



American Government

Standards	Benchmarks	Unit Name	Course Topic Description	
1 Students access, synthesize, and evaluate information to communicate and apply social studies knowledge to real world situations.	1.1 analyze and adapt an inquiry process (i.e., identify question or problem, locate and evaluate potential resources, gather and synthesize information, create a new product, and evaluate product and process).			
		Participation	Parties Campaigns Elections	
	1.2 apply criteria to evaluate information (e.g., origin, authority, accuracy, bias, and distortion of information and ideas).	Participation	Parties Campaigns Elections	
		Economics	Budget Balance	
	2 Students analyze how people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance to understand the operation of government and to demonstrate civic responsibility.	2.1 analyze the historical and contemporary purpose of government and how the powers of government are acquired, modified, justified and used (e.g., checks and balances, Bill of Rights, court decisions).	Origins	Foundations Colonial Government 1 st Government Constitution
			Participation	Principles Federalism Amendments
Origins			Foundations	
Principles			Structure Principles	
2.2 compare and contrast various world political systems (e.g., ideologies, structure, institutions) with that of the United States.		Origins	Foundations	
		Principles	Structure Principles	
2.3 identify representative political leaders and philosophies from selected historical and contemporary settings.		Origins	Foundations Colonial Government 1 st Government	



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		Legislative	Organization
		Executive	History Departments
	2.4 relate the concept of tribal sovereignty to the unique powers of tribal governments as they interact with local, state and federal governments.	Origins	Constitution
		Principles	Structure Principles Federalism
	2.5a analyze the effectiveness of various systems of government to protect the rights and needs of citizens and balance competing conceptions of a just society.	Origins	
		Principles	
	2.5b analyze the impact of the Constitution, laws and court decisions on the rights and responsibilities of citizens.	Origins	Constitution
		Principles	Amendments
		Judicial	History Liberties Rights
	2.6 analyze and evaluate conditions, actions and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among groups and nations (e.g., current events from newspapers, magazines, television).	Legislative	Informed Voters
		Participation	Parties Campaigns Elections
2.7 analyze laws and policies governing technology and evaluate the ethical issues and the impacts of technology on society.	Legislative	Bills	
4 Students demonstrate an understanding of the effects of time, continuity, and change on historical and future	4.1 select and analyze various documents and primary and secondary sources that have influenced the legal, political, and constitutional heritage of Montana and the United States.	Origins	Foundations Colonial Government 1 st Government Constitution Federalist Papers



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perspectives and relationships.			Founders	
		Principles	Failed Amendments Amendments	
		Executive	History	
		Judicial *Montana Not Covered	History	
	4.2 interpret how selected cultures, historical events, periods, and patterns of change influence each other.	Origins		Foundations Colonial Government 1 st Government Federalist Papers
			Legislative	Informed Voters
			Origins	Foundations Colonial Government 1 st Government
				Executive *Montana Not Covered
	4.3 apply ideas, theories, and methods of inquiry to analyze historical and contemporary developments, and to formulate and defend reasoned decisions on public policy issues.	Origins	Origins	Constitution
			Principles	Amendments
			Judicial	History Rights Liberties
			Legislative	Informed Voters
	4.4a analyze the significance of important people, events, and ideas (e.g., political and intellectual leadership, inventions, discoveries, the arts) in the major eras/civilizations in the history of Montana, American Indian tribes, the United States, and the world.	Origins	Origins	Constitution
			Principles	Amendments
			Judicial	History Rights Liberties
4.4b analyze issues (e.g., freedom and equality, liberty and order, region and nation, diversity and civic duty) using historical evidence to form and support a reasoned position.	Legislative	Legislative	Informed Voters	
		Executive	History Departments	
		Executive	History Departments	
4.5 analyze both the historical impact of technology (e.g., industrialization, communication, medicine) on human values and behaviors and how technology shapes problem solving now and in the future.	Legislative	Legislative	Informed Voters	
		Executive	History Departments	



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	4.6 investigate, interpret, and analyze the impact of multiple historical and contemporary viewpoints concerning events within and across cultures, major world religions, and political systems (e.g., assimilation, values, beliefs, conflicts).	Origins	Foundations
		Principles	Principles
		Legislative	Bills
		Executive	Departments
		Judicial	Action
	4.7 Analyze and illustrate the major issues concerning history, culture, tribal sovereignty, and current status of the American Indian tribes and bands in Montana and the United States (e.g., gambling, artifacts, repatriation, natural resources, language, jurisdiction).	Legislative	Bills
		Executive	History Departments
		Judicial *Montana not covered	History Rights Liberties
6 Students demonstrate an understanding of the impact of human interaction and cultural diversity on societies.	6.1 analyze and evaluate the ways various groups (e.g., social, political, cultural) meet human needs and concerns (e.g., individual needs, common good) and contribute to personal identity.		
	6.2 analyze human experience and cultural expression (e.g., language, literature, arts, traditions, beliefs, spirituality, values, behavior) and create a product which illustrates an integrated view of a specific culture.		
	6.3 analyze the impact of ethnic, national and global influences on specific situations or events.	Legislative	Informed Voters
		Participation	Parties Campaigns Elections
	6.4 evaluate how the unique characteristics of American Indian tribes and other cultural groups have contributed to Montana's history and contemporary life (e.g., legal and political relationships between and among tribal, state,	Legislative	Bills
Executive		History Departments	
Judicial		Action	



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	and federal governments).	*Montana Not Covered	Action
			History
			Rights
			Liberties
	6.5 analyze the conflicts resulting from cultural assimilation and cultural preservation among various ethnic and racial groups in Montana, the United States and the world.	Judicial	Action
			History
			Rights
			Liberties
		Legislative	Bills
		Executive	History
			Departments
	6.6 analyze the interactions of individuals, groups and institutions in society (e.g., social mobility, class conflict, globalization).		