

## Wyoming Content and Performance Standards



The Wyoming Content and Performance Standards for Social Studies Standards' mission is to "help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world."

In SIRS' study of the Wyoming Content and Performance 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 the study of **Citizenship/Government/Democracy** 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 and 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 Wyoming Content and Performance Standards.

<<http://www.k12.wy.us/publications/socrational.html>> [2001, December 6]



**Wyoming Social Studies Standards**  
correlation with  
**What Citizens Need to Know About Government**



**Content Standard 1. Citizenship/ Government/ Democracy**

Students demonstrate how structures of power, authority, and governance have developed historically and continue to evolve.

**Benchmarks – Grade 11**

1. Students describe unique freedoms and rights of living in a democratic society.

*- Part I, Structure of Government, provides the framework students need to understand the freedoms and rights inherent in the U.S. democratic society.*

2. Students explain and/or demonstrate how to participate in the local, state, national and international political processes.

*- Chapter 2 explores the structure and functions of the federal government.*  
*- Chapter 10 focuses on state governments’ legislative, executive, and judicial branches. State and federal regulations are discussed.*  
*- Chapter 11 addresses local governments and their relationship with state and federal governments.*  
*- Chapter 28 examines the intricacies of foreign policy decision-making and discusses the United States’ participation in international organizations.*

3. Students explain the historical development of the U.S. Constitution and how it has shaped the Wyoming and U.S. governmental systems.

*- Chapter 1 traces the roots of American democracy. Students may read important U.S. documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and Ben Franklin’s Plan of Union.*  
*- Chapter 3, The Constitution, presents an in-depth analysis of the U.S. Constitution, focusing on its structure and the amendment process. Students may link to supplemental web sites such as the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention Home Page.*

4. Students demonstrate an understanding of the provisions of the Wyoming Constitution.

- *From Chapter 10, students may read the Wyoming Constitution from a link in the Cornell Legal Matters web site.*

5. Students compare the U.S. civil and criminal legal systems.

- *Chapter 7, The Judiciary, explains the federal court system and identifies the various specialized courts and their jurisdictions. A link to the Supreme Court allows students to investigate the court and its Justices.*
- *Chapter 10 examines the state courts and how they interact with the federal courts.*