



Government

Students use knowledge of the purposes, structures and processes of political systems at the local, state, national and international levels in order to understand that people create systems of government as structures of power and authority to provide order, maintain stability and promote the general welfare.

In the Ohio Academic Content Standards, benchmarks are key checkpoints that monitor progress toward academic content standards and are identified by grade-level clusters or bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12). For each standard we include the benchmarks for the grade-level clusters of K-2 and 3-5 that best align with each book.

Benchmarks:

By the end of the K-2 program:

- A. Identify elected leaders and authority figures in the home, school and community and explain reasons for having persons in authority.
- B. Recognize and explain the importance of symbols and landmarks of the United States.
- C. Explain the purposes of rules in different settings and the results of adherence to, or violation of, the rules.

By the end of the 3-5 program:

- A. Identify the responsibilities of the branches of the United States government and explain why they are necessary.
- B. Give examples of documents that specify the structure of state and national governments in the United States and explain how these documents foster self-government in a democracy.

America: A Patriotic Primer

Lynne Cheney (2002) Simon and Schuster. Robin Preiss Glasser, illustrator.

The author chooses twenty-six people and ideas from America's past - one for every letter of the alphabet -- to celebrate the nation's "history, diversity, tenacity, and faith." Examples covered from the book include: Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence, as well as concepts such as heroes, patriotism, and suffrage.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

America Votes: How Our President is Elected

Linda Granfield (2003). Kids Can Press.

The book tells the history of voting and who was allowed to vote throughout history. It also describes the different political parties, what the president does, and how the electoral college works.

3-5 A, B

The American Flag

Debbie L. Yanuck (2003). Capstone Press.

This book traces the history of the flag. From the Grand Union Flag to the flag we know today. This book provides fast facts about our nation's flag and dispels old myths. This book provides a timeline of the history of the American Flag.

K-2 B, C 3-5 A, B

American Too

Elisa Bartone (1996). HarperCollins Children's Books. Ted Lewin, illustrator.

This book is about a girl who first sees the Statue of Liberty when arriving in America and decides she wants to be just like it. This girl believes that anything is possible for her. In the book she does everything she can to fit in and be like an American girl, such as change her name, food, find her own husband and most of all, be free. Her father wants her to be the queen at the Italian feast of San Gennaro. She refuses because it is not modern; she wants to show everyone that she really is American. She decides to surprise everyone and show up at the feast dressed like the Statue of Liberty, which makes her dream come true.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B

The American Wei

Marion H. Pomernac (1998). Albert Whitman and Co.

The American Wei is a story about a little boy and his parents who are all just about to become citizens of the United States through a process called naturalization. On the way to the ceremony the little boy loses his tooth on the sidewalk. In an effort to find it, people from all over the world help with the search. Finally, the tooth is found and the ceremony takes place. The family took the “Oath of Allegiance” and then said the “Pledge of Allegiance: and ended with the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner.”

K-2 B, C 3-5 A, B

Ballot Box Battle

Emily Arnold McCully (1998). Bantom Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers.

In this story of women’s rights leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mrs. Stanton tells a young girl her inspirational tale of her struggle for women’s equality. Throughout the book, McCully’s theme is to encourage readers to have faith in themselves and their possibilities.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 B

Capital! Washington D.C. from A to Z

Laura Krauss Melmed (2003). Harper Collins. Frane Lessac, illustrator.

The author explores the many museums, memorials, and monuments that make up Washington D.C. Readers travel to the White House, learn how bills are printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and take a peek at a session of Congress. Many fascinating facts about famous people and places are shared.

3-5 A, B

The Constitution

Warren Colman (1990). Scholastic Library Publishing.

This text describes what life was like before the Constitution. It gives a comparison of what a game would be like without rules and what our country would be like without laws. It explains how and why the Constitution was created and ratified and the significance of the Bill of Rights.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Constitution Translated for Kids

Cathy Travis (2006). Synergy Books.

This book actually breaks down the hard-to-read Constitution into understandable “kids” language. This creative book helps students become familiar with the U.S. Constitution as the actual Constitution is located right above the “translated” information.

