

iCIVICS

Grade 8 Scope & Sequence

A GUIDE FOR
MASSACHUSETTS
TEACHERS...









Last updated:
6/7/19

iCivics HAS YOU COVERED!

With 13 games and over 250 lesson plans, iCivics presents a curriculum solution for Massachusetts civics teachers. This document details our alignment with each of the 2018 Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework Content Standards for Grade 8 and showcases new lesson plans created with the Massachusetts content, practice and literacy standards in mind. Please ensure that you are referencing the most up to date version of this guide because we will be adding new and exciting resources as they become available. To access these resources visit www.icivics.org and register for a free teacher account.

RESOURCE OVERVIEW

iCivics has more than just games! We mix it up with a variety of resource types to help *you* mix it up in the classroom. Here are the iCivics resources you'll see listed in this guide:

			
Games: Online games cover nearly 20 civics topics and counting, require no downloading, and are designed to be played in under 45 minutes.	Extension Packs: Wrap around curriculum, including pre- and post-game activities, enrich student learning and reinforce gameplay.	Lesson Plans: Print-and-go digital and PDF lessons are easy to implement, take between 1-2 class periods, and form the core of each unit.	Mini-Lessons: Two-page reading & activity collections can be combined into larger lessons or quickly cover content on their own.
			
WebQuests: Guided research activities allow students to explore internet resources in safe and informative ways.	DBQuest: Interactive document analysis modules get students up close and personal with primary source documents.	Drafting Board: Digital essay building meets argumentative writing in this scaffolded online writing tool.	iCivics ELL: WIDA-correlated games and curricular resources designed to specifically with English language learners in mind.

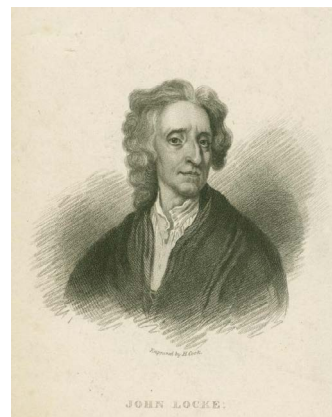
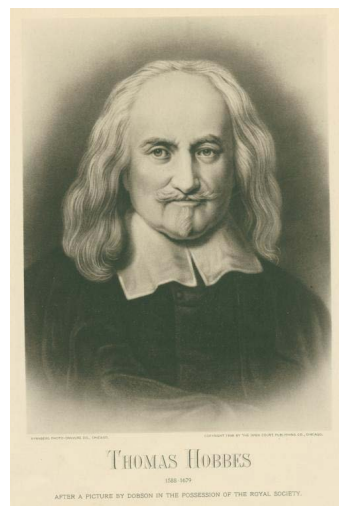
The pages that follow detail each of the 50 content standards and corresponding iCivics resources. Resources labeled HS will be found under the High School tab in our online units, but many work well for grade 8.

FULL iCivics SCOPE AND SEQUENCE: www.icivics.org/products/curriculum-units



TOPIC 1. THE PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES POLITICAL SYSTEM

Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
1. Explain why the Founders of the United States considered the government of ancient Athens to be the beginning of democracy and explain how the democratic political concepts developed in ancient Greece influenced modern democracy (e.g., civic participation, voting rights, trial by jury, legislative bodies, constitution writing, rule of law).	Cradle of Democracy	Mini Lesson
	<i>Full lesson plan coming soon!</i>	Lesson Plan
2. Describe the government of the Roman Republic and the aspects of republican principles that are evident in modern democratic governments (e.g., separation of powers, rule of law, representative government, and the notion of civic duty/common good).	Cradle of Democracy	Mini Lesson
	<i>Full lesson plan coming soon!</i>	Lesson Plan
3. Explain the influence of Enlightenment thinkers on the American Revolution and framework of the American government (e.g., John Locke, Charles de Montesquieu).	Influence Mini Library	Curriculum Unit
	The Enlightenment	Mini Lesson
	John Locke	Mini Lesson
	Baron de Montesquieu	Mini Lesson
4. Explain how British ideas about and practices of government (e.g., the Magna Carta, the concept of habeas corpus, the Mayflower Compact, self-government, town meetings, the importance of education and literacy, the House of Burgesses, colonial legislatures, the Albany Plan of Union) influenced American colonists and the political institutions that developed in colonial America.	Colonial Influences	Lesson Plan
	Hey, King	Lesson Plan
	Just Right Government	Lesson Plan
	No Bill of Rights, No Deal (HS)	Lesson Plan
5. Analyze the evidence for arguments that the principles of government of the United States were influenced by the governments of Native Peoples (e.g. the Iroquois Confederacy).	<i>Full lesson plan coming soon!</i>	Lesson Plan





