

**United States Government
Horizontal Alignment Planning Guide Overview
First Six-Weeks**

Learning Focus 1.1 Foundations and Principles of U.S. Government
This unit reviews the historical foundations of American democracy, introduces the fundamentals of constitutionalism, and provides deep meaning to the basic principles upon which liberal democracies stand.

Key Concepts		
Historical Origins	Core Democratic Values	

Objectives
GOV.22A
Use social studies terminology correctly.
GOV.1A
Explain natural law, natural rights, divine right of kings, and social contract theory as examples of major political ideas pertaining to the origins of political authority.
GOV.1B
Identify the characteristics, including the number of rulers and the manner in which power is acquired, of classic forms of limited and unlimited government such as absolute monarchy, authoritarianism, classical republic, despotism, feudalism, liberal democracy, and totalitarianism.
GOV.21A
Analyze historical and contemporary political information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions.
GOV.2A
Analyze the principles and ideas that underlie the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, including those expressed in the political writings of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Charles de Montesquieu.
GOV.6C
Compare and contrast the role and impact of government in the U.S. free enterprise system and other economic systems.
GOV.2B
Analyze the impact of John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison on the development of U.S. government.
GOV.2D
Describe the contributions to American politics, government, and society of Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and selected contemporary leaders.
GOV.2C
Using primary source historical documents analyze debates and compromises necessary to reach political decisions.
GOV.8B
Evaluate how the federal government serves the purposes set forth in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution including the formation of a more perfect union, the establishment of justice, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessings of liberty.
GOV.8C
Analyze how the Federalist Papers explain the principles of the American constitutional system of government including the necessity a strong central government.
GOV.8E
Analyze the formal and informal processes by which the U.S. Constitution can be changed and evaluate their effectiveness.
GOV.8F
Analyze how the American beliefs and principles reflected in the U.S. Constitution contribute to our national identity.
GOV.10A
Explain why the Founding Fathers created a distinctly new form of federalism and adopted a federal system of government instead of a unitary system, including the need for a strong central government, the ability to raise and maintain military forces, the establishment of a single monetary system, and the preservation of state level decision making.
GOV.8A
Explain the importance of a written constitution, including provisions for individual rights, limited government, checks and balances, and popular sovereignty.
GOV.8D
Evaluate U.S. constitutional provisions for limiting the role of government, including republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights.
GOV.9E
Explain how the impeachment powers of Congress, veto power of the president, and provisions on which judicial review is based illustrate provisions of the U.S. Constitution that provide for checks and balances among the three branches of government.
GOV.21C
Explain multiple, or conflicting, points of view on a historical and contemporary government issues.

Suggested lesson Framework		
1 lesson on Theories of Government and the Origins of the State	1 lesson on Democracy 2 lessons on Founding the United States and Basic Law: Two U.S. Constitutions	3 lessons on Principles of U.S. Government and American Government Today, Federalism, and Civil Rights and Liberties

**United States Government
Horizontal Alignment Planning Guide Overview
First Six-Weeks**

Learning Focus 1.2 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

This unit is designed to equip students with an understanding of the evolution of American civil rights and liberties and the ability to engage in discourse about the appropriateness of various legislative, executive, and judicial actions.