K-2 A, B, C

D is for Democracy a Citizen's Alphabet

Elissa Grodin (2004). Sleeping Bear Press.

This book takes the reader through the government's structure from A-Z. It gives the reader definitions of basic components and concepts of the government.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

A Day in Court with Mrs. Trinh

Alice K. Flanagan (1997). Children's Press.

This book allows readers to follow a legal aid attorney throughout her day. The reader experiences her duties and responsibilities including researching a case, putting together a "proof," and conferring with her client.

K-2 A, B, C

Don't Know Much about the Presidents

Kenneth C. Davis (2003). HarperCollins Children's Books. Pedro Martin, illustrator.

This book gives children fun facts and achievements of the presidents. It also tells how life in the White House has changed over the years.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A

Duck for President

Doreen Cronin (2004). Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers. Betsy Lewis, illustrator.

Duck was tired of the farmer's rules, so he decided to hold an election for a new president. Skilled in the art of campaigning, Duck wins the election! The book tells the reader how a person runs for office and about the voting process.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Election Day

Patricia J. Murphy (2001). Scholastic Library Publishing.

Election Day is a book that focuses on the role of the American citizen in our government. It discusses the importance of voting and different ways to vote, as well as the significance voting has in our interaction with the government.

K-2 A, B, C

The Executive Branch

Henry Gilford (1981). Perfection Learning Corporation.

How can someone become president? The duties and responsibilities of the president are clearly outlined with corresponding pictures. This book

discusses the importance of the Executive Branch of the United States government.

K-2 A, B, C

3-5 A, B

The Flag We Love

Pam Munoz.Ryan, Ralph Masiello (illustrator) (1996). Charlesbridge Publishing.

The Flag We Love presents a journey through the history of our nation's most enduring symbol. Enjoy a red-white-and-blue introduction to our country's steadfast ideals: pride, individual rights, respect, honor, patriotism and more. This memorable book will remind you that you do indeed have a flag to love!

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

George Washington's Teeth

Deborah Chandra and Madeleine Comora (2003). Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. Brock Cole, illustrator.

This book describes one of the highly known and most parodied facts of our first president. Two portrayals of the story are given: a rhyming poetry version and an expository version with excerpts from his diary. Also described are scenes from Washington's life, including family, wartime experiences, and home life.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Granddaddy's Gift

M. Mitchell (1997). U.S.A. BridgeWater Books.

Little Joe and her brother and sisters live with their grandparents in Mississippi. One night grandpa takes the children to a meeting that is about blacks trying to vote and about the segregation laws. He volunteers to go to town the next day and register to vote. It was very dangerous for them to stand up for their rights, but he decides to do it anyway. After they arrive, grandpa finds out that he has to take a test on the Mississippi Constitution. While a lawyer helps him, many people get mad and won't let him buy things from their stores. Some of Little Joe's friends are not allowed to play with her. Grandpa passes the test. When Little Joe turns 18 she registers to vote, and all she had to do is fill out a card. Her grandpa even goes with her.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Happy 4th of July, Jenny Sweeney!

Leslie Kimmelman (2003). Albert Whitman.

Happy 4th of July, Jenny Sweeney! is a story of the people of a small town getting ready to celebrate Independence Day. It focuses on pride, multiculturalism, and the different ways to celebrate the 4th of July. The book also contains a fact page about the American flag, the Bald Eagle, the Declaration of Independence, and other components of Independence Day.

K-2 A, B, C

The Hatmaker's Sign: A Story of Benjamin Franklin

Candace Fleming (1998). Orchard Books. Robert Andrew Parker, illustrator.

This book describes the friendship between two major leaders in our country's history, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. As changes were being made to Jefferson's work (the Declaration of Independence), Franklin tries to comfort him with a story about a hat maker and his sign.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

House Mouse, Senate Mouse

Peter W. Barnes and Cheryl S. Barnes, (1996). VSP Books.