TOPIC 2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

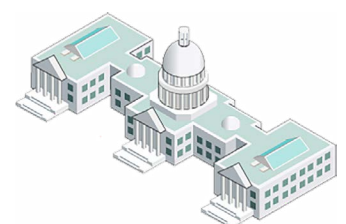
Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
6. Apply knowledge of the history of the American Revolutionary period to determine the experiences and events that led the colonists to declare independence; explain the key ideas about equality, representative government, limited government, rule of law, natural rights, common good, and the purpose of government in the Declaration of Independence.	America's Founding Preambles	DBQuest
	Hey, King: Get Off Our Backs!	Lesson Plan
	Thomas Jefferson	Mini Lesson
	Benjamin Franklin	Mini Lesson
	Founding Mothers	Mini Lesson
7. Analyze the weaknesses of the national government under the Articles of Confederation; and describe the crucial events (e.g., Shays' Rebellion) leading to the Constitutional Convention.	Wanted: A Just Right Government	Lesson Plan
	Early Rebellions	Mini Lesson
8. Identify the various leaders of the Constitutional Convention and analyze the major issues (e.g., distribution of political power; rights of individuals, representation and rights of states, slavery) they debated and how the issues were resolved.	The Constitutional Convention	Mini Lesson
	Slavery	Lesson Plan
	The Constitution's Cover Letter (NEW!)	DBQuest
9. Compare and contrast key ideas debated between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists over ratification of the Constitution (e.g., federalism, factions, checks and balances, independent judiciary, republicanism, limited government).	Federalists & Anti-Federalists	Mini Lesson
	The Federalist Debate (HS)	Lesson Plan
	Race to Ratify	Game
10. Summarize the Preamble and each article in the Constitution, and the rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights; explain the reasons for the addition of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution in 1791.	America's Founding Preambles	DBQuest
	Anatomy of the Constitution	Lesson Plan
	Do I Have a Right?	Game (ELL)
	Do I Have a Right? Extension Pack	Extension Pack (ELL)
	Amendment Mini Lesson	Mini Lesson





TOPIC 3. THE INSTITUTIONS OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

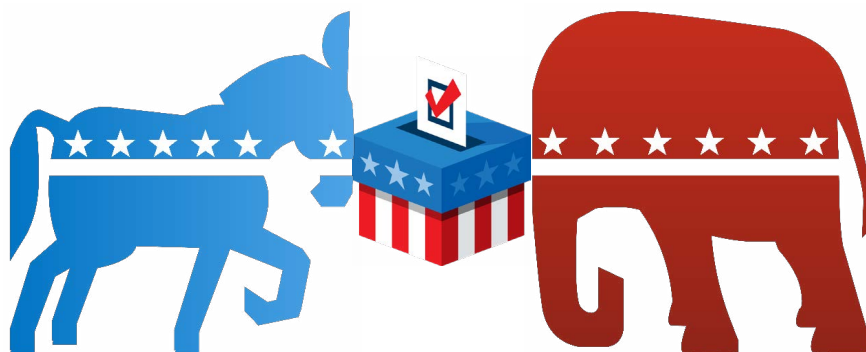
Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
Resources pertaining to standards 11, 12, and 13!	Congress in a Flash!	Lesson Plan
	Judicial Branch in a Flash	Lesson Plan
	For the President, All in a Day's Work!	Lesson Plan
	A Very Big Branch	Lesson Plan
	Branches of Power	Game
11. Distinguish the three branches of government (separation of powers): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress as the legislative branch • The Presidency and the executive agencies as the executive branch • The Supreme Court and other federal inferior courts as the judicial branch 	Separation of Powers: What's for Lunch?	Lesson Plan
12. Examine the interrelationship of the three branches (the checks and balance system) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress: enumerated powers, general powers, limits on power, checks on other two branches; roles of political parties in the organization of Congress; roles within the legislative branch, such as the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, minority party leaders; the system for accomplishing legislation, including committees, hearings and legislative procedures • the Presidency: roles, powers and limits, checks on other two branches, role of the Cabinet, such as the Vice President, Attorney General and Secretaries of State, Defense, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security; executive departments and agencies (such as the Department of Education, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the Food and Drug Administration), and branches of the military • the Supreme Court: role and powers, checks on other two branches, lower courts 	Separation of Powers: What's for Lunch?	Lesson Plan
	Constitutional Principles (HS)	Lesson Plan
	Three Branches: Laws in Action	WebQuest
	Three Branches: Checks & Balances (HS)	WebQuest
	Why Do We Have a House and a Senate?	Lesson Plan
13. Describe the respective roles of each of the branches of government.	Supreme Court Nominations	Lesson Plan
	Making Laws	WebQuest
	LawCraft	Game
	LawCraft	Extension Pack
	Voting in Congress	Lesson Plan
	Being President	WebQuest





