

Lesson Plans for the week of September 8, 2009 - September 11, 2009
December 3, 2009

Thursday

1st hour Civics

Welcome to class, rules, expectations, hand out books; have students read syllabus and parent letter; fill in anything that is wrong with their books on a 3x5 card.

What does the word civics mean and from where does it originate? Why is it important to learn about our history and how our government works?

Go over the following quotes and have students choose one and write a paragraph about what they think is important about being a citizen.

All that is needed for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing.”

— Edmund Burke, British statesman and philosopher (1729 - 1797)

“Americans need a broader view of citizenship - it goes well beyond voting, jury duty, and community.”

– Nick Homer, Executive Director - Good Citizen

"Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

- John F. Kennedy, 1961 Inaugural Address - 35th President of the U.S. (1917 - 1963)

“We don't need a war on drugs, a war on crime or a war on poverty. What we need is a war on complacency.”

- Nick Homer, Executive Director – Good Citizen - (August 2004)

"The freedoms and privileges afforded every citizen in our democracy are unwittingly being threatened by the very citizens they were designed to benefit. The term 'American Citizen' is too often considered to be a status, gained either through birth or naturalization, rather than a role to be fulfilled."

- Matthew Horton - Good Citizen Director (August 2003)

"Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

- Adlai E. Stevenson, Jr - American statesman and diplomat - twice Democratic presidential candidate - (1900 - 1965)

“It’s not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen.”

- Aristotle, Ancient Greek Philosopher, Scientist and Physician

“Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.”

- George Jean Nathan, American Journalist, Critic, Essayist and Editor, (1882-1958).

“ A passive and ignorant citizenry will never create a sustainable world.”

- Andrew Gaines, creativity trainer, sustainability philosopher, b
1938

"The 'Silent Majority'? There is no 'Silent Majority'. It's an oxymoron.
In a democracy, when the majority is silent, they are the minority."

- Nick Homer, Executive Director - Good Citizen (May 2003)

Read pages 2 – 11 and do questions on page 11 and 10

Friday 12/3/2009

5th hour

Warm-up: Make a list of any kind of government you can think of.

Activities:

1. List all types of government and define them on board
2. Assign groups to make a poster about the assigned type of government.

Rubric for poster project:

Neat

Spelled correctly

Informational (definition, where started, when started,
examples of most famous and current followers

Colorful (colors should be used to convey information

Symbolic The use of at least 5 pictures

Large enough to be read around the room

Due on Friday at the end of the hour

3. Read pages 12 – 17 and do questions on page 16 and 17

Tuesday 12/8/09

Civics

Warm-up: What would your life be like if, from an early age, you had been free to do whatever you wanted without parental oversight? In your paragraph discuss the roles of parents and how they might compare to the roles of government.

Activities:

1. Discuss what the U.S. government does for the citizens of the U.S.
2. Name the three basic kinds of power that a government exercises
3. Discuss the difference between a government and a state
4. List the main purposes of the American system of government
5. Write down one important thing that you learned from this section
6. Define government and the basic powers every government

holds

7. Describe the four defining characteristics of every state
8. Identify four theories that attempt to explain the origin of the state and assign groups to argue the theory that was assigned to them
9. Read pages 18 – 23 and prepare for a quiz on reading

Wednesday 12/9/09

Civics

Warm-up: Have you ever referred to someone as a dictator? Why did you use that term to refer to them? What are the characteristics of a dictator?

Quiz on reading

Activities:

1. Name the three ways of classifying forms of government. What are the differences and similarities between the three forms of government
2. Work on island scenarios list the type of government you want, the functions it will perform, how it will benefit the people and how leaders will be selected.
3. Out of the following list choose three words that describe the United States: Unitary, federal, confederate, presidential, parliamentary, dictatorship, and democracy

Thursday 12/10/09

Do chapter review on page 24 – 25

Friday 12/11/09

Chapter 1 test

Read pages 26 - 33