

Your Guide to U.S. Civics

***A Collection of Websites, Online Videos,
Movies, and Books to Guide You on Your
Journey through American Civics***



**Nebraska Christian Home
Educators Association**





Getting Started

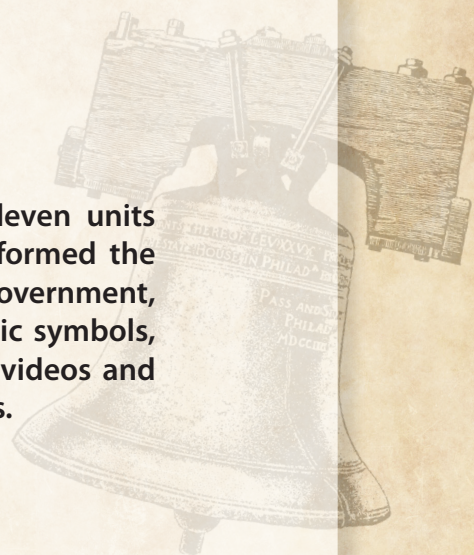
Your Guide to U.S. Civics will walk you through eleven units of learning about the people and documents that formed the foundation of our country, the different parts of our government, how laws are made, how elections work, our patriotic symbols, and much more. This guide is full of online links to videos and articles, as well as book, movie, and game suggestions.

How to use this guide:

- Download it and keep it handy.
- Complete one unit every week or two and finish in one semester, or spread the units out over one year.
- Preview and choose which resources from each unit to use for your family.
- Read and watch the material as a family and discuss, or use the material as a resource for you and discuss certain content with your children.

Studying U.S. Civics is exciting and inspiring! Enjoy the adventure!

(All links in the Your Guide to U.S. Civics were compiled in 2020.)





Unit 1 | Our Founding Fathers

The Influence of Our Founders' Faith

- 📺 Faith of the Founding Fathers
- 📺 American Founding and Federal Era
- 📺 Founding Fathers on Jesus, Christianity, and the Bible
- ▶ Were the Founders Religious?
- ▶ The American Bible Society
- 📖 Discovering America's Founders (Drive Thru History with Dave Stotts)

A Nation Based on Christian Principles

- 📺 Is America a Christian Nation?
- ▶ What Does the Declaration of Independence Reveal About American's Christian Heritage?
- 📖 America's Godly Heritage by David Barton

The Founders' Views of Federal and State Governments

- 📺 The Founders and Federalism
- 📺 When the Founding Fathers Settled States' vs. Federal Rights—and Saved a Nation

The Lives of Our Founders

- 📺 Our Fascinating Founding Fathers
- ▶ John Adams: Presidential Minute
- ▶ George Washington's Four Bullets
- 📖 What Would the Founding Fathers Think? by David Bowman
- 📖 Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams? (and others) by Jean Fritz
- 📖 Who Was Abigail Adams? by True Kelley
- 📖 Who Was Paul Revere? by Roberta Edwards
- 📖 Benjamin Rush: The Common Good (and others) by Janet and Geoff Benge
- 📖 John Adams by David McCullough





Unit 2 | Our Founding Documents

U.S. Founding Documents

- 📺 Founding Documents
- ▶ The Declaration & Constitution: The Framing of a Nation

The Declaration of Independence

- 📺 Declaration of Independence: A Transcription
- 📺 Declaration of Independence: 1776
- 📺 The Declaration of Independence
- ▶ Declaration of Independence
- 📖 Give Me Liberty! by Russell Freedman
- 📖 The Story of the Declaration of Independence by Norman Richards

The Constitution

- 📺 The Constitution
- 📺 US Constitution: 1789
- 📺 The Constitution of the United States
- ▶ The Constitution For Kids
- 📖 A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution by Betsy and Giulio Maestro
- 📖 We the People: The Story of Our Constitution by Lynne Cheney

The Bill of Rights

- 📺 The Bill of Rights
- 📺 Bill of Rights: 1789-91
- 📺 The Bill of Rights
- 📺 Constitutional Topic: The Bill of Rights - The US Constitution Online
- ▶ Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-5) | Principles of the Constitution
- ▶ Bill of Rights Pt. 2 (Principles of the Constitution Series)



Unit 3 | Three Branches of Government

Three Branches

- 🗣️ Branches of the US Government
- 🗣️ Checks and Balances
- 📺 Exploring Federalist 51: Separation of Powers

The Legislative Branch

- 🗣️ What Is Congress?
- 🗣️ Three Branches of Government
- 🗣️ House Officers
- 📺 What Is the Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government?
- 📺 Legislative Powers & Limitations | Principles of the Constitution
- 📺 Exploring Federalist 51: Legislative Power

