

10th Grade American Online School

SOCIAL STUDIES/SCIENCES

Civic Engagement and Global Awareness

Version Mar/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Social Studies in 10th Grade

In 10th grade, social studies will provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand society, government, history, and geography, helping them become informed and responsible citizens. This curriculum is designed to build critical thinking, civic engagement, and global awareness by exploring the history, structure, and functions of governments, major historical events, and key social and political issues that shape the world.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Understand the foundations of the U.S. government, including checks and balances, separation of powers, the Bill of Rights, and how it establishes the framework of democracy.
- ✓ Examine the role of local, state, and federal governments, and how each level affects daily life.
- ✓ Learn about global historical events, such as the rise and fall of civilizations and world wars.
- ✓ Discuss international issues, including human rights, and economic globalization.
- ✓ Analyze different perspectives on controversial issues through debates and case studies.

2. Core Competence Areas

SoSCI.1 U.S. Government and the Constitution

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Understand the U.S. Constitution's purpose and structure and why it remains the foundation of American democracy.
- ✓ Learn how the three branches of government work & the role each plays in decision-making.
- ✓ Explore the Bill of Rights and how it protects individual freedoms and legal rights.
- ✓ Analyze the role of state and local governments, understanding how they connect with federal laws and policies.
- ✓ Understand how laws are created and enforced, from congressional legislation to judicial interpretation.

Competencies

SoSCI.1.A.1 – Understanding the U.S. Constitution and government structure.

- Learn about the history of the Constitution and why it was written.
- Explore how checks and balances work, using real-world examples.
- Learn how government powers are divided between the federal, state, and local levels.

SoSCI.1.A.2 – Exploring Rights and Responsibilities in the U.S.

- Study the Bill of Rights and its amendments, with real-life examples.
 - Learn about voting rights and how they have changed over time (e.g., women's suffrage, Civil Rights Movement).
 - Understand how citizens can influence government policies through voting, petitions, protests, and community involvement.
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SoSCI.2 U.S. History and World History

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Understand major events in U.S. history, from the Revolutionary War to the present.**
- ✓ **Analyze key historical figures and social movements that shaped American democracy.**
- ✓ **Explore world history, examining how different civilizations and cultures have influenced each other.**
- ✓ **Study the Declaration of Independence, its historical significance, and its impact on democracy.**

Competencies

SoSCI.2.A.1 – Understanding key events in U.S. history.

- Examine the impact of movements like women’s suffrage, the Civil Rights Movement, and the labor movement.
- Understand how historical events shaped modern America, including industrialization, immigration, and political shifts.

SoSCI.2.A.2 – Understanding world history and its influence on the U.S.

- Explore ancient civilizations, imperialism, and global conflicts.
- Understand the role of the U.S. in international affairs.
- Study global revolutions and their impact on democracy and governance.

SoSCI.2.A.2 – World history and global connections.

- Learn about key civilizations and their contributions to law, government, and philosophy.
 - Understand how global events shaped modern politics, trade, and culture.
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SoSCI.3 How Geography Shapes the World

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Identify key geographical features of the U.S. and the world, including mountains, rivers, and climate zones.**
- ✓ **Understand how geography influences culture, economy, and politics, shaping the way societies develop.**
- ✓ **Explore how climate and natural resources affect human settlements and economic activities.**
- ✓ **Study maps and borders to see how geography impacts relationships between countries.**
- ✓ **Analyze global interdependence, including trade, political alliances, and environmental cooperation.**

Competencies

SoSCI.3.A.1 – Understanding global connections and interdependence.

- Explore how geography influences economies, including natural resources, exports, and imports.
- Learn how international trade agreements impact economies and everyday life.
- Study the role of maps, globes, and technology in analyzing global trends.

SoSCI.3.A.2 – Learning geography – physical and political geography.

- Identify major physical features such as mountains, rivers, deserts, and oceans.
 - Learn how political boundaries are drawn and how they impact trade, war, and diplomacy.
 - Understand how geography influences population growth, urbanization, and economic development.
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SoSCI.4 Civics and Citizenship

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Understand what it means to be a responsible citizen and how their actions impact society.
- ✓ Learn how individuals can participate in government, including voting, petitioning, and running for office.
- ✓ Study the importance of civic engagement, including volunteerism and activism.
- ✓ Explore how democracy is shaped by participation, such as voting, public protests, and social movements.

Competencies

SoSCI.4.A.1 – Understanding civic responsibility and participation.

- Learn how to participate in government, including voting, signing petitions, and attending local meetings.
- Understand how protests, advocacy, and social movements influence government policies.
- Explore the importance of community service and how individuals can make a difference in their neighborhoods.

SoSCI.4.A.2 – Learning about civic duties and rights.

- Learn about the key responsibilities of citizens, such as paying taxes, etc.
 - Study the Bill of Rights and how it protects freedoms like speech, religion, and assembly.
 - Examine historical civil rights movements, such as the fight for women's suffrage, racial equality, and LGBTQ+ rights.
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3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Checking Progress Through Interactive Learning

- ✓ Discussions and debates on historical and political topics.
- ✓ Quizzes on U.S. history, government, and civics principles.
- ✓ Projects analyzing primary sources and case studies.

Summative Assessments – Final Projects and Exams

- ✓ Unit tests covering government, history, geography, and civics.
- ✓ Research essays on historical events and their relevance today.
- ✓ Project exploring modern political issues through historical analysis.

Authentic Assessment – Real-World Applications

- ✓ Mock government simulations where students role-play policymakers.
 - ✓ Civic action projects addressing real community problems.
 - ✓ Oral presentations on constitutional issues and legal debates.
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4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Inquiry-Based and Problem-Based Learning

- ✓ Students analyze historical case studies and propose alternative outcomes.
- ✓ Role-playing exercises to understand political decision-making.

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

- ✓ Students research and present on international conflicts and treaties.

Technology-Integrated Learning

- ✓ Virtual field trips to historic sites, museums, and government buildings.
- ✓ AI-powered tutoring for personalized learning in history and civics.
- ✓ Interactive simulations for understanding economic and political policies.