

Strand 1: History

Concepts	Skills Processes
Historical Contexts (Hist 9-12.1)	Multiple Sources of Evidence/Inconsistencies (INQ 9-12.8)

Strand Understandings:

- While the majority rules in a democracy, minority rights can gain protection over the long-term.
- Interpretations of the Constitution change over time in different historical contexts and may result in inconsistencies.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What are the six main principles on which the Constitution is based? (F)
- How have minority groups gained rights and roles in government as our democracy evolved?(F)
- What political, social, economic, and cultural factors affect freedom in a society? (C)
- Should the Constitution be considered a living document able to be changed or interpreted differently throughout time? (P)

CT Social Studies Framework

- What does it mean to be a citizen?
- In what ways does the American political system provide for choice and opportunities for participation?
- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision-making?

Unit Enduring Understandings:

- Democracy can create instability and works unevenly often requiring compromise or consensus.
- Democracy is a process that requires constant attention from the citizenry to protect the rights and freedoms of all.
- Changes in democracy occur over time.

Overarching Essential Questions:

- What are the pros and cons of a democratic society in the short and long term?
- How do those who aren't immediately benefiting gain protection in a democracy?
- How can individuals and groups honestly assess where democracy is strong and weak in order to make progress?

Strand 2: Civics

Concepts	Skills Processes
Powers and Responsibilities (CIV 9-12.1) Constitutional Change (CIV 9-12.4) Deliberative Process (CIV 9-12.9) Procedures for Governmental Decisions (CIV 9-12.11)	Sources and Questioning (INQ 9-12.4) Precise Claims and Counterclaims (INQ 9-12.9)

Strand Understandings:

- In order for a democracy to work, all citizens need a voice and representation.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What forms of government exist? (F)
- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision-making? (C)
- How do laws both shape and reflect characteristics of American society?(C)

Unit Focus:

Democracy's Quandaries, Pros, and Cons—
Foundations and the US Constitution

Concept Lens:

Democratic Principles and Rule of Law

Strand 3: Economics

Concepts	Skills Processes
Choices for Different Groups (ECO 9-12.1) Governments, Civic Societies, Economic Markets (CIV 9-12.6)	Precise Claims and Counterclaims (INQ 9-12.9)

Strand Understandings:

- Multiple interests compete for limited revenue for local, state, and federal infrastructure and social programs
- Competing philosophies play a role in the economic decisions of the government.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How does government at the federal, state, and local levels raise money? (F)
- What are the main categories of spending at the federal, state, and local levels?(F)

Strand 4: Geography

Concepts	Skills Processes
Patterns of Urban/Suburban Voting (GEO 9-12.1)	Sources and Questioning (INQ 9-12.4)

Strand Understandings:

- Geographic placement can play a significant role in governmental decision making and the meeting of individual needs.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How do governments fill positions in order to represent populations? (F/C)

Strand 1: History

Concepts	Skills Processes
Historical Contexts (Hist 9-12.1)	Multiple Sources of Evidence/Inconsistencies (INQ 9-12.8)

Strand Understandings:

- While the majority rules in a democracy, minority rights can gain protection over the long-term.
- The roles of the three branches evolve as the U.S. changes over time.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How has the role of the Legislative Branch changed/evolved over time? (C)
- What should be the limits on the powers of Congress? (C)
- What makes a successful Congress? (P)

CT Social Studies Framework

- What does it mean to be a citizen?
- In what ways does the American political system provide for choice and opportunities for participation?
- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision-making?

Unit Enduring Understandings:

- Democracy can create instability and works unevenly often requiring compromise or consensus.
- Democracy is a process that requires constant attention from the citizenry to protect the rights and freedoms of all.
- Changes in democracy occur over time.

Overarching Essential Questions:

- What are the pros and cons of a democratic society in the short and long term?
- How do those who aren't immediately benefiting gain protection in a democracy?
- How can individuals and groups honestly assess where democracy is strong and weak in order to make progress?

Strand 2: Civics

Concepts	Skills Processes
Powers and Responsibilities (CIV 9-12.1) Deliberative Process (CIV 9-12.9) Procedures for Governmental Decisions (CIV 9-12.11) Intended and Unintended Consequences/Public Policy (CIV 9-12.13)	Precise Claims and Counter-claims (INQ 9-12.9)

Strand Understandings:

- In order for a democracy to work, all citizens need a voice and representation.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How are state and federal laws created? (F)
- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision-making?(C)
- Is the filibuster democratic? (C/P)
- How do laws both shape and reflect characteristics of American society?(C)

Unit Focus:

Democracy's Quandaries, Pros, and Cons—
Legislative Branch

Concept Lens:

Democratic Principles and Rule of Law

Strand 3: Economics

Concepts	Skills Processes
Choices for Different Groups (ECO 9-12.1) Market Inefficiencies (ECO 9-12.2) Institutional Rights and Regulations (ECO 9-12.3) Governments, Civic Societies, Economic Markets (CIV 9-12.6)	Precise Claims and Counterclaims (INQ 9-12.9)

