

American History: Founding Principles, Civics & Economics offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that uses the perspective of political institutions to explore the history, organization, and functions of the U.S. government and provides an introduction to key economic principles. The first semester begins with basic theories of government, moving to the Declaration of Independence, and continuing to the present day, the course explores the relationship between individual Americans and the governing bodies. It covers the political culture of the country and gains insight into the challenges faced by presidents, congressional representatives, and other political activists. It also covers the roles of political parties, interest groups, the media, and the Supreme Court.

The second semester covers fundamental properties of economics, including an examination of markets from both historical and current perspectives; the basics of supply and demand; the theories of early economic philosophers such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo; theories of value; the concept of money and how it evolved; the role of banks, investment houses, and the Federal Reserve; Keynesian economics; the productivity, wages, investment, and growth involved in capitalism; unemployment, inflations, and the national debt; and a survey of markets in areas such as China, Europe, and the Middle East.

This course is designed to fall in the fourth year of social studies instruction. Students perfect their analytic writing through a scaffolded series of analytic assignments and written lesson tests. They also apply basic mathematics to economic concepts. Students read selections from annotated primary documents and apply those readings to the course content.

This course is built to North Carolina state standards.

Length: Two Semesters

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO U.S. GOVERNMENT

- Lesson 1: Essential Skills
- Lesson 2: Ideas about Government
- Lesson 3: Origins of U.S. Government
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Introduction to U.S. Government

UNIT 2: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

- Lesson 1: Establishing the Constitution
- Lesson 2: Examining the Constitution
- Lesson 3: Federalism in the United States
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: The U.S. Constitution

UNIT 3: INSTITUTIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Lesson 1: The Executive Branch
- Lesson 2: The Judicial Branch
- Lesson 3: The Legislative Branch
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Institutions of the Federal Government

UNIT 4: CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS

- Lesson 1: Foundational Freedoms
- Lesson 2: Interpreting Civil Liberties
- Lesson 3: Fighting for Civil Rights
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

UNIT 5: CITIZEN CONNECTIONS

- Lesson 1: Institutions with Influence
- Lesson 2: Elections and Campaigns
- Lesson 3: State and Local Government
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Citizen Connections

UNIT 6: PUBLIC POLICY

- Lesson 1: Understanding Public Policy
- Lesson 2: Domestic Policy
- Lesson 3: Foreign Policy
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Public Policy

UNIT 7: CIVIC AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- Lesson 1: The Role of Citizens
- Lesson 2: Voting
- Lesson 3: Further Political Participation
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Civic and Political Participation

UNIT 8: SEMESTER REVIEW AND EXAM

- Lesson 1: Semester Review and Exam

UNIT 9: FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS

- Lesson 1: How the Economy Works
- Lesson 2: Economic Systems
- Lesson 3: Economic Growth
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Fundamental Principles of Economics

UNIT 10: MICROECONOMICS

- Lesson 1: The Flow of Goods and Services
- Lesson 2: Supply and Demand
- Lesson 3: Business and Market Structures
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Microeconomics

UNIT 11: MACROECONOMICS

- Lesson 1: Measuring the Economy
- Lesson 2: The Government and the Economy
- Lesson 3: Monetary Policy
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Macroeconomics

UNIT 12: GLOBAL ECONOMICS

- Lesson 1: The Global Economy and Trade
- Lesson 2: Managing International Trade
- Lesson 3: The United States and the Global Economy
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Global Economics

UNIT 13: PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

- Lesson 1: Financial Institutions
- Lesson 2: Building Financial Literacy Skills
- Lesson 3: Work and Taxes
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Personal Financial Literacy

UNIT 14: REVIEW AND EXAM

- Lesson 1: Review and Exam