Key Concepts

Individual Rights	Limited Government	Civil Rights
<p>Objectives</p> <p>GOV.22A Use social studies terminology correctly.</p> <p>GOV.14B Analyze the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, including first amendment freedoms and protections of speech, press, assembly, and petition.</p> <p>GOV.17B Analyze the importance of free speech and press in a democratic society and the limitations that have been placed on these rights through various Supreme Court decisions.</p> <p>GOV.17C Express and defend a point of view on an issue of contemporary interest to a national audience and can be addressed by public policy in the United States.</p> <p>GOV.14A Explain how the rule of law and limited government ensure the protection of civil rights and liberties.</p> <p>GOV.14C Analyze issues addressed in the majority and dissenting opinions of selected cases such as Engel v Vitale, Miranda v Arizona, and Schenck v U.S. that involve Supreme Court interpretations of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>GOV.14D Analyze the role of each branch of government in protecting the rights of individuals.</p> <p>GOV.14E Explain the importance of due process rights to the protection of individual rights and to the limits on the powers of government as expressed in various interpretations of the 5th and 14th amendments.</p> <p>GOV.14F Analyze the impact of the incorporation doctrine of the 14th amendment, which extends the due process guarantee of the 5th amendment, and the Bill of Rights on individual rights, federalism, and majority rule.</p> <p>GOV.18C Describe an example of a government policy that has affected a particular racial, ethnic, or religious group, and evaluate the economic, social, and political effects of that policy on various segments of American society.</p>		
Suggested Lesson Framework	1 lesson on 1 st Amendment Freedoms	3 lessons on Civil Liberties, Due Process of Law, Equal Protection, and Rights of the Accused

**United States Government
Horizontal Alignment Planning Guide Overview
Second Six-Weeks**

Learning Focus 2.1 Democracy in Action: The People		
This unit is designed to establish the importance of civic responsibility, explore methods of political action, and examine how public opinion is transformed into political power.		
Key Concepts		
Rights and Responsibilities	Faction	Civic Action
<p>Objectives</p> <p>GOV.22A Use social studies terminology correctly.</p> <p>GOV.15A Explain the difference between personal and civic responsibilities.</p> <p>GOV.15B Evaluate whether and/or when the obligation of citizenship requires that personal desires and interests be subordinated to the public good, such as payment of taxes.</p> <p>GOV.15C Evaluate whether and/or when the rights of individuals are inviolable even against claims for the public good.</p> <p>GOV.16A Analyze the effectiveness of various methods of participation in the political process at local, state, and national levels, including voting, donating money to political campaigns, volunteering for campaign work, and political protest.</p> <p>GOV.23B Use a decision-making process to identify a situation that requires a decision, gather information, identify options, predict consequences, and take action to implement a decision.</p> <p>GOV.3A Give examples of the processes used by individuals, political parties, interest groups, or the media to affect public policy, including contacting public officials, lobbying, and directing public attention.</p> <p>GOV.3B Analyze the impact of historical and contemporary political change brought about by individuals, political parties, interest groups, or the media, past and present.</p> <p>GOV.16B Analyze historical and contemporary examples of citizen movements to bring about political change or to maintain continuity, including the women's rights movement, the civil rights movement, and the temperance movement.</p> <p>GOV.16C Analyze the factors that influence an individual's political attitudes and actions including the components of political socialization and political efficacy.</p> <p>GOV.22C Transfer information from one medium to another including written to visual [pictures, diagrams, webs, models, PowerPoints] and statistical to written and visual [graphs, charts, diagrams] using computer software as appropriate.</p> <p>GOV.12A Identify the functions of political parties, including the nomination of candidates, informing, and mobilizing voters.</p> <p>GOV.12B Analyze the two-party system and evaluate the role of third parties in the United States.</p> <p>GOV.12C Analyze the role of political parties in the electoral processes at local, state, and national levels.</p> <p>GOV.12D Identify opportunities for citizens to participate in political party activities at local, state, and national levels such as volunteering as a campaign worker.</p> <p>GOV.17A Analyze different points of view expressed by political parties and interest groups on important contemporary issues.</p> <p>GOV.21C Explain multiple, or conflicting, points of view on a historical and contemporary government issues.</p> <p>GOV.21D Using bias, propaganda, point of view, and frame of reference as criteria, analyze and evaluate the validity of information from primary and secondary sources.</p>		
Suggested Lesson Framework		
1 lesson on Political Participation and Civic Responsibility	1 lesson on Public Opinion, Interest Groups, and Political Action	2 lessons on Political Parties and Elections

United States Government Horizontal Alignment Planning Guide Overview Second Six-Weeks

