

Virginia Standards of Learning for History and Science Grade 12 United States and Virginia Government



The Virginia Standards of Learning goals state the need for all students to “know and understand our national heritage in order to become informed participants in shaping our nation’s future.”

- The History and Social Studies Standards of Learning are designed to
- ❖ develop the knowledge and skills of history, geography, civics, and economics and events that have shaped our state and our national perspective;
 - ❖ enable students to understand the basic values, principles, and operations of American constitutional democracy;
 - ❖ prepare students for informed and responsible citizenship;
 - ❖ develop students’ skills in debate, discussion, and writing; and
 - ❖ provide students with a framework for continuing education in history and the social sciences. (p.3)

In SIRS’ study of the Virginia Standards of Learning, 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 and writing skills.

What Citizens Need to Know About Government addresses the concepts taught in Grade 12- United States and Virginia Government. It 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 “develop an understanding of values and principles of American Constitutional democracy” 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 are developing the “requisite knowledge and skills for informed, responsible participation in public life” that are deemed necessary by the Virginia Department of Education.

The Economics component of the 12th grade curriculum will be addressed in a future Interactive Citizenship product.

<<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/go/Sols/history.html>> [2001, September 12]



Virginia Standards of Learning for History and Science
correlation with
What Citizens Need to Know About Government



History

- 12.1 The student will compare the United States constitutional system in 1789 with forms of democracy that developed in ancient Greece and Rome, in England, and in the American colonies and states in the 18th century.

- Chapter 1 relates our democratic government to our European heritage. - Links to the Magna Carta and English Bill of Rights are provided.
- Chapter 16 presents the writings of Aristotle and Plato, and relates Jefferson's and Hamilton's appraising points of view.

- 12.2 The student will identify examples of fundamental American political principles contained in the Virginia Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Federalist Papers, and will compare them to principles of government and law developed by leading European political thinkers such as Locke, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Blackstone.

- Chapter 10 provides a link to the Virginia Constitution, while Chapters 1, 2, and 3 provide links to the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers and the United States Constitution respectively.
- The writings of Locke, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Blackstone are available in Chapters 1 and 2.

12.3 The student will analyze the amendments to the United States Constitution in terms of the conflicts they addressed and the reasons for their adoption.

- Chapter 9, The Bill of Rights and Minority Rights, presents the amendments to the Constitution.

12.4 The student will summarize landmark Supreme Court interpretations of the United States Constitution and its amendments, with emphasis on basic freedoms, due process, equal protection of the law, and government powers, and will analyze the historical trends and contemporary patterns of United States Supreme Court decisions.

- Chapters 7 and 9 provide full-text Supreme Court decisions that have impacted our basic rights. A link to the Supreme Court Web site allows students to research the court system and proceedings.

12.5 The student will identify and explain fundamental concepts of democracy, with emphasis placed on equality of all citizens under the law, the fundamental worth and dignity of the individual, majority rule and minority rights, the necessity of compromise, individual freedom, and the rule of law.

- Chapter 1 details the fundamental concepts of democracy with links to Web sites such as the ACLU and Student Rights.
- Chapter 9 describes the rights and freedoms associated with the U.S. Government.

12.6 The student will analyze in writing, discussion, and debate current issues confronting local, state, and national governments in terms of perennial challenges to democracies, including conflicts between

- majority rule and minority rights
- individual rights and public interest;
- levels of taxation and the expectation of public services;
- state and national authority in a federal system

- *Chapter 9 presents information on majority rule and minority rights.*
- *Chapters 10 and 11 elaborate on the workings of state and local governments.*
- *Chapter 12, Paying for Government, discusses taxation at all levels of government.*
- *Chapters 14 and 15 contain information on citizenship and voting rights.*

12.7 The student will analyze and compare national and state governments, with emphasis on

- the structures, functions, and authority of each;
- the principles of federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances;
- the extent to which power is shared rather than divided or separated; and
- procedures for constitutional amendment.

