other taxes honestly, and on time, to federal, state, and local authorities.
- Serve on a jury when called upon.
- Defend the country if the need should arise.

b. Explain the freedoms granted and rights protected by the Bill of Rights.

1. [Freedom of Speech, Press, Religion and Petition](#)
2. [Right to keep and bear arms](#)
3. [Conditions for quarters of soldiers](#)
4. [Right of search and seizure regulated](#)
5. [Provisions concerning prosecution](#)
6. [Right to a speedy trial, witnesses, etc.](#)
7. [Right to a trial by jury](#)
8. [Excessive bail, cruel punishment](#)
9. [Rule of construction of Constitution](#)
10. [Rights of the States under Constitution](#)

c. Explain the concept of due process of law and describe how the U.S. Constitution protects a citizen's rights by due process.

A fundamental, constitutional guarantee that all legal proceedings will be fair and that one will be given notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard before the government acts to take away one's life, liberty, or property. Also, a constitutional guarantee that a law shall not be unreasonable, Arbitrary, or capricious.
<http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Due+Process+of+Law>

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SS5CG2 The student will explain the process by which amendments to the U.S. Constitution are made.

a. Explain the amendment process outlined in the Constitution.

It takes two steps to add an amendment to the Constitution:

Step 1: Proposal - An amendment can be proposed by either a two-thirds vote in Congress, including both the House of Representatives and the Senate, or a national convention made up of two-thirds of the states. Congress proposed all our current amendments.

Step 2: Ratification - Next, the amendment has to be ratified. It can be ratified either by three-fourths of the state legislatures or by state conventions in three-fourths of the states. Only the 21st amendment used the state convention method.

http://www.ducksters.com/history/us_constitution_amendments.php

b. Describe the purpose for the amendment process.

The framers of the Constitution knew that new laws would be needed as time changed. They wanted citizens to be able to amend the Constitution in order to assure individual liberty and freedoms. They wanted a process that would allow change, but would not be too easy that the Constitution would be changed too often.