

**Social Studies**  
**It's the Law**  
**Unit 5: Individual Rights and Liberties**

<b>Essential Understandings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual rights and liberties are based on constitutional law and federal civil rights laws.</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the Constitution?</li> <li>What are the amendments to the Constitution?</li> <li>What freedoms are protected in these documents?</li> <li>What is discrimination?</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The U.S. Constitution is the framework of our government and is the supreme law of the land.</li> <li>The Constitution has been able to change over time by the addition of amendments.</li> <li>Freedom of speech and expression are an important part of the first amendment in the Bill of Rights.</li> <li>Freedom of the press is an important part of the first amendment in the Bill of Rights.</li> <li>Freedom of religion is an important part of the first amendment in the Bill of Rights.</li> <li>Due process of law is an important amendment included in the Bill of Rights.</li> <li>The right to privacy is protected within the amendment to the Constitution.</li> <li>Certain types of discrimination are illegal.</li> <li>These rights have been defined by important Supreme Court cases.</li> </ul>
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Terms:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>picketing, censorship, discrimination, defamation, obscenity, amendment, quota, severance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Essential Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define important vocabulary.</li> <li>Identify the importance of the Constitution.</li> <li>Identify the importance of the amendments to the Constitution.</li> <li>Explain the various parts of the first amendment.</li> </ul>
<b>Related Maine Learning Results</b>	<p><u>Social Studies</u></p> <p>A. Applications of Social Studies Processes, Knowledge, and Skills</p> <p>A1. Researching and Developing Positions on Current Social Studies Issues</p> <p>Students research, develop, present, and defend positions on current social studies issues by developing and modifying research questions, and locating, selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing information from multiple and varied sources.</p> <p>g. Develop a clear well-supported position.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Related Maine Learning Results</b></p>	<p>B. Civics and Government  B1.Knowledge, Concepts, Themes, and Patterns of Civics/Government  Students understand the ideals, purposes, principles, structures, and processes of constitutional government in the United States and in the American political system, as well as examples of other forms of government and political systems in the world.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Explain that the study of government includes structures, functions, institutions, and forms of government to citizens in the United States and in other regions of the world.</li> <li>b. Evaluate current issues by applying democratic ideals and constitutional principles of government in the United States, including checks and balances, federalism, and consent of the governed as put forth in founding documents.</li> <li>c. Explain how and why democratic institutions and interpretations of democratic ideals and constitutional principles change over time.</li> <li>d. Describe the purpose, structures, and processes of the American political system.</li> </ol> <p>B2.Rights, Duties, Responsibilities, and Citizen Participation in Government  Students understand the constitutional and legal rights, the civic duties and responsibilities, and roles of citizens in a constitutional democracy and the role of citizens living under other forms of government in the world.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Explain the relationship between constitutional and legal rights, and civic duties and responsibilities in a constitutional democracy.</li> <li>b. Evaluate the relationship between the government and the individual as evident in the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and landmark court cases.</li> <li>c. Analyze the constitutional principles and the roles of the citizen and the government in major laws or cases.</li> <li>d. Compare the rights, duties, and responsibilities of United States citizens with those of citizens from other nations.</li> <li>e. Evaluate how people influence government and work for the common good including voting, writing to legislators, performing community service, and engaging in civil disobedience.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sample Lessons And Activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supreme Court case studies</li> <li>▪ Constitution scavenger hunt</li> <li>▪ Amendment activity</li> <li>▪ Opinion essay</li> </ul>

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<b>Sample Classroom Assessment Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Quizzes over each section: Freedom of Speech Quiz</li><li>▪ Cumulative Unit Exam: Individual Rights and Liberties</li><li>▪ Discussion, Lecture, Video, Reading, Group Projects</li></ul>
<b>Sample Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <u>Publications:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <u>Street Law: A Course in Practical Law</u> - Glencoe</li></ul></li><li>▪ <u>Videos:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Just The Facts - The United States Bill of Rights and Constitutional Amendments</li><li>○ The First Amendment Project (2004)</li></ul></li></ul>