- *Chapter 10 discusses state governments.*
- *Chapter 2 presents the concepts of checks and balances, separation of powers, and principles of federalism.*
- *Chapter 3 describes the Amendment process.*

12.8 The student will explain how United States and Virginia legislative, executive, and judicial institutions make public policy, in terms of

- legislation, regulations, executive orders, and judicial review;
- constitutional requirements and institutional procedures; and
- specific policies related to foreign affairs, civil rights, and economics and the budget.

- *Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 discuss the structure and operations of the three branches of government.*
- *Chapter 9 discusses the unending struggle for minority and civil rights.*
- *Chapter 24, Business, allows students to learn about governmental regulations.*
- *Chapter 25 discusses the labor movement.*
- *Chapter 28 has links to foreign policy regulations.*

- 12.9 The student will identify and distinguish among the units of local governments in Virginia, including counties, cities, towns, and regional authorities and will analyze a local public issue.

- In Chapter 10, students have access to the Virginia Constitution and links to state government information, including the National Conferences of Legislature Home Page.

- 12.10 The student will explain and give current examples of how political parties, interest groups, the media, and individuals influence the policy agenda and decisions making of government institutions.

***- Chapter 13, Press, Polls, Lobbies, discusses the role each plays in influencing government policies.
- Chapter 16 explains the two-party system and links to the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, and Green Parties Web Sites.***

- 12.11 The student will describe campaigns for national state, and local elective office, including

- the nominating process;
- campaign funding and spending
- the influence of media coverage, campaign advertising, and public opinion polls;
- demographic causes and political effects of reapportionment and redistricting;
- voter turnout and the constituencies of major political parties; and
- the Electoral College

***- In Chapter13, students learn about the role the media and lobbying groups play in elections at all levels.
- Chapter 15 details the voting process and links to the Electoral College Web page.
- Chapter 16 discusses gerrymandering and reapportionment.
- Chapter 16 links to major political party web pages.***

12.12 The student will explain the rights, responsibilities, and benefits of citizenship in the United States and Virginia.

- Chapter 14 describes the rights, responsibilities, and benefits of citizenship.

12.13 The student will develop the skills needed for informed participation in public affairs by

- analyzing public issues;
- evaluating candidates for public office
- evaluating the performance of public officials; and
- communicating with public officials.

- Chapters 17,18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 deal with the Problems of Government such as Education, Poverty, Health Issues, Agriculture, Environment, Ethics, National Defense and Foreign Policy.

12.14 The student will compare the United States political and economic systems with those of major democratic and authoritarian nations, in terms of

- the structures and powers of political institutions
- the rights and powers of the governed including grass roots citizen movements;
- economic goals and institutions and
- the role of government in the economy;
- the relationships between economic freedom and political freedom; and
- the allocation of resources and its impact on productivity.

- Chapter 24, Business, presents a historical perspective of the relationship between business and government.
- Links to modern day organizations such as, the Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communication Commission provide current information regarding the federal government's role in the economy.

12.15 The student will analyze the United States market economy, in terms of

- labor, capital, and natural resources
- the interaction of supply and demand in markets
- the role of private ownership, private enterprise, and profits;
- the relationships of households, firms, and government;
- labor/management relationships; and
- relationships to the global economy

***- Chapter 24 discusses the interaction between supply and demand.
- Related articles such as those on NAFTA and other trade accords provide information on the global economy.
- Chapter 25, Labor, discusses the labor movement and laws to protect workers.***

12.16 The student will analyze the role of government in the United States economy, with emphasis on

- monetary and fiscal policies;
- interstate commerce and international trade policies;
- providing favorable conditions for markets;
- providing public goods and services;
- protecting the environment; and
- promoting economic growth.

***- Chapter 24 discusses the laissez-faire government policy toward business and the development of governmental regulations.
- Chapter 19, Agriculture, provides examples of governmental policies promoting economic growth.***

12.17 The student will evaluate the effect of monetary and fiscal policies on personal economic well-being including employment opportunities, purchasing power, credit and interest rates, and opportunities for investment and savings.

- Chapter 25 explains labor's role in the economy. Related articles discuss employment opportunities.