TOPIC 3. THE INSTITUTIONS OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
14. Explain the process of elections in the legislative and executive branches and the process of nomination/confirmation of individuals in the judicial and executive branches. • Elections: running for legislative office (U.S. Representative – unlimited two-year terms, U.S. Senator – unlimited six-year terms), or executive office (President – two four-year terms and Vice President – unlimited four-year terms) and the function of the Electoral College in Presidential elections • Nomination by the President and confirmation by Congress: Supreme Court Justices and Secretaries/agency heads in the executive branch)	The Electoral Process	Lesson Plan
	Supreme Court Nominations	Lesson Plan
	Midterm Elections (HS)	Mini Lesson
	The Incumbent Advantage (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Executive Appointments (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Win the White House	Game
	Win the White House	Extension Pack
15. Describe the role of political parties in elections at the state and national levels.	One Big Party?	Lesson Plan
	Political Debate Guide	Lesson Plan
	State Legislatures (HS)	Lesson Plan





TOPIC 4. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS

Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
16. Explain the different ways one becomes a citizen of the United States.	Citizenship: Just the Facts	Lesson Plan
	Immigration Nation	Game
	Immigration Nation	Extension Pack
	Immigration & Citizenship	WebQuest
	Immigration: Pathway to Citizenship (HS)	Lesson Plan
17. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens (e.g., voting, serving as a juror, paying taxes, serving in the military, running for and holding elected office) as compared to non- citizens.	Citizenship: Just the Facts	Lesson Plan
	Citizen Me	Lesson Plan
	This Land is Your Land	Lesson Plan
	The Fourth Branch: You!	Lesson Plan
18. Distinguish among civic, political, and private life.	Candidate Evaluation	Lesson Plan
	Citizen Me	Lesson Plan
	The Public Sphere	Lesson Plan
	Supreme Court Nomination	Lesson Plan
19. Define and provide examples of fundamental principles and values of American political and civic life (e.g., liberty, the common good, justice, equality, tolerance, law and order, due process, rights of individuals, diversity, civic unity, patriotism, constitutionalism, popular sovereignty, and representative democracy).	Constitutional Principles (HS)	Lesson Plan
	Local Solutions Civic Action Plan	Curriculum Unit
	Landmark Library	Curriculum Unit
20. Describe how a democracy provides opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process through elections, political parties, and interest groups.	Citizen Me	Lesson Plan
	Interest Groups	Lesson Plan
	The Road to Civil Rights	Lesson Plan
	One Big Party?	Lesson Plan
	Local Solutions Civic Action Plan	Curriculum Unit
	Civic Heroism!	WebQuest
21. Evaluate information related to elections (e.g., policy positions and debates among candidates, campaign financing, campaign advertising, influence of news media and social media, and data relating to voter turnout in elections).	Politics & Public Policy	Curriculum Unit
	Media & Influence	Curriculum Unit
	Got Ballot?	Lesson Plan
	Cast Your Vote	Game



