

North Dakota Standards and Benchmarks



The North Dakota Social Studies program for High School is based on the same basic beliefs of liberty, freedom and justice. Goals set forth for the teaching of social studies include the understanding of the world so that students may adapt readily to societal changes.

In SIRS' study of the North Dakota Standards and Benchmarks, 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 **Standards 2 and 5** 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 North Dakota Standards and Benchmarks.

<<http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/>> [2002, January 28]

12.2.3 Understand the role of American political institutions in international affairs.

- *Chapter 28 explores U.S. foreign policy. Areas covered include:*
 - *foreign policy decision-making*
 - *presidential powers*
 - *War Powers Act*
 - *the role of the State Department*
 - *foreign and cultural exchange*
 - *international organizations.*

Standard 5: THE ROLE OF THE CITIZEN

Students understand the role of the citizen in society.

Benchmarks:

12.5.1 Understand the benefits and challenges of the rights of citizenship.

- *Chapter 14 examines the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Topics include:*
 - *obtaining citizenship*
 - *dual-citizenship*
 - *naturalization*
 - *illegal immigration*
- *Chapter 15 discusses the importance of voting and the voting process. A link to the Electoral College allows for further research into this area.*
- *Chapter 9 focuses on the legal rights of citizens. The ongoing struggle for civil rights is discussed in detail. Links to landmark Supreme Court decisions help students understand this struggle.*

12.5.2 Understand the responsibilities of citizenship and the components of civic participation.

- *Chapter 12, Paying for Government, discusses the government's ability to levy taxes and the consequences of tax evasion.*
- *Chapter 16 examines the two-party system and the rise of third parties and independents. Students may link to the Republican, Democratic, Libertarian and Green Parties web sites.*