Learning Focus 2.2 Legislative and Executive Branches of Government		
This unit explores the constitutional requirements and responsibilities for those seeking election to federal, state, and local offices. Additionally, this learning focus compares the American system of government to other democratic and non-democratic political systems.		
Key Concepts		
Representation	Power	Cooperation
Objectives GOV.22A Use social studies terminology correctly. GOV.11A Compare and contrast different methods of filling public offices, including elected and appointed offices, at the local, state, and national levels. GOV.9A Analyze the structure and functions of the legislative branch of American government, including the bicameral structure of Congress, the role of committees, the procedure for enacting laws, and the leadership structure of each house. GOV.9E Explain how the impeachment powers of Congress, veto power of the president, and provisions on which judicial review is based illustrate provisions of the U.S. Constitution that provide for checks and balances among the three branches of government. GOV.14D Analyze the role of each branch of government in protecting the rights of individuals. GOV.21B Create written, visual, and/or non-linguistic products on a contemporary government issue or topic using critical methods of inquiry. GOV.11B Analyze and evaluate the process of electing the President of the United States, including the electoral college system. GOV.16D Compare and evaluate characteristics, style, and effectiveness of state and national leaders, past and present. GOV.9B Analyze the structure and functions of the executive branch of government, including the constitutional powers of the president, the growth of presidential power, and the role of the Cabinet and executive departments, as a national and a world leader. GOV.23A Use a problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution. GOV.6B Identify the sources of revenue including income taxes, social security, and Medicare, and expenditures of the U.S. government including defense, social security, and Medicare/Medicaid, and analyze their impact on the U.S. economy. GOV.9D Analyze the structure and functions of selected independent executive agencies and regulatory commissions such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal Communications Commission. GOV.21E Using census reports, state or federal budgets, population densities, congressional representation found in charts, tables, graphs, and maps interpret and evaluate government data. GOV.21F Use appropriate mathematical skills to interpret social studies information such as maps and graphs, such as census reports, state or federal budgets, population densities, or congressional representation. GOV.9H Compare and contrast the structure and functions of the Texas state government to the federal system including the Texas constitution, branches of government, and major expenditures. GOV.9I Analyze the structure and functions of local government such as the mayor-council system, and the provision of police or fire protection. GOV.10B Categorize government powers as national, state, or shared/concurrent. GOV.13A Compare the U.S. system of government with other political systems including communism, socialism, dictatorships, and parliamentary democracies. GOV.13B Analyze advantages and disadvantages of federal, confederate, and unitary systems of government from the perspectives of both citizens and public officials. GOV.13C Analyze advantages and disadvantages of presidential and parliamentary systems of government from the perspectives of both citizens and public officials.		
Suggested Lesson Framework	2 lessons on Presidential Elections, Powers, and Responsibilities	2 lessons on State, Local, and Foreign legislative and executive powers

**United States Government
Horizontal Alignment Planning Guide Overview
Second Six-Weeks**

2 lessons on Representation and the Structure and Powers of Congress	1 lesson on the Federal Bureaucracy and Financing the Federal Government	
--	--	--

**United States Government
Horizontal Alignment Planning Guide Overview
Third Six-Weeks**

Learning Focus 3.1 Judicial Branch of Government

This unit is designed to give students an understanding of the functions and structure of the national, state, and local judicial branches. Secondly, it teaches students about the impact of court decisions on American citizens and society.

Key Concepts

Judicial Review	Jurisdiction	Rights
-----------------	--------------	--------

Objectives

GOV.22A

Use social studies terminology correctly.

GOV.9C

Analyze the structure and functions of the judicial branch of government, including the impact of Supreme Court decisions, the federal court system, and types of jurisdiction.

GOV.9F

Analyze selected issues raised by judicial activism and judicial restraint such as the ability for courts to set policy and allowing the constitution to be adapted to accompany changes in public opinion or technology.

GOV.9H

Compare and contrast the structure and functions of the Texas state government to the federal system including the Texas constitution, branches of government, and major expenditures.

GOV.9I

Analyze the structure and functions of local government such as the mayor-council system, and the provision of police or fire protection.

