

Lessons and Activities for grades K - 12

Center for Civic Education

<http://new.civiced.org> The Center for Civic Education has links to a wide variety of free lesson plans, as well as the Project Citizen and Civitas Programs, as well as its premier program: We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution, with texts and materials available at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. Most of the lessons are appropriate for grades 7-12, but some of the ideas listed under **More Lesson Plans**, are suitable for grades K-6.

Lesson Plans <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum>

- 9/11 and the Constitution
- Constitution Day
- Independence Day
- Presidents Day
- Washington
- Madison
- Mason
- Lincoln
- Reagan
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Black History Month
- Women's History Month
- Voting

More Lesson Plans <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/lesson-plans>

Constitutional Rights Foundation

<http://www.crfc.org> More than 70 lessons about 26 topics that connect with each article of the US Constitution. Topics also connect to a wider array of social studies topics. Lessons are organized in an easy to use database that takes into account grade level (K-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12), topic, and teaching strategy. Teachers must register to download lesson plans and handouts. Registration is free and worth doing for access to well-designed plans. Some lessons require purchasing special curricula but the database can limit a search to free materials. Professional development opportunities and student programs listed at this site are for teachers and students in the Chicago area.

Courts in the Classroom

<http://www.courtsed.org/courts-in-the-classroom> This site uses animated story videos and quizzes to teach students at all grade levels about issues ranging from due process to checks and balances; what courts and judges do; landmark cases related to the First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments. A teachers guide is provided.

Dirksen Congressional Center

<http://www.dirksencenter.org> Features include Congress for Kids, aimed at helping elementary schoolchildren understand their government, the Constitution,

and voting; an interactive Congressional Timeline; and an online civics course entitled Congress in the Classroom.

First Amendment Center

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org> Lesson plans, podcasts, and an interactive glossary are provided on this website, which focuses on First Amendment issues in the Courts and Congress and the relevance of the five individual freedoms that make up the First Amendment.

Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers> Lesson plans on American history are supplemented with primary sources from the Library of Congress collection. Class starters include Today in History and American Memory Timeline. Interactive learning activities are available for younger children, and professional development programs for teachers are offered.

National Constitution Center

<http://constitutioncenter.org> Topics related to the Constitution, civic participation, and the Executive Branch are addressed in lesson plans, online resources, and interactive games. Also featured is The Exchange, a public forum for high school students to share ideas about current events.

National Endowment for the Humanities

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plans> Lesson plans aimed at students K-12 cover topics ranging from presidential families to the judicial power of the Supreme Court to trial by jury as a right and as a political institution. Also covered are the Document-Based Questions in the Advanced Placement Exam for U.S. History.

New Hampshire Bar Association Law Related Education

<http://www.nhbar.org/law-related-education> A site focused on NH curriculum and resources about law, the legal system and the fundamental principles upon which our constitutional democracy is based. Activities are intended to foster partnerships between NH schools and attorneys who volunteer their time for educational purposes. Most of the resources and programs are for middle and high school teachers, but several exercises are designed to introduce concepts of law and justice in the lower elementary grades. Fourth grade teachers who are teaching NH history might also find some helpful information.

North Carolina Civic Education Consortium

<http://database.civics.unc.edu> A well organized, searchable database of lessons and activities classified by courses or grade level (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) and by clearly defined topics. Lessons include NC State Standards, but teachers can easily substitute NH State Civics Standards. The lessons (grades 5-12) include detailed procedures that make them easy to implement. Many of the K - 5 activities correlate with Responsive Classroom and Habits of Mind curricula.

PBS Teachers

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers> Subject areas including civic participation, the three branches of government, and current events are among the many covered on this site, which provides lesson plans, videos, audio recordings, interactive activities for younger students, online professional development courses for teachers, and an archive of webinars.

US Constitution Online

<http://www.constitutiononline.net> User-friendly texts of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and more, including child-friendly explanations for levels K-12.

US Government Printing Office

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov> Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids features information on government, citizenship, elections, and voting. It also includes student-friendly links to most government agencies. Activities include print as well as interactive games.

Youth Leadership Initiative

<http://www.youthleadership.net> The University of Virginia's Center for Politics developed this web site, which includes more than 100 teacher-developed K-12 lesson plans. The site also features a Mock Election tailored to legislative districts throughout the US; an ECongress simulation; A More Perfect Union which simulates a Senatorial campaign; and Democracy Corp, a link to service learning plans and projects. Teachers need to sign up to get the full use of this extensive civics resource.