



## American Law

**Course Description:** Content, discussions, and learning activities in American Law help students synthesize and deepen their understanding of the content taught in previous social studies classes. Students will better understand how regulations and laws sustain and support the development of our nation. Class discussion and learning activities allow students to explore personal values, opinions, and biases about law and justice in our society. Although the course is built around enduring topics, some content varies based on student interest and current events.

### Learning Targets

#### **Domain: Relationship of People and Groups**

Priority Standard: SS.BH2.a.h Investigate how language and culture can unify a group of people. Evaluate the factors that contribute to cooperation and conflict among peoples of a country and the world (e.g., language, religion, culture, race, ethnicity, gender, social or financial inequity, political beliefs, access to resources, economics, environment).

- I can analyze laws that suppressed and advanced social movements and cultural development.
- I can identify and sequence legal characteristics of transitions between eras, connecting past and present.

#### **Domain: Economic Indicators**

Priority Standard: SS.Econ3.a.h Assess how decisions about spending and production made by households, businesses, and governments determine the nation's levels of income, employment, and prices. Analyze why unemployment rates differ for people of different ages, races, and genders. Use economic indicators to analyze the current and future state of the economy.

- I can compare the economic laws in place by examining how our government operates in regulations and consumer protection.

#### **Domain: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

Priority Standards: SS.PS2.a.h Critique the struggle for suffrage and citizenship since the founding period. Analyze the constitutional tension between protecting individual rights and promoting the general welfare and security of the country, as well as between majority rule and minority rights. Assess the impact of individuals, groups, and movements on the development of civil rights for different groups.

- I can explain the differences between civil rights and civil liberties.
- I can explain how balancing individual rights with the general welfare and security of the country creates tension.

**Domain: Public Policy**

**Priority Standard:** SS.PS3.d.h Evaluate the effectiveness of public policy actions and processes.

- I can analyze the impact of specific public policy and propose modifications to make it more effective.
- I can analyze various Supreme Court rulings in the United States to determine their impact on the past and in the present.
- I can compare and contrast environmental laws of the United States government and tribal laws of Native Americans regarding protecting the environment.

**Domain: Political Participation**

**Priority Standard:** SS.PS3.ah Create and evaluate solutions to increase voter participation. Evaluate their role in government at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels.

- I can examine the laws in place to provide legal protection for individuals, including voting laws.