



Marietta City Schools

District Unit Planner

Grade 3 Social Studies

Theme	<i>Unit 3 Citizenship and Democratic Beliefs</i>	Unit duration (Days)	<i>10-20 Days</i>
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GSE Standards

SS3CG1 Describe the elements of representative democracy/republic in the United States.

- a. Describe the three branches of national government: executive (president), legislative (Congress), and judicial (Supreme Court of the United States).
- b. Describe the three branches of state government: executive (governor), legislative (Georgia General Assembly), and judicial (Supreme Court of Georgia).
- c. State the main responsibility of each branch: executive (enforcing laws), legislative (making laws), judicial (determining if laws are fair).

S3CG2 Explain the importance of Americans sharing certain central democratic beliefs and principles, both personal and civic.

- a. Explain the necessity of respecting the rights of others and promoting the common good.
- b. Explain the necessity of obeying reasonable laws/rules voluntarily, and explain why it is important for citizens in a democratic society to participate in public (civic) life (staying informed, voting, volunteering, and communicating with public officials).

Information Processing Skills:

1. compare similarities and differences
3. identify issues and/or problems and alternative solutions
4. distinguish between fact and opinion
5. identify main idea, detail, sequence of events, and cause and effect in a social studies context
6. identify and use primary and secondary sources
7. interpret timelines, charts, and tables
8. identify social studies reference resources to use for a specific purpose
9. construct charts and tables
10. analyze artifacts
11. draw conclusions and make generalizations
12. analyze graphs and diagrams

Themes and Enduring Understandings:

Individuals, Groups and Institutions: The student will understand that what people, groups, and institutions say and do can help or harm others whether they mean to or not.

Beliefs and Ideals: The student will understand that people’s ideas and feelings influence their decisions.

Essential Questions

Factual—

- What does “common good” mean?
- What does democracy mean?
- What is a representative democracy?
- How are leaders chosen?
- How is our government organized?
- What are the branches’ responsibilities?

Inferential—

- How do citizens participate in our government?
- Why do we have three branches?
- How do we become active citizens?
- How do the three branches of government at the state level compare and contrast with the federal government?

Critical Thinking—

- Why is it necessary to respect the rights of others?
- Why should we share common beliefs and principals?
- Why is our government set up this way?

Tier II Words- High Frequency Multiple Meaning

Tier III Words- Subject/ Content Related Words

- Rights
- Responsibilities
- Institutions
- Majority

- Democracy: Direct and Representative
- Shared democratic beliefs and principles: respecting rights, the common good, obeying laws, active citizenship, majority rule
- Participation in civic life: voting, volunteering

National, Federal Courts Honesty, Compassion, Respect, Responsibility and Courage	Majority Rule Branches of Government: Executive (president, governor) , Legislative (Congress, GA General Assembly). Judicial (US and GA Supreme Courts), Responsibilities: executive (enforce laws) legislative (make laws) judicial (fair laws)
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Assessments

Summative Assessment(s):
 Citizenship Blueprint and Key

Grades 3- 5 Assessments may be administered via the AMP App in Schoology. Teachers should reach out to their Academic Coach or the district Social Studies Coordinator to upload assessments to their Schoology Course.
 Standards: All GSE for the unit.
 * Teachers can access the Test Blueprint and Key via the grade level Schoology Group.

Theme Based Writing Task:
[American Government Basics](#)

Students will synthesize their learning and understandings of the GSE for the unit and create an infographic displaying the basic foundations of the American representative democracy and the roles of citizens in the government.
 Standards: All GSE for the unit.

