

CIVICS RESOURCES

The following websites offer a wide variety of lessons and resources for K-12 Social Studies teachers with a focus on Civics. *This list is not exhaustive nor is it meant as an endorsement of any particular site or product. It is hoped that this will provide some helpful information that may be of use to you and your teachers.*

The American Bar Association <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/conversations/constitution/home.html>

Grade Levels: All

This site offers "Conversations on the Constitution", conversation starters and resources for discussions on the Constitution.

Lessons

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/constitution_day/lessons.html

Annenberg Classroom

<HTTP://WWW.ANNENBERGCLASSROOM.ORG/PAGE/A-GUIDE-TO-THE-UNITED-STATES-CONSTITUTION>

Grade Levels: All

This site offers an in-depth look at what the constitution says and means. Includes numerous videos, timelines, games and interactives.

Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education

<http://www.azflse.org/>

Grade Levels: All

This site offers children a guide for understanding important documents of our country, including the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Teachers can also order *Pocket Guides to the Constitution*.

Connecting with Classrooms

www.lawforkids.org/Connecting-with-Classrooms

Grade Levels: All

The Arizona Supreme Court and the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education provide AZ educators with another new program that will help celebrate Arizona's Centennial. Through this program teachers have the opportunity to schedule an Arizona legal professional to visit their classroom and implement lessons to celebrate our statehood. The lessons are designed to help Arizona middle and high school students learn about our state constitution and the judiciary and have been aligned to Arizona's State Social Studies Standards. Combining classroom visits conducted by Arizona attorneys and judges and interactive lessons in an innovative format will promote student understanding of our state's history and government. If you are interested in having a legal professional visit your classroom, please visit www.lawforkids.org/Connecting-with-Classrooms.

I-Civic-It!

www.lawforkids.org/News/i-civic-it

Grade Levels: Middle School

The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education in partnership with the Arizona Supreme Court developed a new program, Arizona I-Civic-It!, to expand the use of the iCivics web site throughout Arizona middle schools to encourage the development of informed active citizens. When participating in Arizona's new program, I-Civic-It!, teachers are able to record their classroom participation online and students are able to receive a free McDonald's Smoothie Coupon (sponsored by McDonald's) for every 200 minutes they spend on the iCivics web site playing the fun and educational games!

Kids Voting Arizona

www.kidsvotingaz.org

Grade Levels: All

Kids Voting Arizona is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that engages students and families in voting and other civic activities. The program is unique because it combines dynamic classroom civics lessons with an authentic voting experience that replicates the adult ballot. Kids Voting Arizona has partnered with the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education to provide Arizona children in grades K-12 with the opportunity to vote in a primary and general elections. For more information, please visit www.kidsvotingaz.org.

LawForKids.org

<http://www.lawforkids.org/>

Grade Levels: Middle School and High School

LawforKids.org is America's first stand alone website dedicated to teaching middle and high school children about the law in a manner that kids can read quickly and understand easily. The site was created by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education with the specific goal of educating Arizona's youth, their parents, communities and schools to increase their knowledge about youth laws and to encourage law-abiding behavior. LawForKids.org is made possible through support from the Arizona Supreme Court.

Lending Library

www.azflse.org/azflse/library/index.cfm

The **Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education** maintains a free lending library of over 2,500 law-related and civic education materials, including videos, software, computer games, books, curricula, and lesson plans. This library is maintained as a resource for educators, school resource officers, probation officers and lawyers throughout the state.

Professional Development Trainings

www.azflse.org/academy

The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education provides hands-on professional development training to educators that are interested in teaching their students about the law and civic education in a fun, engaging manner. Each training is designed to meet law-related education's (LRE) best practices using instruction that is research-based. All lessons provided during the trainings have been aligned to the Arizona State Standards. For a complete description of these professional development opportunities available to elementary, middle and high school educators and to register and view the 2011-2012 training calendar, please visit www.azflse.org/academy. These trainings are made possible by the Arizona Department of Education School Safety Program and the Arizona Supreme Court.

Publications

www.azflse.org/azflse/outreach/publications/

The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education offers a variety of educational publications available for view online, to download, or for order by educators. Each publication is free, geared towards a specific audience and contains helpful information about the law or legal process.

Mock Trial

www.azflse.org/mocktrial

The Arizona Mock Trial program teaches high school students about the law and the legal system through participation in a simulated trial. The program is an opportunity for students to learn about the law and the legal system from practicing attorneys; for teachers to work closely with attorneys to reinforce legal concepts in the classroom; and for attorneys to share their expertise about the law and their legal skills. The Mock Trial program is a program of the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education and is funded in part by the Young Lawyers of Arizona. Additional information is available online at www.azflse.org/mocktrial.

Project Citizen

www.azflse.org/pcitizen

Grade Levels: 5-12

Project Citizen, which is aligned to the Arizona State Standards, is a 5-12th grade curriculum designed to enhance students' understanding of public policy and citizenship. This program is interdisciplinary, based on cooperative learning, an excellent model for performance assessment, a method that can be utilized to implement project based learning, focuses on local and state government, and applies student learning to real public policy issues that concern youth. The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education provides teacher training and support, and hosts congressional district competitions and a statewide portfolio competition. Project Citizen was developed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the Arizona Supreme Court. For more information, please visit www.azflse.org/pcitizen.

