

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.

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