Strand Understandings:

- Competing philosophies play a role in the economic decisions of the government.
- The government regulates the economy.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What influences and pressures are placed on lawmakers? (F/C)
- How can a government's economic decisions both help & hurt different groups of people?(C)

Strand 4: Geography

Concepts	Skills Processes
Patterns of Urban/Suburban Voting (GEO 9-12.1)	Sources and Questioning (INQ 9-12.4)

Strand Understandings:

- Geographic placement can play a significant role in governmental decision making and the meeting of individual needs.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What are the political and economic impacts of gerrymandering on political decision-making? (C)
- To what extent does population change create political change? (C/P)
- How do governments fill positions in order to represent populations? (F/C)

Strand 1: History

Concepts	Skills Processes
Historical Contexts (Hist 9-12.1)	Multiple Sources of Evidence/Inconsistencies (INQ 9-12.8)

Strand Understandings:

- While the majority rules in a democracy, minority rights can gain protection over the long-term.
- The role of the Executive Branch evolves as the U.S. changes over time.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How have minority groups gained rights and roles in government as our democracy evolved?(F)
- How has the role the Executive Branch changed/evolved over time? (C)

CT Social Studies Framework

- What does it mean to be a citizen?
- In what ways does the American political system provide for choice and opportunities for participation?
- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision-making?

Unit Enduring Understandings:

- Democracy can create instability and works unevenly often requiring compromise or consensus.
- Democracy is a process that requires constant attention from the citizenry to protect the rights and freedoms of all.
- Changes in democracy occur over time.

Overarching Essential Questions:

- What are the pros and cons of a democratic society in the short and long term?
- How do those who aren't immediately benefiting gain protection in a democracy?
- How can individuals and groups honestly assess where democracy is strong and weak in order to make progress?

Strand 2: Civics

Concepts	Skills Processes
Powers and Responsibilities (CIV 9-12.1) Impact on national/ international order (CIV 9-12.3) Deliberative Process (CIV 9-12.9) Procedures for Governmental Decisions (CIV 9-12.11) Intended and Unintended Consequences/Public Policy (CIV 9-12.13)	Precise Claims and Counter-claims (INQ 9-12.9)

Strand Understandings:

- In order for a democracy to work, all citizens need a voice and representation.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision-making? (C)

Unit Focus:
Democracy's Quandaries, Pros, and Cons—Executive Branch

Concept Lens:
Democratic Principles and Rule of Law

Strand 3: Economics

Concepts	Skills Processes
Choices for Different Groups (ECO 9-12.1) Governments, Civic Societies, Economic Markets (CIV 9–12.6)	Precise Claims and Counterclaims (INQ 9-12.9)

Strand Understandings:

- Multiple interests compete for limited revenue for local, state, and federal infrastructure and social programs.
- Competing philosophies play a role in the economic decisions of the government.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What role does the Executive Branch play in raising and spending money? (F)
- Can a government's economic decisions both help & hurt different groups of people?(C)

Strand 4: Geography

Concepts	Skills Processes
Patterns of Urban/Suburban Voting (GEO 9-12.1)	Sources and Questioning (INQ 9-12.4)

Strand Understandings:

- Geographic placement can play a significant role in governmental decision making and the meeting of individual needs.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What are the political and economic impacts on gerrymandering on political decision-making? (C)
- To what extent does population change create political change? (C)
- How do governments fill positions in order to represent populations? (F/C)

Strand 1: History

Concepts	Skills Processes
Historical Contexts (Hist 9-12.1)	Multiple Sources of Evidence/Inconsistencies (INQ 9-12.8)

Strand Understandings:

- While the majority rules in a democracy, minority rights can gain protection over the long-term.
- Interpretations of the Constitution change over time in different historical contexts and may result in inconsistencies.
- The role of the Judicial Branch evolves as the U.S. changes over time.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How have minority groups gained rights and roles in government as our democracy evolved?(F)
- Should the Constitution be considered a living document able to be changed or interpreted differently throughout time? (P)
- How has the role of the Judicial Branch changed/evolved over time? (C)

CT Social Studies Framework

- What does it mean to be a citizen?
- In what ways does the American political system provide for choice and opportunities for participation?
- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision-making?

Unit Enduring Understandings:

- Democracy can create instability and works unevenly often requiring compromise or consensus.
- Democracy is a process that requires constant attention from the citizenry to protect the rights and freedoms of all.
- Changes in democracy occur over time.

Overarching Essential Questions:

- What are the pros and cons of a democratic society in the short and long term?
- How do those who aren't immediately benefiting gain protection in a democracy?
- How can individuals and groups honestly assess where democracy is strong and weak in order to make progress?

