



Background Knowledge

Florida is committed to helping students build background knowledge, so much so that it is codified in statute. Giving students the opportunity to read nonfiction and literary texts that reinforce and scaffold what they are learning in their content areas will give them the schema to which they can tie new learning.

Civic Literacy Reading List

These civic-focused texts are the source of building background knowledge and vocabulary in the lower grades and a rich study in rhetoric, reasoning, and argumentation in the upper grades.

They are designed to reinforce civics instruction by providing quality texts to which students can apply their developing reading and reasoning skills.

Kindergarten-1st Grade

Title	Author
<i>A Picture Book of Benjamin Franklin</i>	Adler, David A.
<i>D is for Democracy: A Citizen's Alphabet</i>	Grodin, Elissa
<i>George Washington</i>	Abraham, Philip
<i>I Pledge Allegiance</i>	Martin, Bill Jr. and Sampson, Michael
<i>Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story of the Gettysburg Address</i>	Fritz, Jean
<i>Liberty Rising</i>	Shea, Pegi Deitz
<i>Red, White, and Blue: The Story of the American Flag</i>	Herman, John
<i>Saving the Liberty Bell</i>	McDonald, Megan
<i>The Bald Eagle</i>	Pearl, Norman
<i>The Camping Trip That Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and our National Parks</i>	Rosenstock, Barb
<i>The Flag We Love</i>	Ryan, Pam Munoz
<i>The Liberty Bell</i>	Firestone, Mary
<i>The Star-Spangled Banner</i>	Spier, Peter
<i>The Very First Americans</i>	Ashrose, Cara
<i>The White House</i>	Douglas, Lloyd G.
<i>Woodrow, the White House Mouse</i>	Barnes, Peter



2nd-3rd Grade

Title	Author
<i>A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution</i>	Maestro, Betsy
<i>Eleanor</i>	Cooney, Barbara
<i>Father of the Constitution: A Story about James Madison</i>	Tavoularis, Alex and Mitchell, Barbara
<i>Revolutionary Friends: General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette</i>	Castrovilla, Selene
<i>Susan B. Anthony: Fighter for Freedom and Equality</i>	Slade, Suzanne
<i>The Congress of the United States</i>	Taylor-Butler, Christine
<i>The Declaration of Independence from A to Z</i>	Osornio, Catherine
<i>The Story of the Statue of Liberty</i>	Maestro, Betsy and Giulio
<i>The Tuttle Twins and the Miraculous Pencil</i>	Boyack, Connor
<i>The Tuttle Twins Learn About the Law</i>	Boyack, Connor
<i>Vote!</i>	Christelow, Eileen
<i>We Live Here Too!: Kids Talk About Good Citizenship</i>	Loewen, Nancy
<i>We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States</i>	Catrow, David
<i>We the People</i>	Cheney, Lynne
<i>What are the Branches of Government?</i>	Matzke, Ann
<i>What is a Government?</i>	Bedesky, Baron

4th-5th Grade

Title	Author
<i>Before Columbus: The Americas of 1491</i>	Mann, Charles C.
<i>Bill of Rights</i>	Madison, James
<i>Declaration of Independence</i>	Landau, Elaine
<i>Florida</i>	Orr, Tamra B.
<i>James Madison: Champion of Liberty and Justice</i>	Kaminski, John
<i>Shh! We're Writing the Constitution</i>	Fritz, Jean
<i>The Bill of Rights</i>	Burgan, Michael
<i>The Constitution</i>	Colman, Warren
<i>The Emancipation Proclamation</i>	Heinrichs, Ann
<i>The Gettysburg Address (1863)</i>	Lincoln, Abraham
<i>The Great Seal of the United States</i>	DeGezelle, Terri
<i>The Reconstruction Amendments</i>	Burgan, Michael
<i>The U.S. Constitution and You</i>	Sobel, Syl
<i>United States Constitution</i>	Founding Fathers
<i>What Are the Parts of Government?</i>	Thomas, William David



6th-8th Grade

Title	Author
<i>A Kids' Guide to the Bill of Rights: Curfews, Censorship and the 100-Pound Giant</i>	Krull, Kathleen
<i>Alexander Hamilton: The Outsider</i>	Fritz, Jean
<i>Democracy</i>	Hurwitz, Sue
<i>Explaining America: The Federalist</i>	Wills, Garry
<i>Government and Democracy</i>	Ogden, Charlie
<i>Letters from an American Farmer</i>	de Crèvecoeur, J. Hector St. John
<i>Lincoln: A Photobiography</i>	Freedman, Russell
<i>Miracle at Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention May-September 1787</i>	Bowen, Catherine Drinker
<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>	Douglass, Frederick
<i>The Democratic Process</i>	Friedman, Mark
<i>The Rights of the Colonists</i>	Adams, Samuel
<i>Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution</i>	Monk, Linda R.

Supreme Court Cases

Brown v. Board of Education (1954)	Marbury v. Madison (1803)
Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)	McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)	Miranda v. Arizona (1966)
Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)	Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
Korematsu v. United States (1944)	Schenck v. United States (1919)
Loving v. Virginia (1967)	

9th-12th Grade

Title	Author
1838 Florida Constitution	
<i>Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>	Franklin, Benjamin
<i>Civil Disobedience</i>	Thoreau, Henry David
<i>Commentaries on the Laws of England</i>	Blackstone, William
<i>Common Sense</i>	Paine, Thomas
Current Florida Constitution	
<i>Democracy in America</i>	de Tocqueville, Alexis
<i>English Declaration of Rights</i>	Parliament of England
<i>Federalist Papers</i>	Hamilton, Alexander; Madison, James; and Jay, John
For the Equal Rights Amendment (1969)	Chisholm, Shirley
<i>Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story</i>	McClay, Wilfred M.
Letter from Birmingham Jail	King, Martin Luther Jr.
<i>Leviathan</i>	Hobbes, Thomas



Title	Author
Magna Carta	King John of England and Archbishop of Canterbury Langton, Stephen
Mayflower Compact	Bradford, William
<i>Notes on the Constitutional Convention</i>	Madison, James
<i>Out of Order: Stories from the History of the Supreme Court</i>	O'Connor, Sandra Day
Second Inaugural Address (1865)	Lincoln, Abraham
<i>Second Treatise on Government</i>	Locke, John
Speech to Congress on Voting Rights (1965)	Johnson, Lyndon
The New Nationalism (1910)	Roosevelt, Theodore
<i>The Republic</i>	Plato
<i>The Spirit of the Laws</i>	Montesquieu
Virginia Declaration of Rights	Mason, George