

# Social Studies Newsletter

## Sandra Day O'Connor



After completing high school early and graduating from Stanford University and starting law school at Stanford in 1950. She had a hard time finding a job as a female attorney, but she and her husband, John O'Connor, settled in Arizona where she began to work as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Arizona. She was appointed and then won a seat in the Arizona Senate. She then won election to the Superior Court of Maricopa County and then appointed to Arizona's Supreme Court of Appeals. In 1981 she was appointed by President Reagan to fill a vacancy on the United States Supreme Court and was unanimously approved by the Senate.

For over two decades as a Supreme Court Justice, Justice O'Connor became known as a firm, but fair justice sometimes swinging the majority opinion one way or another in divisive cases. In some of her pivotal cases she voted with the majority. Here are a few: *Mississippi University for Women, et al., v. Hogan*—men can be admitted to nursing school; *Shaw v. Reno*—restrict affirmative action policies and voting districts that are created to boost political power of minorities; *Aurelia Davis v. Monroe County Board of Ed*—Public school districts

receiving federal funds are liable when “deliberately indifferent” to harassment of one student to another; *Stenberg v. Carhart*—Struck down laws that banned partial birth abortions; *Bush v. Gore*—ends recount of Florida thus making George W. Bush president.

After her retirement in 2006 she devoted her time to advocate for civics education in a K-12 setting and founded the [iCivics](#) organization dedicated to providing effective and creative tools for teachers to teach civics.



## CIVICS CELEBRATION

This past year the state legislature created the Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day on September 25<sup>th</sup>. In the legislation, it states that the majority of the school day be devoted to civics. We also know that Constitution Day is September 17<sup>th</sup>. We wanted to provide you with resources, lessons, and ideas that can help make these two days worthwhile, easy to prep for, and meaningful as we acknowledge the importance of civics and civic participation in our society. To make it easier we divided up resources by grade band and provided links to lessons that you can use to devote your day to celebrating civics in any grade.

**Celebrating Civics Webinars**

Come Learn Everything You Need to Know

**Aug 27 and Sept. 3**

### KidCitizen

[Kid Citizen](#) offers activities with lessons and short video clips for grades K-5 that focus on Congress and civic engagement. These K-5 activities include primary sources prepared for younger learners, photographs from the Library of Congress, are interactive and pair perfectly with our new standards. They are easily adaptable for online use and compatible with a wide variety of mobile devices. They also offer a guide for in-class or remote teaching that includes lessons and other resources for K-12 classrooms on a broad range of topics.

### iCIVICS

[iCivics](#) is the brain child of Sandra Day O'Connor's initiative to increase civics education when she retired from the Supreme Court. This site has election games, lessons you can use, infographics, and webquests. The lessons cover a variety of topics all devoted to civics education, are interactive and use primary sources. The lessons are geared toward upper elementary through AP. All of their lessons can be used and adapted for easy online learning. iCivics also has on-demand webinars and blogs that help you use their tools.



[Kids Voting](#) is an electronic tool you can use to have students vote and includes multiple curricula, interactive activities, and mock elections for grades K-12. Click the Educator tab to register and get started. [KidsVotingAZ](#)

### VIDEOS

Need some videos to have your students watch online, check these out—[How Do U.S. Supreme Court justices Get Appointed?](#) (6-12); [PBS Kids Voting](#) (3-6), [How GrownUps Vote](#) (K-3); [BrainPop Voting](#)

### Books

*Who Did It First?* by Jay Leslie 2020 Notable Books  
*Sandra Day O'Connor Justice for All* by Beverly Gherman  
*First* by Evan Thomas  
*The Majesty of the Law* by Sandra Day O'Connor  
*Out of Order* by Sandra Day O'Connor  
*Chico* by Sandra Day O'Connor  
*Finding Susie* by Sandra Day O'Connor  
[We the Civics Kids Reading List](#)

