

**Stratford Public Schools Social Studies Curriculum  
Grade 5 - Unit 4**

**Unit Name: The U.S. Constitution weeks**

**Est. # of Weeks: 3-4**

**Synopsis:** In this unit, students will learn the purpose and structure of our federal government and how the Constitution of the United States of America is the supreme law of the United States. The Constitution provides the framework for the organization of the United States Government.

**STUDENT LEARNING GOALS**

**Content-Specific Powered Standards**  
**Knowledge of concepts and information from history and social studies is necessary to promote understanding of our nation and our world**

1.7 – Explain the purpose, structures and functions of government and law at the local, state, national and international levels.

1.8 – Describe the interactions between citizens and their government in the making and implementation of laws.

1.9 – Understand the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

**Civic competence in addressing historical issues and current problems requires the use of information, skills and empathic awareness.**

3.1 Use evidence to identify, analyze and evaluate historical interpretations

Identify and explain different points of view about an historical event (cause and effect)

**Interdisciplinary Standards (as appropriate)**

**Key Vocabulary**

branches, check and balances, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, articles, bill, impeachment, treaty, cabinet, veto, unconstitutional, law, amendments, liberties, bill of Rights, rights of the accused, ratified, seizure, jury, prejudiced, speedy, public, jeopardy, excessive

**Enduring Understandings**

A nation's constitution provides organization and structure for its government.

A balance of power is necessary for democracy to work.

Constitutions of democratic societies reflect

both rights and responsibilities of citizens

**Essential Questions**

How is our government organized and how does it work?

Why are there three branches of the federal government and how does the federal government compare to our state and local government?

What are the rights and responsibilities of American citizens?

**Learning Objectives / Grade Level Expectations**

*Students will:*

- Describe the purpose, structure and functions of our national government. (GLE#14)

- Analyze how power in the United States is shared among local, state and national governments. (GLE#15)
- Explain the process through which citizens can influence the making of laws in the United States. (GLE#16)
- Analyze one's rights and responsibilities as a citizen (e.g., voting, paying taxes, obeying laws). (GLE#17)

**ASSESSMENT PLAN**

**Summative Assessment(s)**

After students have gained an understanding of how the United States Constitution serves as a framework for our government have students write a letter to one of the framers of the Constitution and explain why it is still the core of our American life.

See rubric at the end of the unit.

**Formative and Diagnostic Assessment(s)**

KWL  
Classroom discussions  
Student work