

Oregon Academic Standards



In SIRS' study of the Oregon Academic Standards, we see a direct correlation between the goals and objectives that are emphasized and the framework upon which SIRS Interactive Citizenship has been developed. SIRS Interactive Citizenship content emphasizes the generalizations and concepts that act as the framework for understanding democratic political institutions and their emergence throughout history, while the Discovery and Inquiry activities and related chapter lessons exemplify our commitment to critical thinking skills.

What Citizens Need to Know About Government, addresses the expectations for **Civics and Government** and presents a framework for understanding America's ongoing struggle to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution and each citizen's role in this democracy. Through this framework, students are able to connect the past to the present as well as appreciate universal historical themes and dilemmas by accessing primary sources such as, biographies, documents, diaries, letters, legends and speeches and links to related articles and web sites while focusing on the basic concepts of government. Thus, students develop the higher order thinking skills deemed necessary by the Oregon Academic Standards.

<<http://open.k12.or.us/standards/>> [2002, January 28]



Oregon Social Studies Standards
correlation with
What Citizens Need to Know About Government



Strand: Civics and Government

Common Curriculum Goals

Understand historic, geographic, social, and economic factors that help shape American society and ideas about government, including the structure and meaning of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Grade 12

Analyze how various provisions and foundational principles represented by the Constitution promote effective but limited government and apply to issues and policy in society.

- *Chapter 3 examines the Constitution.*
- *Chapter 9 looks at the Bill of Rights and the impact of these amendments on all aspects of our lives.*
- *Chapter 1 explains our European heritage and contains the works of 18th century philosophers such as, Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, and Voltaire, whose writings had an impact on the founding fathers' concepts of government.*

Describe the principles and ideals of American democracy (e.g., individual rights, public good, self-government, justice, equality, popular sovereignty constitutional government, rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism).

Describe the organization, responsibilities, and interrelationships of local, state, and federal government in the United States.

Grade 12

Analyze government involvement at the federal, state, and local levels relative to the resolution of a particular issue.

- *Chapter 1 explores the roots of American democracy.*
- *Chapter 2 examines the federal system of government and discusses separation of powers and checks and balances.*

Identify the roles of the three branches of government and explain how their powers are distributed and shared.

Grade 12

Analyze the development, application, and enforcement of laws which significantly impact particular segments or contexts of society.

- *Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 examine the three branches of government, executive, legislative, and judicial.*
- *Chapters 10 and 11 examine state and local government.*

Describe personal, political and economic rights of citizens in the United States.

Describe participatory responsibilities of citizens in the community (voluntarism) and the political process (becoming informed about public issues and candidates, joining political parties/interest groups/associations, communicating with public officials, voting, influencing lawmaking through such processes as petitions/initiatives).

Grade 12

Evaluate strategies for informed responsible participation by citizens in the U.S. political system (local, state, or federal level).

- *Chapter 9 discusses minority rights.*
- *Chapter 14 looks at the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.*
- *Chapter 13 examines citizens' lobbies and their affect on public policy.*
- *Chapter 16 discusses political parties. Links to the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian and Green parties allow students to research each party and learn how to become involved in national and state politics.*
- *Chapter 10 provides a link to state government web sites via Cornell Law School's Legal Matters Home Page. Students can explore contemporary issues of importance in their state.*

Explain how nations interact with each other, how events and issues in other countries can affect citizens in the United States, and how actions of the United States can affect other peoples and nations.

Describe how the American concepts of democracy and individual rights and responsibilities influence events in other countries and how events in other countries influence American politics and society.

Describe U.S. foreign policy and its consequences in relation to national interest and American values.

Grade 12

Evaluate and defend positions on international issues in light of national interests, values, and principles

- *Chapter 27 discusses national defense issues. For example, students can trace defense issues from early military decisions to the war on terrorism.*
- *Chapter 28 focuses on foreign policy and U.S. involvement in international organizations such as NATO and the World Bank.*