**Celebrating Civics Webinars**  
 Come Learn Everything You Need to Know  
**Aug 27 and Sept. 3**



Kindergarten	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
C3 Inquires: <a href="#">Civic Ideals, Rules</a>	C3 Inquiries: <a href="#">Global Citizenship, The President</a>	C3 Inquires: <a href="#">Symbols, Civic Ideals and Practices, Community History</a>
<p><a href="#">Center for Civic Education</a>: Kindergarten—Matching Game with the U.S. Constitution, Orb and Effy Learn about Authority; 1st—The Constitution: The Country’s Rules, Constitution Day Rap; 2nd—Constitution Day Rap            EconEdLink: <a href="#">What They Provide For Us</a>  <a href="#">Constitutional Rights Foundation: Constitution Day Resources</a></p>		

3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
C3 Inquires: <a href="#">Leadership and Government, Children’s Rights</a>	C3 Inquiries: <a href="#">Government and Citizens, Call for Change</a>	C3 Inquires: <a href="#">Declaration of Independence</a>
<p><a href="#">Center for Civic Education</a>: 3–4: What Basic Ideas Are in the Preamble to the Constitution? 3–5: What is Democracy?, What Should the Representative Do? 4–5: How Should We Choose People for Positions of Authority?            EconEdLink: <a href="#">Goods and Services: Some Private and Some Not</a>  <a href="#">Constitutional Rights Foundation: Constitution Day Resources</a>  <a href="#">Capitol Museum</a>: In response to Covid-19, the museum’s education team has developing a virtual field trip experience that is available online for students and teachers across the state. The field trip consists of a museum tour video (approximately 45 minutes long) that follows Arizona’s journey from westward expansion through statehood, in addition to pre- and post-tour activities you can interact with a museum educator through either a live Q&amp;A or a digital question form.            Booking for the virtual field trip is available through the <a href="#">museum website</a>.  <a href="#">We the Civics Kids</a></p>		

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
C3 Inquires: <a href="#">Religious Freedom</a>	C3 Inquiries: <a href="#">Great Compromise, Women’s Rights</a>	C3 Inquires: <a href="#">Patriotism</a>
<p><a href="#">Civic Online Reasoning</a>  <a href="#">Using Street Law’s Case Study Strategies in Middle School</a>  <a href="#">Center for Civic Education</a>: Remembering 9/11: Building Tolerance, How Should We Choose People for Positions of Authority?, What is the Federal System Created by the Constitution?  <a href="#">Bill of Rights Institute: Constitution Day Resources</a>  <a href="#">Constitutional Rights Foundation: Constitution Day Resources</a>  <a href="#">We the Civics Kids</a>  <a href="#">Civics 360</a></p>		

High School			
World History	U.S. History	Civics	Economics
Comparison of civilization being taught with U.S.—sim and diff of civic principles; Enlightenment ideals in the governments, impact of slavery on enlightened ideals	C3 Inquiries: <a href="#">Constitution, Civil Rights</a>  SHEG: <a href="#">Declaration of Independence, Federalists and Anti-Federalists</a>	C3 Inquires: <a href="#">Federalism, First Amendment, Voting, Political Parties, Campaign Finance, Affordable Care Act</a>	EconEdLink: <a href="#">The Mystery of the Voters Who Don’t Vote, Unemployment and the New Deal, Campaign Finance, The Economics of Voting</a>
<p><a href="#">Civic Online Reasoning</a>  <a href="#">Understanding Economics in Civics and Government</a>—Multiple lessons  <a href="#">Center for Civic Education</a>: 9/11 and the Constitution: On American Identity, Diversity, and Common Ground, Constitution Day Scavenger Hunt, To Amend or Not to Amend, How Was the Constitution Used to Organize the New Government?, Abraham Lincoln and the U.S. Constitution, Citizenship and the U.S. Constitution, Responsibility and the U.S. Constitution, How Should We Choose People for Positions of Authority?, Historical Analysis of Constitutional Amendments, What Does Returning to Fundamental Principles Mean? What is the Role of the President in the American Constitutional System?  <a href="#">Bill of Rights Institute: Constitution Day Resources</a>  <a href="#">Constitutional Rights Foundation: Constitution Day Resources</a></p>			