America's mice have a government very similar to our own. Mrs. Tuftmouse's class is learning all about the government, and writes a letter to Congress about a law to designate a national cheese. They send it off to Washington, where the Squeaker of the House and the Mouse-jority Leader take a look at it and create a bill. The reader is then taken through the process of how a bill becomes a law, showing each step and who is involved. There is even a debate of opinions over which cheese would be the best for the American mice. They finally settle on American cheese as the National cheese, because although all the mice are different, they are all Americans. Mrs. Tuftmouse's class celebrates when they find out that they were able to come together to create something to benefit all American mice.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

I Pledge Allegiance

Bill Martin Jr., Michael Sampson (2002). Candlewick Press.

Children have been reciting the Pledge of Allegiance since 1892 and for about that long, they have found its words a bit confusing. This book gives children a chance to understand this patriotic poem once and for all.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

If a Bus Could Talk: Story of Rosa Parks

Faith Ringgold. (1999). Simon & Schuster Books.

Marcie, a young African American girl, gets on a bus one morning. It was not her usual bus but she didn't want to be late for school, so she got on it anyway. This was not a normal bus though. It was a talking bus! After Marcie sat down, the bus kindly asked her to move to a different seat because that one is left open in remembrance of Rosa Parks on her birthday. The bus then begins to tell her the story of Rosa Parks and the beginning of the civil rights movement.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

If I Were President

Catherine Stier (1999). Albert Whitman & Company. DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, illustrator.

This book provides a simple description of the duties, responsibilities, and traditions of the office of the President to a little boy who is dreaming of becoming President of the United States. It gives information about the Constitutional requirements for president, as well as information about the job's fun benefits.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Keeping You Safe: A Book About Police Officers

Ann Owen (2003). Capstone Press. Eric Thomas, illustrator.

This book helps readers understand what a police officer does in order to keep the public safe. It portrays police officers in patrol cars, those on horseback, and those working with other officers of the K-9 unit. It highlights many of their important duties, such as taking fingerprints and arresting people who break laws. Words to know, further reading, and Web sites also are listed.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Know and Follow Rules

Cheri J. Meiners, Meredith Johnson (2005). Free Spirit Publishing Inc.

Rules are important to help keep everyone safe and to allow time for learning. Positive rules that are enforced in this story are using good manners and listening to others. Children can stay out of trouble and develop a sense of pride if they follow the rules. Activities and questions for children are included.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

The Lincoln Memorial

Tristan Boyer Binns (2001). Heinemann.

This book gives a detailed description of the Lincoln Memorial, where it is, how it was built and why. It also tells about President Abraham Lincoln and his life.

K-2 A, B, C

Little Miss Liberty

Chris Robertson (2005). Chronicle Books.

Little Miss Liberty describes the birth of Miss Liberty in Paris, and follows her as a toddler, reaching for the cookie jar and always looking a little green. She eventually outgrows her classmates, city, and country. As she sets out to travel the world, she finds just the right spot to settle.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Lost at the White House: a 1909 Easter Story

Lisa Griest (1994). Learner Publishing Group. Andrea Shine, illustrator.

This book describes the White House and President Taft in 1909 through the eyes of a young girl. When Rena gets lost during the egg roll, a guard allows her to meet President Taft.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

A More Perfect Union the Story of Our Constitution

Betsy and Giulio Maestro (1987). Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books.

This book tells why the Constitution was written. It also describes how the Constitution became such an important document to our country.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

My Grandma's the Mayor

Marjorie White Pellegrino (2001). American Psychological Association. John Lund, illustrator.

Annie does not quite understand the importance of her grandmother's job until a problem arises, and her grandmother helps a family in need. Annie learns how she can help and is proud that her grandmother is a leader in her community.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

The Old Ladies Who Liked Cats

Carol Greene (1991). HarperCollins Publishers

An island with a town in middle of it is kept safe because the Navy circles it. The island's safety really depends on the way many things work together, such as the cows, clover, bees, mice, cats, and the old ladies who like the cats. The town realizes this when the mayor trips over a cat and makes a law keeping all cats inside at night. The chain falls apart one by one and invaders claim the island. The old ladies who like cats tell the mayor that the law must be reversed in order to save the island. The cats once again come out at night and the whole ecological chain is restored. They kick out the invaders and the island is safe once more.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

One Nation: America by the Numbers

Devin Scillian (2002). Sleeping Bears Press. Pam Carroll, illustrator.

