

South Dakota Social Studies Standards



The South Dakota Social Studies Standards are designed to:

- enable students to understand basic values, principles, and operation of American Constitutional democracy;
- prepare students for informed and responsible citizenship;
- develop students' skills in debated, discussion, and writing; and
- provide students with a framework for continuing education in Social Studies.

(Introduction)

In SIRS' study of the South Dakota Social Studies 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 **Government** 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 South Dakota Social Studies Standards.

<<http://www.state.sd.us/deca/contentstandards/>> [2002, January 24]



South Dakota Social Studies Standards
correlation with
What Citizens Need to Know About Government



9 – 12 Government Standards

STUDENTS WILL:

1. critique the influence of European political thought on the formation of the United States constitutional system.

- *Chapter 1 discusses our European heritage and presents the writings of the 18th century philosophers who influenced the founding fathers. Students may read the works of Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Voltaire and Smith.*

2. identify fundamental political principles contained in documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Bill of Rights, and the United States Constitution.

- *Chapter 1 contains the text of the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation.*
- *Chapter 3 contains the Constitution.*
- *Chapter 9 discusses the Bill of Rights.*

3. analyze national government with emphasis on the structures, functions, and authority of each branch of government; the principles of federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances; the extent to which power is shared rather than divided or separated; and procedures for a constitutional amendment.

- *Chapter 2, The Federal Government, examines the structure and function of the federal government. The powers of each branch of government are explained, as well as the system of checks and balances that protects against abuse of power by any one branch.*

4. summarize constitutional issues relating to the rationale for constitutional amendments and the conflicts they address; landmark decisions of the United States Supreme Court; and the historical trends and contemporary patterns of the United States Supreme Court decisions.

- *Chapters 3, 7, and 9 discuss the Constitutional issues raised by proposed Amendments.*
- *Chapters 7 and 9 present the syllabi, minority and majority opinions for landmark Supreme Court decisions.*

5. analyze the interrelationships and structures of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches with regard to the constitutional requirements and institutional procedures; the legislative process; judicial review; the hierarchy of the federal court system; the presidential powers including expressed and implied; executive departments, regulatory bureaucracies, and agencies; and the impact of bureaucracies and government agencies on the U.S. constitutional system.

- *Chapters 4 and 5 closely examine the Executive Branch of government. The office of the President and the Cabinet are discussed. Links to the Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President, as well as cabinet level agencies are available from the related web sites list.*
- *Chapter 6 explores the Legislative Branch.*
- *Chapter 7 explores the Judiciary and focuses on the federal court system. A link to the Supreme Court allows students to research past and present Justices and issues before the court.*
- *Chapter 8 examines the bureaucracy known as the “fourth branch of government” and the federal agencies that comprise it. Links to agencies such as, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are available.*

6. analyze local public issues and distinguish between state and local governments including cities, counties, and towns.

- *Chapters 10 and 11 explore state and local governments. Students may access their state governments via the Cornell University Law Schools’ LII: State Legal Matters-Listing web site, to learn about local issues.*

7. analyze campaigns for national, state, and local elective office, including the nominating process; campaign funding and spending; the influence of media coverage, campaign advertising, and public opinion polls; demographic causes and political effects of reapportionment and redistricting; voter turnout and the constituencies of the major political parties; and the Electoral College.

- *Chapter 16 explores political campaigns and parties. Links to the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, and Green Parties web sites are available. Students may also read about the Electoral College and explore its web site.*
- *Chapter 13 examines the influence of the media and public opinion polls of campaigns.*

8. develop the skills needed for informed participation in public affairs by analyzing public issues, evaluating candidates for public office, evaluating the performance of public officials, and communicating with public officials.

- *Chapter 6 provides access to all congressional leaders through an embedded link to the House of Representatives and Senate web sites.*

9. explain and give current examples of how political parties, interest groups, the media, and individuals influence the policy agenda and decision-making of government institutions.

- *Chapter 13 discusses the influence that the media, pressure groups, lobbies and Political Action Committees (PACs) have on elected officials and government decision-making.*

10. analyze current issues confronting local, state, and national governments in terms of perennial challenges to democracies, including conflicts between majority rule and minority rights, individual rights and public interest, levels of taxation and the expectation of public services, and state and national authority in a federal system.

- *Part II, Problems of Government, examines current issues confronting all citizens. Topics include ethics, environment, poverty, health care, education, cities, transportation, agriculture, business, and economy.*

11. compare the United States political systems with those of major democratic and authoritarian nations in terms of the structures and powers of political institutions, the rights and powers of the governed including grass roots citizen movements, economic goals and institutions and the role of government in the economy, the relationships between economic freedom and political freedom and the allocation of resources and impact on productivity.

- *Chapter 1 compares and contrasts various forms of governments, their structure functions. Links to sites such as the British Parliament, Tribal Governments, and Japan's Constitution allow for further comparative analysis.*

12. identify and explain fundamental concepts of democracy and the rights, responsibilities, and benefits of citizenship in the United States.

- *Chapter 1 examines the fundamental concepts of democracy.*
- *Chapter 14 examines the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.*