The Executive Branch

- 🗣️ Executive Branch - The President
- 🗣️ United States Presidents
- 🗣️ The White House
- 📺 What Is the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government?
- 📺 Executive Powers & Limitations | Principles of the Constitution

The Judicial Branch

- 🗣️ The Judicial Branch
- 🗣️ Judicial Branch - The Supreme Court
- 🗣️ Famous Supreme Court Justices
- 📺 What Is the Judicial Branch of the U.S. Government?
- 📺 Judicial Powers & Limitations | Principles of the Constitution
- 📖 To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- 🎬 Twelve Angry Men

Unit 4 | Levels of Government & Representation

Local, State, and Federal Governments

- 📺 State and Local Government Structure
- 📺 Federal Versus State Government
- 📺 More Federal Versus State Government
- 📺 Federal, State, and Local Government
- 📺 Who Runs the Show? Understanding Your Local Government
- 📺 Local Government Departments

Economics and Government

- 📺 Economics
- 📺 The Market Will Set You Free
- 📺 Capitalism for Kids
- 📺 Let's Talk About Entrepreneurship
- 📺 How Economics Helps Us Understand Politics
- 📺 What Rules and Institutions Are Best for Society
- 📺 The Market Process
- 📺 The Fundamentals of Economics
- 📖 Capitalism for Kids by Karl Hess
- 📖 The Tuttle Twins and the Miraculous Pencil by Connor Boyack
- 📖 Whatever Happened to Penny Candy by Richard Maybury
- 📖 The Money Mystery by Richard Maybury

Unit 5 | How Laws are Made

How a Bill Becomes a Law

- 📺 A Bill Becomes Law
- 📺 Infographic: How a Bill Becomes a Law
- 📺 How a Bill Becomes a Law
- 📺 How a Bill Becomes a Law (more in-depth)
- 📺 Schoolhouse Rock: America - I'm Just a Bill Music Video
- 📖 A Bill's Journey into Law by Suzanne Buckingham Slade
- 📖 How Do Laws Get Passed? by Leslie Harper
- 🎬 Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)

The Language of the Law

- 📺 How Laws are Made: The Language of the Law

The Veto

- 📺 Presidential Vetoes
- 📺 A Presidential Veto Power Explained
- 📺 What is Veto Power?



Unit 6 | Parties & Politics


Federalists and Antifederalists

- 📺 The Federalists and Anti-Federalists
- 📺 The Bill of Rights Debate

Republicans, Democrats, and More

- 📺 Political Parties: Lesson Overview
- 📺 Political Parties
- 📺 Persuading Voters: Political Campaigns
- 📺 Directory of U.S. Political Parties
- ▶ Why Do We Have a Two-Party System?
- ▶ Political Parties
- ▶ Why an Elephant for Republicans?
- ▶ Why a Donkey for Democrats?
- 🎬 The One and Only, Genuine, Original Family Band (1968)





Unit 7 | Voting - A Right & Duty

The History of Voting

- 🗨 The History of Voting
- 🗨 The Founders and the Vote
- 🗨 Voting Rights for African Americans
- 🗨 Voting Rights for Women
- 📺 Remember the Ladies!

The Process

- 🗨 Who Can Vote Today?
- 🗨 How Voting Works
- 🗨 Voting Behavior





Unit 8 | The Election Process

Understanding Elections

- 🖥️ Congressional, State, and Local Elections
- 🖥️ Definitions of Common Voting and Election Terms
- ▶️ How We Choose Our President: Primaries and Caucuses

The Electoral College

- 🖥️ Electoral College
- 🖥️ Does My Vote Count? Understanding the Electoral College
- ▶️ Electoral College - Schoolhouse Rock
- ▶️ Do You Understand the Electoral College?
- ▶️ The Popular Vote vs. The Electoral College

Becoming President

- 🖥️ Requirements for the President of the United States
- 🖥️ Can Anyone Be President of the United States?
- 🖥️ How to Become President of the USA



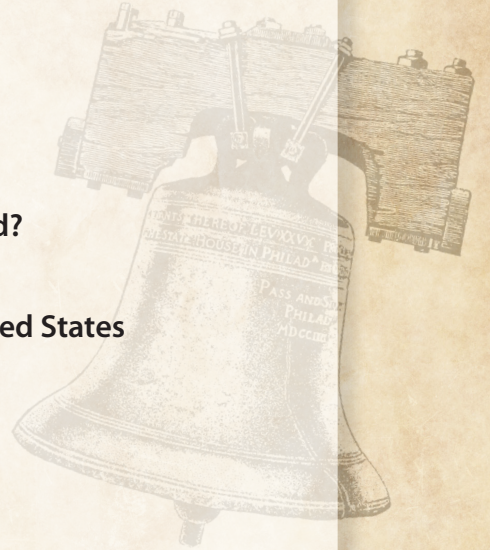
Unit 9 | Expressions of Patriotism

Symbols

- ▶ The United States Flag
- 🗣️ The American Flag
- 🗣️ History of the American Flag
- 🗣️ American Bald Eagle
- 🗣️ How Did the Bald Eagle Become America's National Bird?
- ▶ History of the U.S. Flag, in Paper
- ▶ How the Bald Eagle Became the Official Bird of the United States

