

Curriculum Connections

1. Edward M Kennedy Institute

Students participate in a simulated U.S. Senate session and a live floor debate on an actual piece of legislation pending before the Senate. Students will consider the issue from multiple perspectives, share their own ideas, and then cast their votes.

The Electoral College

Learn more about the history, function, and significance of the Electoral College and why there's a movement to end and replace it.

The following curriculum objectives will be covered;

History

The institutions of United States government [8.T3]:

Subsections:

4. Elections: running for legislative office (U.S. Representative – unlimited two-year terms, U.S. Senator – unlimited six-year terms), or executive office (President – two four-year terms and Vice President –unlimited four-year terms) and the function of the Electoral College in Presidential elections.

5. Describe the role of political parties in elections at the state and national levels.

English

SL.8.3 Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

2. Boston Science Museum

The Museum of Science includes a plethora of exhibits that are aligned to the 8th grade curriculum standards: At the Hall of Human life they will discover what makes you, you; How technology, including AI, is affecting and enhancing your perception; exploring the Milky Way galaxy and discovering information about our universe; and Changing landscapes- an Immersive journey: From the pyramids of Giza and the churches of Venice to the island community of Rapa Nui and the cliff dwellings of Mesa

Verde - will provide an immersive journey to heritage sites facing unprecedented challenges in a changing climate. There is also a permanent "Mathematica" exhibit. Created by the famous design team of Charles and Ray Eames, this has been a favorite exhibit since it opened at the Museum of Science in 1981. The Eames wanted to provide an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the wonder of mathematics as well as the beauty of post-modern design. Rather than focusing on one particular area of mathematics, the Eames selected the most compelling images and stories from many branches, including probability, topology, Boolean algebra, geometry, calculus, and logic. These exhibits and many more will allow our students to learn and explore topics covered in the following Massachusetts State Frameworks Standards:

Science

- 8.MS-ESS1-16. Develop and use a model of the Earth-Sun system to explain the cyclical pattern of seasons, which includes Earth's tilt and differential intensity of sunlight on different areas of Earth across the year.
- 8.MS-ESS1-2. Explain the role of gravity in ocean tides, the orbital motions of planets, their moons, and asteroids in the solar system.
- 8.MS-ESS2-6. Describe how interactions involving the ocean affect weather and climate on a regional scale, including the influence of the ocean temperature as mediated by energy input from the Sun and energy loss due to evaporation or redistribution via ocean currents

Math

- 8.NS.1-8.NS.2:** Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers
- 8.SP.A.1:** Construct and interpret scatter plots for bivariate measurement data to investigate patterns of association between two quantities. Describe patterns such as clustering, outliers, positive or negative association, linear association, and nonlinear association.
- 8.G.1-8.G.9:** Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem, Solve problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres
- 8.EE.5-8.EE.6:** Graph proportional relationships and interpret the unit rate as the slope of the graph. Use similar triangles to explain why the slope m is the same between any two distinct points on a non-vertical line in the coordinate plane

3. Franklin Zoo- evening show

Boston Lights draws inspiration from natural habitats around the globe, including mountainous plateaus, rainforest canopies and undersea reefs. This year, walk through our shimmering mystical forest, which features floral-themed light tunnels, mythical animal designs, and a majestic glowing owl, measuring over 22 feet tall! Discover China's rich heritage as you journey through a dazzling array of traditional lanterns, featuring pandas, pheasants, peacocks and dragons.

English

SL.8.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

W.8.1 3. Write narratives to develop experiences or events using effective literary techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured sequences.

- a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an appropriate narrative sequence.
- b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

4. Tea Party Ship and Museum

A multi-sensory experience that includes live actors, interactive exhibits, and full-scale replica 18th-century sailing vessels!

8.T1.3: Explain the influence of the British constitution, including the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights (1689), and the colonial charters, on the political system of the United States.

8.T1.4: Explain the influence of Enlightenment thinkers on the American Revolution and the U.S. government (e.g., John Locke's ideas on natural rights).