

Curriculum Parent Overview (Grade 4)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

UNIT #3: GOVERNMENT/ILLINOIS (7 WEEKS)

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What makes Illinois unique?

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS:

Students will understand that a democracy relies on people's responsible participation. Students will understand that who gets to participate has changed over time and continues to change. Students will understand that "responsible participation" has different definitions depending on point of view. Students will understand how rights and responsibilities affect one another. Students will understand that to make a democracy strong people have to listen to one another and keep in mind what is good for all people, not just themselves.

ATTITUDES - STUDENTS WILL BE...

- A willingness to listen to the perspectives of other people who may disagree with them.

SKILLS - STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details.
- Describe the overall structure of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text.
- Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.
- Use evidence to support thinking.
- Engage effectively in a collaborative conversation.
- Build on others' ideas after listening to their opinions.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- Do you always get your way in a democracy? How do people feel about that?
- Would you like living in a monarchy? An aristocracy? A dictatorship?
- Should everyone get to vote? Why do you think that?
- What responsibilities do we have as voters? What should we do before we vote?
- What rights do we have in America? What responsibilities do we have?
- Why do we pay taxes? What do they help pay for?