Strand 2: Civics

Concepts	Skills Processes
Impact on national/international order (CIV 9-12.3) Constitutional Change (CIV 9-12.4) Deliberative Process (CIV 9-12.9) Procedures for Governmental Decisions (CIV 9-12.11) Intended and Unintended Consequences/Public Policy (CIV 9-12.13)	Sources and Questioning (INQ 9-12.4) Precise Claims and Counterclaims (INQ 9-12.9)

Strand Understandings:

- In order for a democracy to work, all citizens need a voice and representation.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision-making?(C)
- How do laws both shape and reflect characteristics of American society?(C)

Unit Focus:

Democracy's Quandaries, Pros, and Cons—Judicial Branch

Concept Lens:

Democratic Principles and Rule of Law

Strand 3: Economics

Concepts	Skills Processes
Choices for Different Groups (ECO 9-12.1) Market Inefficiencies (ECO 9-12.2) Institutional Rights and Regulations (ECO 9-12.3) Governments, Civic Societies, Economic Markets (CIV 9-12.6)	Precise Claims and Counterclaims (INQ 9-12.9)

Strand Understandings:

- The government has the ability to take private property for the betterment of society.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- Can a government's economic decisions both help and hurt different groups of people?(C)

Strand 4: Geography

Concepts	Skills Processes
Patterns of Urban/Suburban Voting (GEO 9-12.1)	Sources and Questioning (INQ 9-12.4)

Strand Understandings:

- Geographic placement can play a significant role in governmental decision making and the meeting of individual needs.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What are the political and economic impacts of gerrymandering on political decision-making? (C)
- How do governments fill positions in order to represent populations? (F/C)

Strand 1: History	
Concepts	Skills Processes
Perspectives (Hist 9-12.1)	Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Perspectives (INQ 9-12.15)
<p>Strand Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different perspectives on the importance of government, societal problems, political parties and diversity lead to varying degrees of voter participation. <p>Essential/Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What factors influence voter behavior? (F/C) • How does voting participation vary among racial, ethnic, gender, income, and age groups? (C) • What is the relationship between voter participation and the political and/or economic climate?(C) • Who benefits in a democracy?(C) 	

CT Social Studies Framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to be a citizen? • In what ways does the American political system provide for choice and opportunities for participation? • How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision-making? <p>Unit Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A democracy often relies on the participation of well-informed and educated citizens. • Citizens can participate in the democratic process in many ways under the US form of government. • The application of rights and responsibilities helps to ensure a society built on the common good. <p>Overarching Essential Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can citizens participate in the democratic process? • Why should citizens be well-informed and educated? • What does it mean to be an engaged citizen?

Strand 2: Civics	
Concepts	Skills Processes
Role of Citizens (CIV 9-12.2) Citizens Effectiveness (CIV 9-12.5) Application of Civic Virtues (CIV 9-12.7) Evaluation of Different Social and Political System (CIV 9-12.8) Impact and Appropriate Roles of Individuals (CIV 9-12.10) Challenging Laws (CIV 9-12.12) Change in Society, Promotion of Common Good, Protection of Rights (CIV 9-12.14)	Enduring Issues (INQ 9-12.1) Present Arguments (INQ 9-12.12) Options for Individual and Collective Action (INQ 9-12.16) Range of Deliberative and Democratic Strategies (INQ 9-12.17)
<p>Strand Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals can work to improve a democracy. • Different factions such as political parties aim to control and influence public policies by winning elections and holding office. • Various groups such as the media and interest groups play a vital role in shaping public opinion in a democracy. <p>Essential/Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you become an American citizen? (F) • What does it mean to be a citizen? (F/C) • What are some of the rights & responsibilities of citizenship?(F/C) • How do citizens influence solutions to social and political problems?(F/C) • What is the role of political parties in the US political system? (F) • How do various groups and their biases (such as the media and public interest groups) shape and reflect political and social interests? (C) 	

Unit Focus:
 Citizenship in Action
Concept Lens:
 Civic Engagement, Civic Virtue
 Rights and Responsibilities

Strand 3: Economics	
Concepts	Skills Processes
Incentives, Costs, and Benefits (ECO 9-12.1)	Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Perspectives (INQ 9-12.15)
<p>Strand Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic standing often plays a role in voter behavior and how one views governmental actions. <p>Essential/Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do different socioeconomic positions affect how people view government? (F/C) • How can a government's economic decisions both help and hurt different groups of people? (C) 	

Strand 4: Geography	
Concepts	Skills Processes
Patterns of Urban/Suburban Voting (GEO 9-12.1)	Self-Reflection, Complex Causal Reasoning (INQ 9-12.16)
<p>Strand Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals can influence governmental decision making in both local, state, and national levels. • Looking at patterns of voting and questioning multiple sources often leads the geographer to interpret patterns of behavior amongst different groups of people across the country. <p>Essential/Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the relationships between government representation, geographic placement, and individual needs? (C) • What is the relationship between geography and voting patterns? (C) 	