

Social Studies

Unit 1: Democratic Government

Essential Understandings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A government is a system that helps people live together. ▪ United States citizens can actively participate in government. ▪ United States citizens have rights and responsibilities.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the function of government? ▪ What are the rights and responsibilities of citizens living in a democratic society? ▪ What is the structure of state and federal government? ▪ How does the Constitution protect individual rights? ▪ How does the structure of American society meet the basic needs of its citizens?
Essential Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The function of government is to protect the rights and responsibilities of its citizens and to defend itself. ▪ The rights of citizens in a democratic society include: freedom of speech, religion, and the press. ▪ The responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society include: active participation in government, holding public office and voting. ▪ The structure of state and federal government is prescribed in written Constitutions. They include the three main branches of government: Executive (enforces the laws), Legislative (makes the laws), and Judicial (interprets the laws). ▪ The government has a system of checks and balances. ▪ The Constitution protects the individual rights of citizens. ▪ The economic system of the United States provides the structure for employment for most Americans and agencies and charitable organizations help to support citizens who are unable to work.
Vocabulary	<p><u>Terms:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ executive, legislative, judicial, voting, taxation, services, democratic, rights responsibilities, federal, constitution amendment, Bill of Rights, checks and balances, Constitution, charitable, agency.
Essential Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify the functions of government. ▪ Identify some rights of citizens of the United States. ▪ Identify responsibilities of citizens of the United States. ▪ Describe the structure of state and federal government. ▪ Explain how rights are protected. ▪ Tell how the structure of American society meets the basic needs of its citizens.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Related Maine Learning Results</p>	<p><u>Social Studies</u> B. Civics and Government B1. Knowledge, Concepts, Themes, and Patterns of Civics/Government Students understand the basic ideals, purposes, principles, structures, and processes of democratic government in Maine and the United States. c. Explain and give examples of governmental structures including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches and the local, State, and national levels of government. B2. Rights, Duties, Responsibilities, and Citizen Participation in Government Students understand the basic rights, duties, responsibilities, and roles of citizens in a democracy. b. Identify and describe the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights as documents that establish government and protect the rights of the individual United States citizen.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sample Lessons And Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in a mock trial. ▪ Hold a mock election. ▪ Identify and debate current issues related to individual rights (ex. Patriot Act limiting many individual rights, pledge of allegiance in schools)
<p style="text-align: center;">Sample Classroom Assessment Methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construct a coat hanger mobile of the 3 branches of government.
<p style="text-align: center;">Sample Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Publications:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>A kids guide to America's Bill of Rights</u> - Kathleen Krull ○ <u>National Governments</u> – Ernestine Giesecke ▪ <u>Videos:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>American Citizenship</u> ○ <u>The Branches of Government</u> ○ <u>Federal, State and Local Government</u> ○ <u>Our Federal Government: The Legislative Branch</u> ○ <u>Our Federal Government: The Presidency</u> ○ <u>Our Federal Government: The Supreme Court</u> ○ <u>School House Rocks: I'm Just a Bill</u> ○ <u>This is America, Charlie Brown: Birth of a Constitution</u> ○ <u>What Is Government?</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Technology Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/curriculum