

1st Quarter 8th Grade Social Studies

The beginning of the year is going to be an exciting time in our social studies class! During first quarter, students will learn about citizenship, the Constitution and the executive and judicial branches of our federal government. Our main focus during this quarter will be on why governments are needed and how our government works. This includes analyzing historical documents, such as the Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. We will then use these documents to examine how our government works. This quarter's content is essential to understand the framework of the world around us. By the end of this quarter I hope my students will have a better understanding of how their country works and their place as citizens within it.

Week 1

1. Introduction to procedures & expectations
2. Citizenship
3. Responsibilities of citizens

Week 2

1. Purpose of governments
2. Types of governments

Week 3

1. Magna Carta
2. Mayflower Compact
3. Articles of Confederation
4. Declaration of Independence
5. Events that led to the American Revolution

Week 4

1. U.S. Constitution
2. Constitutional Convention
3. Political Parties

Week 5

1. U.S. Constitution
2. Three branches of the federal government

Week 6

1. Legislative Branch
2. House of Representative vs Senate

Week 7

1. Legislative Branch
2. How a bill becomes a law

Week 8

1. Executive Branch
2. Roles and responsibilities of the president and his cabinet

Week 9

1. Executive Branch
2. Roles and responsibilities of the president and his cabinet

1st Quarter Projects will include but are not limited to:

1. Types of government research project
2. Create a classroom constitution
3. Constitutional convention simulation
4. Write bills to try to pass into laws
5. Mock Congress in classroom where students will try to pass their bills into laws

1st Quarter Assessments will include but are not limited to:

1. Unit quizzes
2. Unit tests
3. Homework
4. Class activities & bell work
4. Projects
5. Questioning
6. Discussions

Parental Volunteer Opportunities

1. If any parents, family members or family friends have information they would like to share with the class regarding any of the topics we will be covering this quarter, I urge you to contact me. If you are related to anyone involved in the content, possess artifacts, know valuable information to share, work for the federal government, etc., I would love for you to share it with my students!
2. During research projects, it is always helpful to have extra adults to help supervise and support the research process in the computer lab and library.
3. Our mock congress should be a fun learning experience and I welcome you to come be part of it.
4. As always, any time is a good time to visit our classroom and help with the day to day activities or just observe and say hi!