Each number represents an important American symbol, landmark, or event. The states, Mount Rushmore, the Supreme Court, the Bill of Rights, the Statue of Liberty, and the 100 dollar bill are a few of the examples related to the U.S. government.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Papa's Mark

Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert (2003). Holiday House.

This is the story of a man named Samuel T. Blow. His son teaches him to write his name so he can cast his ballot in the first election in which African-Americans are allowed to vote.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

A Picnic in October

Nancy Carpenter (1999). Harcourt Brace & Co.

Tony and his family go to Liberty Island every year to celebrate the birthday of the Statue of Liberty. He thinks it is silly until he realizes what freedom really means when he meets a family who has just arrived in America. He learns the history behind the Statue of Liberty and why this symbol is important to his grandmother. Tony becomes proud instead of embarrassed.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Policeman Small

Lois Lenski (2001). Random House Books for Young Readers.

This book describes how a traffic cop enforces the law each day. We see Policeman Small directing traffic at his post, helping children safely cross the street, helping a fire truck and ambulance maneuver through the intersection, and even leading a parade on his motorcycle.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

The President and Mom's Apple Pie

Michael Garland (2002). Dutton Children's Books.

This fictional story gives a humorous glimpse of President William H. Taft's character and temptations. The author tells a vivid tale of Mr. Taft stopping in a town to dedicate a flagpole when he suddenly catches the scent of apple pie and completely abandons the ceremony. The author plays on Taft's love of food and fun, as well as his large size.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

President's Day

David Marx, Katherine A. Kane, Nanci Vargas (2002). Children's Press.

President's Day discusses the lives and achievements of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. It teaches students the importance of the holiday that we celebrate every February.

K-2 A, B, C

Purple Mountain Majesties

Barbara Younger (1998). Scholastic Inc.

This is the story of Katharine Lee Bates, author of “America the Beautiful”. We learn of the numerous acts Katharine did as a teacher and citizen of America. She was able to travel across the country and see all of its beauty, as well as many of its hardships. She worked for many years helping others in the community and writing poetry, which ended up becoming a song that unites all Americans. Katharine had visions for a better world and envisioned a country where everyone would join together to make a better life for everyone. The end discusses her song, and the praise she received from the American people for her efforts.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Red, White, and Blue The Story of the American Flag

John Herman (2001) Penguin Young Reader’s Group. Robin Roraback, illustrator.

This book tells the story and history of our nation’s flag. It also tells the different names the flag has been called. This book is a great example of how the flag has changed over the years.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 B

Rosa

Nikki Giovanni (2005). Holt, Henry Books for Young Readers.

This book is full of illustrations depicting Rosa Parks. Her famous ride is brought to life again as Rosa Parks’ actions of refusing to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama to a white man are remembered and celebrated.

K-2 A, B, C

Rushmore

Lynn Curlee (1999). Scholastic Inc.

Mt. Rushmore is explored through the steps of how it was created in South Dakota. The story revolves around the creators of this national symbol and how it came about. The pictures vividly depict the national pride behind the symbol.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Saving the Liberty Bell

Megan McDonald (2005). Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Readers will experience the excitement that a small boy faces as he and his father are given a secret mission to transport the Liberty Bell during a Redcoat attack in Philadelphia. A mixture of folklore and historical fiction, this book

portrays events that might of occurred during the effort to preserve what today is one of our key national symbols.

K-2 A, B, C

3-5 A, B

School Rules

Larry Dane Brimmer (2002). Scholastic Inc. Christine Tripp, illustrator.

Mrs. Toddle's class was not listening very well. Three children decide to help the classroom by coming up with rules to help everyone get along. They discuss the problems and solutions with their classmates until they come up with a decision about how they want to treat each other.

K-2 A, B, C

Shh! We're Writing the Constitution

Jean Fritz (1987). Putnam Publishing Group. Tomie dePaola, illustrator.

