

# **U. S. Government Scope and Sequence**

## **SCOPE OF COURSE**

This one-semester offering is divided into five units of study. Essential questions addressed include the historic basis for the United States' form of government and the events leading up to the writing of the U.S. Constitution; its structure, purpose, guarantees, and functionality; the three branches of government; and how the separation of powers provides for checks and balances within the system. From there it moves on to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and how it is obtained, the role of politics, and how public policy impacts both local and global issues. Activities foster direct connections with local governance and topics of concern.

## **SEQUENCE OF SKILLS**

### **Unit 1 – The Birth of American Democracy**

- Purpose, basis, and types of government
- Government in the colonies
- The American resistance
- Contributions of historical individuals
- The Declaration of Independence
- The First and Second Continental Congresses
- Post-revolution government under the Articles of Confederation
- Important compromises
- The road to ratification
- Two revolutions in the development of our government

### **Unit 2 – The U. S. Constitution**

- Structure and purpose of the Constitution
- Articles I – VI
- The Bill of Rights
- Amendments 11 – 27
- The amendment process
- The First Amendment with case study
- The nation's symbols

### **Unit 3 – Separation of Powers**

- Separation of powers
- Legislative Branch at federal, state, and local levels
- Executive Branch at federal, state, and local levels
- Organization of the Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch: Court System
- Supreme Court decisions

#### **Unit 4 – Citizenship and Politics**

- Becoming a citizen
- Responsibilities of citizenship
- The voting process
- Influencing the government
- Political parties
- Government revenues
- Media influences

#### **Unit 5 – Public Policy**

- Civics
- Politics and demographics
- United States economy
- Domestic policy
- Global economy
- U.S. foreign policy
- The United Nations