

## Missouri Show-Me Standards



The Missouri Show-Me Standards for Social Studies Strand 1: Civic-Political Perspective addresses the basic question, what is government. The strand helps students understand the basic principles and foundations on which our political system is based.

In SIRS' study of the Missouri Show-Me Standards, 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 skills.

*What Citizens Need to Know About Government*, addresses the expectations for **Strand 1: Civic- Political Perspective** and 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 connect the past to the present as well as appreciate universal historical themes and dilemmas 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 develop the higher order thinking skills deemed necessary by the Missouri Show-Me Standards.

<<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/curriculum/frameworks/ss1complete.pdf>>  
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**Missouri Show-Me Standards for Social Studies**  
correlation with  
**What Citizens Need to Know About Government**



**Strand 1: Civic-Political Perspective**

Grades 9 – 12

**1.A Why have people established governance systems?**

**1. What are competing ideas regarding purposes of governments and other purpose of governance systems? What purposes should governance systems serve? (SS1;SS3)**

*- Chapter 1 examines the purpose and function of government.*

**2. What are essential characteristics of limited and unlimited governments? What importance do rule of law, civil society, political freedom have under those systems? (SS1;SS3)**

*- The three basic political systems, command, custom, and consent are discussed. Historical and contemporary examples of each, as well as examples of limited and unlimited governments are provided.*

**3. What are/should be the nature, purposes, and uses of constitution? (SS1;SS3)**

*- Chapter 3 examines the U.S. Constitution.  
- From Chapter 1, students can access Japan's Constitution and Germany's Weimer Constitution in order to conduct a comparative analysis of varying constitutions.*

**4. How are power and responsibility distributed, shared, and limited among the levels of government established by the United States Constitution? How are the local, state, and national governments organized in the United States? (SS1;SS3)**

- *Chapter 2 describes the organization of the federal government into three branches, executive, legislative, and judicial.*
- *Chapters 4 and 5 examine the executive branch and provide information on the Presidency and the Cabinet. Embedded links provide access to the Office of the President and Vice-President web sites.*
- *Chapter 6 examines the legislative branch. The House of Representatives and Senate web sites can be accessed from embedded text links.*
- *Chapter 7 examines the judicial branch and focuses on the federal court system and Supreme Court.*
- *Chapters 10 and 11 discuss state and local governments, respectively.*

5. How do people attain positions of power and leadership in governance systems? What factors support or limit their power? (SS1;SS3)

- *Chapter 16 explores political parties and campaigns. Information regarding the two-party system, the role of third parties and independents, the political party structure and political conventions are provided. Access to the Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, and Green Parties web sites are available.*

6. What is the place of law in the American constitutional system? How does /should law protect the rights of individuals? (SS1;SS3)

- *Chapter 9 examines the Bill of Rights and the laws that protect individual rights. Landmark Supreme Court decisions that emphasize the implementation of laws protecting rights and liberties can be accessed from embedded text links.*

7. What values and principles are basic to American constitutional democracy? Where may they be found? How do/should they impact upon the practices of government? (SS1;SS3)

- *Chapter 1 provides insight into the values and principles upon which American democracy was founded. The writings of 18<sup>th</sup> century philosophers such as Locke, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Voltaire, provide insight into these ideals.*
- *From Chapter 3, students may read Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America.*

**8.** Why do democratic values and principles sometimes come into conflict with one another? How do/should governments and citizens deal with such issues? (SS1;SS3)

- *Part II, Problems of Government, discusses issues, such as the environment, ethics, health care, etc., that exemplify controversial topics.*

**9.** What implications follow from the world being organized as a system of nation-states? (SS1;SS5)

- *Chapter 28, Foreign Policy, provides insight into world politics.*