TOPIC 4. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS

Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
22. Apply knowledge of the meaning of leadership and the qualities of good leaders to evaluate political leaders at the community, the state and national levels.	Candidate Report Card	Lesson Plan
	Candidate Evaluation	Lesson Plan
	The First 100 Days (HS)	Lesson Plan
23. Explain the importance of individuals working cooperatively with their elected leaders.	The Great State	Lesson Plan
24. Explain the importance of public service, and identify career and other opportunities in public service at the local, state, and national levels.	Civic Heroism	WebQuest
	A Very Big Branch	Lesson Plan
25. Analyze issues involving liberty in conflict with equality or authority, individual rights in conflict with the common good, or majority rule in conflict with minority rights.	Landmark Library	Curriculum Unit
26. Examine the varied understandings of the role of elected representatives and discuss those who have demonstrated political courage or those whose actions have failed to live up to the ideals of the Constitution.	Candidate Evaluation	Lesson Plan
	Supreme Court Nominations	Lesson Plan
	Three Branches: Checks & Balances (HS)	WebQuest
	Civic Heroism	WebQuest
27. Examine the role of political protest in a democracy.	Civic Action and Change	Lesson Plan
	Texas v. Johnson (1989)	Mini Lesson
	The Fourt Branch: YOU!	Lesson Plan
28. Examine the influence of public and private interest groups in a democracy, including policy research organizations (e.g. Pew Research Center, Brookings Institute, Heritage Foundation) in shaping debate about public policy.	Interest Groups	Lesson Plan
	Citizenship: Just the Facts	Lesson Plan






TOPIC 5. THE CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENTS, AND SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
29. Explain why the “necessary and proper” clause and why it is often referred to as the “elastic clause.”	Federalism	Lesson Plan
	McCulloch v. Maryland	Mini Lesson
30. Explain the historical context and significance of changes in the Constitution, including key amendments. Examples of amendments include the: a. 14th Amendment (1868): citizenship rights, equal protection of laws b. 19th Amendment (1920): women’s right to vote in federal and state elections c. 26th Amendment (1971): lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 in federal elections	Civic Action & Change	Lesson Plan
	Voting Rights	Lesson Plan
	You’ve Got Rights	Lesson Plan
31. Analyze the Constitutional issues that caused the Civil War and led to the eventual expansion of the power of the Federal government and individual civil rights.	Civil War and Reconstruction	Lesson Plan
32. Explain the historical context and significance of laws enacted by Congress that have expanded the civil rights and equal protection for race, gender, disability (e.g., the 1964 Civil Rights Act, 1965 Voting Rights Act, 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), and explain how the evolving understanding of human rights has affected the movement for civil rights for all.	Civic Action and Change	Lesson Plan





TOPIC 5. THE CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENTS, AND SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
33. Explain the principle of judicial review established in <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> (1803) and explain how cases come before the Supreme Court, how cases are argued, and how the Court issues decisions and dissents.	Judicial Branch in a Flash	Lesson Plan
	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i> (1803)	Mini Lesson
	Supreme Interpreters	Lesson Plan
	Supreme Court Opinions (HS)	Mini Lesson
34. Research, analyze, and report orally or in writing on one area (a, b, or c, below) in which Supreme Court decisions have made significant changes over time in citizens' lives. a. Interpretations of freedoms of religion, assembly, press, petition, and speech under the First Amendment; for example: • <i>Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District</i> (1969) • <i>Bethel School District v. Fraser</i> (1986) • <i>Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier</i> (1988) • <i>Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission</i> (2010) b. Interpretations of the due process clause and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, for example: • <i>Dred Scott v. Sandford</i> (1857) • <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> (1896) • <i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka</i> (1954) • <i>Mapp v. Ohio</i> (1961) • <i>Loving v. Virginia</i> (1967) • <i>Romer v. Evans</i> (1996) • <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> (2015) c. Interpretations in cases where individual rights and perceived community or national interests were in conflict, for example: The United States Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance • <i>Minersville School District v. Gobitis</i> (1940) • <i>West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette</i> (1943) • <i>Texas v. Johnson</i> (1989) School Prayer • <i>Engel v. Vitale</i> (1962) National Security • <i>Korematsu v. United States</i> (1944) • <i>Clapper v. Amnesty International</i> (2012) Gun Control • <i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> (2008)	Landmark Library	Curriculum Unit
	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> (1896)	Mini Lesson
	<i>Brown v. Board</i> (1954)	Mini Lesson
	<i>Texas v. Johnson</i> (1989)	Mini Lesson
	<i>Korematsu v. United States</i> (1944)	Mini Lesson
		