DBQ: *Which branch of the government would you most like to serve in?* Students investigate the qualifications, roles, and responsibilities of each branch of government, then choose the branch they would most like to be part of. Citing evidence from the documents to support their choice is required for mastery.
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Objective or Content	Learning Experiences	Differentiation Considerations
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<p>Teacher Resources These resources are intended to support teachers with background information</p>	<p>Parent Information Letter- edit for school specific information</p> <p>Click here for GADOE Content Video Teacher Notes guide teachers in understanding the content for the unit. Additional unit information may be found at the GADOE GPS Landing Page</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>S3CG2 Explain the importance of Americans sharing certain central democratic beliefs and principles, both personal and civic. a. Explain the necessity of respecting the rights of others and promoting the common good.</p>	<p>Individuals for the Common Good Work in triads to explore actions for the common good</p>	<p>Provide examples of illustrations with captions. Allow students additional time to work in small groups. Preview new vocabulary.</p>
<p>S3CG2 Explain the importance of Americans sharing certain central democratic beliefs and principles, both personal and civic. a. Explain the necessity of respecting the rights of others and promoting the common good. b. Explain the necessity of obeying reasonable laws/rules voluntarily, and explain why it is important for citizens in a democratic society to participate in public (civic) life (staying informed, voting, volunteering, and communicating with public officials).</p>	<p>How to Get Along in Class Understand the necessity for a positive learning environment</p>	<p>Deliberate grouping of students to provide small group instruction. Provide question documents or preview questions with students.</p>
<p>S3CG2 Explain the importance of Americans sharing certain central democratic beliefs and principles, both personal and civic. a. Explain the necessity of respecting the rights of others and promoting the common good. b. Explain the necessity of obeying</p>	<p>The Five Themes of Citizenship Exploration of the characteristics of productive citizens</p>	<p>Intentional grouping. Provide examples of individuals following the characteristics. Complete the activity in a small group. Large group discussion and examples</p>

<p>reasonable laws/rules voluntarily, and explain why it is important for citizens in a democratic society to participate in public (civic) life (staying informed, voting, volunteering, and communicating with public officials).</p>		
<p>SS3CG1 Describe the elements of representative democracy/republic in the United States. a. Describe the three branches of national government: executive (president), legislative (Congress), and judicial (Supreme Court of the United States). b. Describe the three branches of state government: executive (governor), legislative (Georgia General Assembly), and judicial (Supreme Court of Georgia). c. State the main responsibility of each branch: executive (enforcing laws), legislative (making laws), judicial (determining if laws are fair).</p>	<p>Ideals and Beliefs Define and understand key ideals associated with American Democracy</p>	<p>Provide sentence starters for discussions. Work with small groups to define terms.</p>
<p>SS3CG1 Describe the elements of representative democracy/republic in the United States. a. Describe the three branches of national government: executive (president), legislative (Congress), and judicial (Supreme Court of the United States). c. State the main responsibility of each branch: executive (enforcing laws), legislative (making laws), judicial (determining if laws are fair).</p>	<p>Things in Threes Understand the concept of three branches of government</p>	<p>Prepare examples with pictures of “things in threes”. Limit the think aloud prompts for students. Play the sorting game with patterns or small group teams.</p>

<p>SS3CG1 Describe the elements of representative democracy/republic in the United States. b. Describe the three branches of state government: executive (governor), legislative (Georgia General Assembly), and judicial (Supreme Court of Georgia).</p>	<p>State Government Predict and investigate the structure of state government</p>	<p>Provide additional practice. Work in teams or partners. Guide students through the compare and contrast</p>
<p>SS3CG1 Describe the elements of representative democracy/republic in the United States. a. Describe the three branches of national government: executive (president), legislative (Congress), and judicial (Supreme Court of the United States). b. Describe the three branches of state government: executive (governor), legislative (Georgia General Assembly), and judicial (Supreme Court of Georgia). c. State the main responsibility of each branch: executive (enforcing laws), legislative (making laws), judicial (determining if laws are fair).</p>	<p>Help Wanted Explore qualifications for serving in federal or state government positions and create a help wanted advertisement</p>	<p>Preview vocabulary. Provide a pathfinder of resources Work in groups, utilize guided reading for chosen resources. Provide examples of want ads.</p>

Recommended High Quality Complex Texts

Carl the Complainer By Michelle Knudsen
We the Kids by David Catrow
Duck for President By Doreen Cronin
Election Day by Patricia Murphy
How the U.S. Government Works by Syl Sobel
If I Were President by Catherine Stier

Discovery Education Videos:

[History Kids: the Three Branches](#) (20 minute video- break into segments if using)
[Our Government](#)
[History Kids: State Government](#) (20 minute video- break into segments if using)