

New Jersey Department of Education
2006 Social Studies Standards Implementation Guide (SIG)

6.2. CIVICS: ALL STUDENTS WILL KNOW, UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND THE RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND ROLES OF A CITIZEN IN THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

Grade 8

6.2.8.D. Citizenship

3. Describe major conflicts that have arisen from diversity (e.g., land and suffrage for Native Americans, civil rights, women's rights) and discuss how the conflicts have been addressed.
4. Explain the benefits, costs, and conflicts of a diverse nation.
5. Discuss basic contemporary issues involving the personal, political, and economic rights of American citizens (e.g., dress codes, sexual harassment, fair trial, free press, minimum wage).

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Framework97 References

Examine Origins and Continuing Application of Constitution, pp. 46-48
Identify and Interpret Balance Between Rights and Responsibilities, pp. 49-51
Locate and Apply Information About Public Issues, pp. 52-54
Apply Knowledge of Governmental Structure to Community Life, pp. 58-60

National History Standard

- II. What Are the Foundations of the American Political System?
- III. How Does the Government Embody the Principles of American Democracy?
- IV. What Are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?
- V.

Content Overview

Covers the rights and responsibilities of American citizens and the issue of diversity as a political characteristic of contemporary American society. Other topics of primary importance covered are the conflict between certain rights that Americans have and inter-group conflicts that can occur within our multi-ethnic, pluralistic society.

Essential Questions

What are some examples of laws that Americans routinely obey every day?
How do rights of an American citizen relate to corresponding responsibilities?
How have women over time obtained some basic political rights?
Is the right of a free press absolute in American society?
What are some examples of economic rights that citizens have within American society?
When are rights in competition with one another (e.g. privacy and freedom of the press)?
How is voting done differently in local, state, and national elections?
Why are things like fair trial, habeas corpus and secret ballot so important to our civic culture?

Teaching Resources

See FAIRVOTE, the Center for Voting and Democracy for background material and research.
<http://www.fairvote.org/>

Visit the Annenberg Program, STUDENT VOICES, at www.student-voices.org/nj for teaching materials on civics and government at the local level.

Assessment

Divide the class into teams. Each team selects an important Black person from American history (Booker T. Washington, W.D. DeBois, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks) to study. After researching the character, the student creates a monologue or brief dialogue to act out for the class. Have the class members grade each presentation.