Songs and Oaths

- 🗣️ Hail to the Chief
- 🗣️ America, My Country 'Tis of Thee
- 🗣️ Pledge of Allegiance
- 🗣️ America, the Beautiful
- 🗣️ Stars and Stripes Forever
- 🗣️ Oath of Office
- 🗣️ "The Star-Spangled Banner" - spelling and punctuation from Key's manuscript
- 🗣️ Francis Scott Key Pens "The Star-Spangled Banner"
- 🗣️ The Liberty Bell
- ▶ America, My Country 'Tis of Thee
- ▶ Gaither Vocal Band Sings The National Anthem
- ▶ Stars and Stripes Forever with Lyrics



Unit 9 | Expressions of Patriotism (cont.)

Buildings and Monuments

- 🖨 Independence Hall
- 🖨 U.S. Capitol
- 🖨 Arlington National Cemetery
- 🖨 Statue of Liberty
- 🖨 Washington Monument
- 🖨 Mt. Rushmore
- 🖨 Martin Luther King, Jr.

July 4th

- 🖨 The Story of the Fourth of July
- 🖨 Why Do Americans Celebrate the Fourth of July with Fireworks?
- ▶ Why We Celebrate the Fourth of July
- ▶ History of the 4th of July
- ▶ 4th of July Facts For Kids
- ▶ 4th of July Jokes For Kids!

Memorial Day

- 🖨 Memorial Day 2021: Facts, Meaning & Traditions
- ▶ Memorial Day Facts for Kids

Unit 10 | A Citizen's Duties

Biblical Citizenship

- ▶ Passion, Duty and Calling
- ▶ Bill of Responsibilities
- ▶ Constitutional Topic: Rights and Responsibilities
- ▶ Biblical Citizenship in Modern America - Rick Green

Voting

- ▶ Why Voting is Important
- ▶ Why Should You Vote?

Jury Duty

- ▶ Serving on a Jury
- ▶ Jury Service Overview





Unit 11 | Nebraska's Unique Legislative Structure

Unicameral System

- 🖨 On Unicameral
- 🖨 History of Unicameral

How a Bill Becomes Law

- 🖨 Lawmaking in Nebraska
- 🖨 Lawmaking in Nebraska - NCHEA

State Capitol

- 🖨 History of the Nebraska Capitol Building
- 🖨 Building Rooms
- 🖨 Panels and Sculptures
- 🖨 Nebraska Supreme Court
- 🖨 Governor's Suite
- 🖨 Memorial Chamber



Extras

Field Trips in Nebraska

- 🖨️ NCHEA Legislative Day at the Capitol
- 🖨️ University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History and Mueller Planetarium
- 🖨️ Nebraska History Museum
- 🖨️ Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum
- 🖨️ Nebraska Historical Sites

Further Study for High Schoolers

- 📖 A Student's Guide to American Political Thought by George W. Carey
- 📖 The Federalist Papers
- 📖 The Antifederalist Papers
- 📖 The Heritage Guide to the Constitution by Edwin Meese III
- 📖 Basic Economics: A Citizen's Guide to the Economy by Thomas Sowell

Further Study for Younger Grades

- 🖨️ 5 Books for Young Kids About Civics and the US Government
- 🖨️ Civics and Our Government:
Fiction & Nonfiction Children's Books and Activities
- 📺 Liberty's Kids
- 🎬 Drive Thru History America: Foundations of Character (2006)
- 🎬 Chasing American Legends with the Green Family

Games

- 🖨️ Civitas: The Government Card Game
- 🖨️ Constitution Quest
- 🖨️ Politicraft: An Action Civics Card Game
- 🖨️ Election Night! Learn Your Way to the White House!
- 🖨️ The Presidential

Extras

Programs/Camps/Classes

- 🖥️ Teenpact
- 🖥️ Patriot Academy
- 🖥️ Leadership Institute
- 🖥️ Hillsdale College Free Online Courses
- 🖥️ A Republic If You Can Keep It
- 🖥️ Constitutional Literacy
- 🖥️ Constitution Alive: A Citizen's Guide to the Constitution
(and free on Amazon Prime)