The story of the trials and tensions that led up to the writing of the Constitution are laid out in this book, wonderfully illustrated by Tomie dePaola. Individual characteristics of key delegates, such as Ben Franklin and George Washington, help to personalize this historic event. The back of the book contains four pages of notes from delegates on the debates during the convention.

3-5 A, B

Stars and Stripes: The Story of the American Flag

Sarah L. Thomson (2003). Harper Collins Publishers.

This book tells about the significance of the American flag. The book also explains how the flag has changed over the years and what the stars and stripes really stand for.

K-2 A, B, C

3-5 A, B

The Supreme Court of the United States

Charlotte Wilcox, David Heath (1999). Capstone Press.

The Supreme Court has several duties and powers. This book discusses the system of checks and balances and provides information about the Chief Justices and their important decisions.

K-2 A, B, C

3-5 A, B

The U.S. Constitution and You

Syl Sobel (2001). Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

This book examines the Constitution and explains how it affects and protects people today. Detailed information about the federal government's three branches is also provided, by referencing back to student's own experiences.

K-2 A, B, C

Uncle Sam and Old Glory: Stories of America

Delno West, Jean West, Christopher Manson (2000), Atheneum Books.

Many of the stories behind the symbols of American history are explained in simple terms in this book, such as waving the American flag, playing with Lincoln logs, and eating turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

K-2 A, B, C

3-5 A, B

Voice of the People: American Democracy in Action

Betsy and Giulio Maestro (1996). Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books.

This book describes how and why the Constitution was created and how the different branches of the government was formed to balance the powers. It explains how the Senate and the House work and the differences between the duties of the national and the state governments. It also includes historical facts, a list of Presidents, amendments, and a glossary of terms.

3-5 A, B

Vote!

Eileen Christelow (2003). Clarion Books.

This book explains voting by using fictional characters that are running for office and following them through the campaign process to election day. Easy to read with pictures that are engaging, the reader is informed of the details of the entire election procedure. A timeline and glossary of key terms is also included.

3-5 A, B

We the Kids: A Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

David Catrow (2005). Penguin Young Readers Group.

This fun-filled book puts the Preamble into a child's perspective! This book presents an introduction to the Preamble, which creates great discussions in the classroom.

K-2 A, B, C

We the People: The Constitution of the United States of American

Peter Spier (1987). Random House Children's Books.

The author takes the reader through the history of the Constitution and shows examples of how the Constitution was important to people when it was written and how it continues to be important to people today.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

When Mr. Jefferson Came To Philadelphia: What I Learned of Freedom, 1776

Ann Turner (2003). Harper Collins.

Readers get to see Thomas Jefferson through the eyes of Ned, a young boy who is part of a family Jefferson stays with in Philadelphia during the Second Continental Congress in 1776. The longer Mr. Jefferson stays, the more Ned forgets the simple wants of a young boy and gets caught up in the spirit of freedom that is sweeping the colonies.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

What If Everybody Did That?

Ellen Javernick (1990). Children's Press. Richard Havnick, illustrator.

This book provides a whimsical look at the implications of what would happen if no one considered the impact of their actions. A child who drops a can out of the car window, races his cart at the grocery store, interrupts, and commits other transgressions is constantly asked, "what if everyone did that?"

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

What Presidents are Made Of

Hanoch Piven (2004). Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

This book takes a look at seventeen presidents sharing characteristics and moments that are often not found in history books. Each president's features are re-created in collage format, while anecdotes such as Ronald Reagan experiences with Bonzo the monkey, Andrew Jackson's famous temper, and Theodore Roosevelt's endless energy are shared. Factual information about every president is presented at the end of the book.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Why Do We Have Rules?

Caroline Arnold (1983). Scholastic Library Publishing. Ginger Giles, illustrator.

Why Do We Have Rules? explains why we need rules within a society. It gives a brief discussion of how our government was created and how officials are elected.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Woodrow, the White House Mouse

Cheryl S. Barnes, Peter W. Barnes (1998). VSP Books.

Woodrow G. Washingtall takes the readers through rooms and special activities that are performed at the White House and describes some of the jobs that the president, also known as "the big cheese," has to do. This is a book to introduce readers to the role of the United States President.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B