We the People

www.azflse.org/Wethepeople

Grade Levels: 4-12

We the People, which is aligned to Arizona State Standards, is a 4-12th grade curriculum which enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. Simultaneously, students will discover the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education, with support from the Arizona Supreme Court, provides teacher training, a weeklong professional development and hosts congressional district and a statewide competition. The We the People Program is supported by the Arizona Supreme Court and the Center for Civic Education. For more information, please visit www.azflse.org/Wethepeople.

The Avalon Project: Yale Law School

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/usconst.htm>

Grade Levels: Middle – High School

This site offers full text documents of American History, including the Constitution.

Bill of Rights Institute

<http://www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/ConstitutionDay>

Grade Levels: Middle-High School

Free activities and games for students include: *Constitution Duel*; *Life without the Bill of Rights*; *Madison's Notes Are Missing*; *Founder Matching*; and *Constitution Crossword Puzzle*.

C-SPAN Classroom

<http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/Members/Constitution-Clips.aspx>

Grade Levels-Middle-High School

This site contains Constitution Clips that make the U.S. Constitution come alive by providing teachers and students with video clips from C-SPAN's Video Library of the Constitution in action.

The Center for Civic Education

http://www.civiced.org/index.php?page=constitution_day

Grade Levels: All

This site offers free downloadable lessons for Constitution Day for use at all grade levels.

Citizenship Counts

<http://citizenshipcounts.org/>

Grade Levels: Middle-High School

This site offers lesson plans, citizenship stats and facts as well as a naturalization exam.

The Constitutional Rights Foundation

<http://crf-usa.org/>

Grade Levels: Middle - High School

This site offers a series of free online lessons about the founding documents of our Constitution.

Digital History

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/handouts.cfm>

Grade Levels: High School

This site offers classroom tested handouts and fact sheets on the Federalists and ratifying the Constitution.

The Dirksen Congressional Center

http://www.congresslink.org/print_lp_contents.htm#constitution

Grade Levels: High School

This site offers lessons about the Constitution that include simulations and games.

The Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History

<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/modules.html>

Grade Levels: High School

This site offers a teaching module on the Constitution.

iCivics

<HTTP://WWW.ICIVICS.ORG/GAMES/ACTIVATE>

Grade Levels: Middle School

iCivics is a free, interactive, web-based program designed to teach students civics and inspire them to be active participants in our democracy. iCivics is the vision of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who is concerned that students are not getting the information and tools they need for civic participation and that civics teachers need better materials and support. On this site, you will find information and useful teaching resources for an engaging civics curriculum. An interactive game about public service. Do you have a great idea about how to make positive change in your community? In *Activate*, students campaign for an issue of their choice.

Lesson Planet

<http://www.lessonplanet.com/search?gclid=CKyhoPW5qoCFWU0QgodvjV6Q&keywords=Us+Constitution&media=lesson&rating=4>

Grade Levels: All

This site contains numerous lesson plans on the Constitution. **NOTE:** You will need to create an account to have complete access to the lessons. The account will expire in 10 days.

The Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/topics/government.php>

Grade Levels: High School

This site offers lessons on the Constitution.

The National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution.html>

Grade Levels: All

This site offers images and transcripts of the Constitution as well as links to the Amendments, an article on the Constitutional Convention and questions and answers pertaining to the Constitution.

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/index.html>

Grade Levels: Middle – High School

This site also shares information to use with Constitution Day, including links to information about each of the 39 signers and a simulation of the Constitutional Convention.

National Constitution Center

<http://constitutioncenter.org/>

Grade Levels: All

This site provides background on Constitution Day and links to many resources including an Interactive Constitution and tool kits for activities designed to fulfill the requirements of the new law.

NCES KIDS' ZONE

<http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/index.asp>

Grade Levels: All; 4, 8 and 9

This site helps students create graphs that can be inserted into presentations and also includes Dare to Compare where students can compare their subject knowledge with students nationally and from around the world? Civics questions are available for grades 4, 8 and 9.

The Road to Citizenship Game

<HTTP://WWW.HISTORY.COM/INTERACTIVES/THE-ROAD-TO-CITIZENSHIP-QUIZ-GAME>

Grade Levels: All

Excellent game that requires students to have basic knowledge of U.S. History, geography, civics and government in order to pass the naturalization exam.

Sunnylands Civics Games

<HTTP://GAMES.SUNNYLANDSCLASSROOM.ORG/PREVIEW/DEFAULT.ASPX>

Grade Levels: All

Links to various interactive games about laws, rights, the Judicial Branch, and amendments. Games unique to this website include Constitutional Convention, the First Amendment, and Being John Marshall. Page also contains links to various games on iCivics.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.749cabd81f5ffc8fba713d10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=982a309186e89210VgnVCM10000025e6a00aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=c242df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>

Grade Levels: All

This site offers resources to help your students learn about the rights and responsibilities of being a U.S. citizen. Includes 100 easy-to-use downloadable flash cards of questions and answers that appear on the Civics, History and Government naturalization test and an engaging 12 minute video, “A Promise of Freedom” with a discussion booklet.

The U. S. Constitution Online

<http://www.usconstitution.net/constkidsK.html>

Grade Levels: All

This site is an excellent resource for teachers of all grades. Includes, “*The Constitution for Kids.*”

Virtual Constitutional Walking Tour

<http://www.slideshare.net/eshotwell/the-constitutional-virtual-field-trip-presentation>

Grade Levels: All

Have your students follow the founding fathers’ footsteps by taking a Constitutional Virtual Field Trip.

NOTE: Click on the four arrows in the bottom right corner to get a full screen view

White House 101

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/guide/>

Grade Levels: All

This site contains facts and fun for all ages and includes an entire section on *Our Government.*