

<b>Subject: Social Studies</b> <b>Grade Level: Third Grade</b> <b>Unit Title: Civics and Government</b>	<b>Timeframe Needed for Completion: 5 weeks</b>  <b>Grading Period: 2</b>
<b>Big Idea/Theme:</b> Government, Citizenship  <p>Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local governments may develop differently from each other over time.</li> <li>Local governments establish rules and laws that responsible citizens must observe.</li> <li>Local government often provides services to the citizens of the community.</li> <li>Local government is often based on principles of shared authority, fairness, and equality.</li> <li>Citizens can contribute to the political, social, and economic development of their community</li> <li>Responsible citizens can contribute to the well being of their environment</li> <li>Responsible citizens who consider the well being of their environment can help make positive changes in the community.</li> <li>People of all ages can be active within their schools and community.</li> <li>Active participation of all in the governmental process is important to the endurance of the democratic process.</li> </ul>	
<b>Curriculum Goals/Objectives:</b>  3.C&G.1.1 Summarize the historical development of local governments. 3.C&G.1.2 Describe the structure of local government and how it functions to serve citizens. 3.C&G.1.3 Understand the three branches of government, with an emphasis on local government. 3.C&G.2.1 Exemplify how citizens contribute politically, socially and economically to their community. 3.C&G.2.2 Exemplify how citizens contribute to the well-being of the community's natural environment. 3.C&G.2.3 Apply skills in civic engagement and public discourse (school, community)	<b>Essential Questions:</b>  Identify the characteristics that make someone a good citizen. Can you identify the qualities of a good leader? Explain the importance of the 3 different branches of government. How does our local government impact the way that we live?
<b>Essential Skills/Vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local governments are patterned after state and national government for the protection and benefit of the citizens.</li> <li>The structure of local government and how it functions to serve citizens</li> <li>Roles of local government- pass laws, provide services</li> <li>Positions in local government (board of commissioners-, elected, county manager- appointed )</li> <li>Positions in local city government- mayor, city council</li> </ul>	<b>Assessment Tasks:</b> Read and discuss several stories involving examples of citizenship- students will compose a written description of the behaviors constituting good citizenship.  Students will create a classroom community outlining the civic responsibilities of its members.  Write a speech to inform people about a concern or issue that affects your school or community.

- **U.S. and State government – three branches- separation of power, checks and balances**
- Responsible citizens contribute by voting, contribute to the welfare of the community, obey laws, respect the rights of others, paying taxes
- **Responsible citizens contribute to the well-being of the environment by conserving resources, recycling, not polluting, and help solve issues around energy and other resources in the environment.**
- **Apply skills in civic engagement such as letter writing, service learning project, giving speeches about concerns and issues**

#### **Resources:**

Overview of Currituck County Government- <http://www.co.currituck.nc.us/Government.cfm>

Information on branches of government, constitution, and responsibilities of citizens - <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>

The People, The Preamble, and the Presidents- [http://commoncore.org/maps/index.php/maps/grade\\_3\\_unit\\_4/](http://commoncore.org/maps/index.php/maps/grade_3_unit_4/)

City hall, mayor, city council- [http://www.hud.gov/kids/ch/ch3s\\_intro.html](http://www.hud.gov/kids/ch/ch3s_intro.html)

**Citizenship Lesson:** [http://ericir.syr.edu/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Social\\_Studies/Civics/CIV0014.html](http://ericir.syr.edu/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Social_Studies/Civics/CIV0014.html)

**Citizenship Lesson:** [http://ericir.syr.edu/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Social\\_Studies/Civics/CIV0012.html](http://ericir.syr.edu/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Social_Studies/Civics/CIV0012.html)

#### **Learn 360:**

The Legislative Branch

The Judicial Branch

The Executive Branch

Liberty's Kids: We the People

Shh! We're Writing The Constitution

The Unfinished Nation-Coming to America: Portrait of Colonial Life- Documents the life of newly settled immigrants in New England. Discusses their adaptation to a new land and the integration of their culture and traditions in a newly formed community.

Good citizenship- taking care of the environment Franklin - Franklin's Badge

Citizenship Grade: 3-5

#### **Integration Opportunities:**

Math: voting and using tally marks

#### **Other Literature Suggestions:**

We the Kids by David Catrow

Becoming a Citizen by Sarah De Capua

Paying Taxes by Sarah De Capua

The Voice of the People by Betsy Maestro and Giulio Maestro  
America Votes: How Our President is Elected by Linda Granfield