TOPIC 6. THE STRUCTURE OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
35. Compare and contrast the functions of state government and national government.	The “Federal” in Federalism	Lesson Plan
	State Power: Got a Reservation?	Lesson Plan
36. Describe provisions of the United States Constitution and the Massachusetts Constitution that define and distribute powers and authority of the federal or state government.	Comparing Constitutions: Massachusetts /	Lesson Plan
	State Power: Got a Reservation?	Lesson Plan
37. Distinguish among the enumerated and implied powers in the United States Constitution and the Massachusetts Constitution.	Comparing Constitutions: Massachusetts	Lesson Plan
	State Power: Got a Reservation?	Lesson Plan
38. Compare core documents associated with the protection of individual rights, including the Bill of Rights, the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, and Article I of the Massachusetts Constitution.	Comparing Constitutions: Massachusetts	Lesson Plan
	Amendment Mini Lesson	Mini Lesson (ELL)
39. Explain why the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution is important to state government and identify the powers granted to states by the Tenth Amendment and the limits to state government outlined in it.	The “Federal” in Federalism	Lesson Plan
	State Power? Got a Reservation	Lesson Plan
40. Identify additional protections provided by the Massachusetts Constitution that are not provided by the U.S. Constitution.	Comparing Constitutions: Massachusetts	Lesson Plan
41. Contrast the responsibilities of government at the federal, state, and local levels (e.g., protection of individual rights and the provision of services such as law enforcement, welfare payments, and the building and funding of schools).		
42. Explain the leadership structure of the government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the function of each branch a. the executive branch (governor and agencies) b. the legislative branch (state representatives and state senators) c. courts of law (Supreme Judicial Court, lower court system)	Local Government: Massachusetts	Lesson Plan
43. Give examples of tax-supported facilities and services provided by the Massachusetts state government and by local governments.		
44. Explain the major components of local government in Massachusetts, including the roles and functions of mayors, city councils, and school committees in cities; town managers, select boards, representative and open town meetings and school committees, in towns, and courts and sheriff’s departments in counties.		





TOPIC 7: FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND NEWS/MEDIA LITERACY

Standard	iCivics Resources	Type
45. Explain why freedom of the press was included as a right in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and in Article 16 of the Massachusetts Constitution; explain that freedom of the press means the right to express and publish views on politics and other topics without government sponsorship, oversight, control, or censorship.	Comparing Constitutions: Massachusetts (NEW!)	Lesson Plan
	You've Got Rights!	Lesson Plan
	Gerrymandering (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Presidential Appointments (HS)	Mini Lesson
46. Give examples of how a free press can provide competing information and views about government and politics.	The Role of Media	Lesson Plan
47. Explain the different functions of news articles, editorials, editorial cartoons, and "op-ed" commentaries.	The Role of Media	Lesson Plan
	Incumbent Advantage (HS)	Mini Lesson
48. Evaluate the benefits and challenges of digital news and social media to a democratic society.	The Role of Media	Lesson Plan
	Propaganda: What's the Message?	Lesson Plan
	Veto Power (HS)	Mini Lesson
49. Explain methods for evaluating information and opinion in print and online media (e.g., determining the credibility of news articles; analyzing the messages of editorials and op-ed commentaries; assessing the validity of claims and sufficiency of evidence).	Presidential Pardons (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Veto Power (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Executive Orders (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Activism and Restraint (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Newsfeed Defenders	Game
50. Analyze the point of view and evaluate the claims of an editorial, editorial cartoon, or op-ed commentary on a public policy issue at the local, state, or national level (e.g., a mayoral or school committee decision, an action by a state legislature or Governor, a vote in Congress or an action by the President).	SCOTUS Opinions (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Congressional Committees (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Presidential Pardons (HS)	Mini Lesson
	Executive Orders (HS)	Mini Lesson

CURRICULUM UPDATES!

We regularly add new resources to our curriculum. Be sure to check www.icivics.org/teachers/MA to make sure you're referencing the latest version of this document.

FEEDBACK? WE'RE TAKING NOTES!

Don't see your favorite iCivics resource? Searching for more resources to teach a particular topic? Please reach out to molly.launceford@icivics.org with any questions or suggestions.