GOV.10C

Analyze the establishment of a national bank, the Nullification Crisis, the slavery debate, civil rights, or abortion rights as examples of historical conflicts over the respective roles of national and state governments.

GOV.14C

Analyze issues addressed in the majority and dissenting opinions of selected cases such as Engel v Vitale, Miranda v Arizona, and Schenck v U.S. that involve Supreme Court interpretations of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

GOV.14F

Analyze the impact of the incorporation doctrine of the 14th amendment, which extends the due process guarantee of the 5th amendment, and the Bill of Rights on individual rights, federalism, and majority rule.

GOV.22B

Use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation to present social studies information.

GOV.22D

Create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information related to topics in United States government.

Suggested lesson Framework

2 lessons on the Structure and Functions on the Federal, State, and Local Court Systems

2 lessons on Constitutional Law: States Rights, Civil Rights, Judicial Activism, and Judicial Restraint

**United States Government
Horizontal Alignment Planning Guide Overview
Third Six-Weeks**

Learning Focus 3.2 The Effects of Domestic and Foreign Policy

This learning focus explores the various economic, social, and political effects that result from developing and enforcing federal policy. Additionally, it teaches students about the relationships that exist among various political entities, especially with regard to overlapping jurisdictions.

Key Concepts

Cause and Effect	Common Good	Cooperation
<p>Objectives</p> <p>GOV.22A Use social studies terminology correctly.</p> <p>GOV.4A Using Cuba, Taiwan, and other examples analyze how the location and geographic characteristics of selected places or regions has political significance to the United States.</p> <p>GOV.4B Using oil fields in the Middle East as one example, analyze how the location and geographic characteristics of selected places and regions can impact the United States economically.</p> <p>GOV.5A Analyze and evaluate the consequences of a government policy that affects the physical characteristics of a place or region.</p> <p>GOV.5B Analyze and evaluate the consequences of a government policy that affects the human characteristics of a place or region.</p> <p>GOV.6A Analyze government policies that influence the economy at the local, state, and national levels.</p> <p>GOV.7A Explain the effects of international trade on U.S. economic and political policies.</p> <p>GOV.7B Explain the government's role in setting or influencing international trade policies.</p> <p>GOV.9G Explain the major responsibilities of the federal government in setting domestic and foreign policy, including the development of an annual budget and the execution or enforcement of these policies.</p> <p>GOV.10D Evaluate the limits on the national and state governments in the U.S. federal system of government such as the sole authority of the states to conduct elections and the sole authority of the federal government to coin money.</p> <p>GOV.15D Analyze the consequences of political decisions and actions such as taxation, social welfare programs, military action, and trade policy on society.</p> <p>GOV.18A Evaluate the economic, social, and political components of a political policy or decision in the United States that was a result of changes in American culture.</p> <p>GOV.18B Analyze economic, social, and political changes in American culture brought about by government policies such as voting rights, the GI bill, and racial integration.</p> <p>GOV.19A Identify examples of government-assisted research that, when shared with the private sector, have resulted in improved consumer products such as medical research, military innovation, computers, communication...</p> <p>GOV.19B Analyze how U.S. government policies fostering competition and entrepreneurship have resulted in scientific discoveries and technological innovations.</p> <p>GOV.20A Analyze the potential impact on society of recent scientific discoveries and technological innovations, such as medical advances, military innovation, computers, communication, and satellite technologies.</p> <p>GOV.20B Analyze government reactions to scientific discoveries and technological innovations.</p> <p>GOV.21A Analyze historical and contemporary political information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions.</p> <p>GOV.23A Use a problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution.</p> <p>GOV.23B Use a decision-making process to identify a situation that requires a decision, gather information, identify options, predict consequences, and take action to implement a decision.</p>		
<p>Suggested lesson Framework Two lessons on the Formation and Impact of Domestic Policy</p>	<p>Two lessons on the Relationship Between Geography, Science, and Technology and Public Policy</p>	<p>Two lessons on Foreign Policy and International Relations</p>