



Marietta City Schools
2025-2026 District Unit Planner

Grade 8 Georgia Studies Honors

Unit title	Unit 10: State and Local Government	MYP year	3	Unit duration (hrs)	11.25 hrs
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Mastering Content and Skills through INQUIRY (Establishing the purpose of the Unit): *What will students learn?*

GSE Standards

Standards

SS8CG1 Describe the foundations of Georgia's government.

- Explain the basic structure of the Georgia state constitution (preamble, bill of rights, articles, and amendments) as well as its relationship to the United States Constitution.
- Explain separation of powers and checks and balances among Georgia's three branches of government.
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens according to the Georgia Constitution.
- List voting qualifications for elections in Georgia.
- Identify wisdom, justice, moderation, and courage as the four principles in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Georgia Flag.

SS8CG2 Analyze the role of the legislative branch in Georgia.

- Explain the qualifications for members of the General Assembly and its role as the law making body of Georgia.
- Describe the purpose of the committee system within the Georgia General Assembly.
- Explain the process for making a law in Georgia.
- Describe how state government is funded and how spending decisions are made.

SS8CG3 Analyze the role of the executive branch in Georgia state government.

- Explain the qualifications for the governor and lieutenant governor and their role in the executive branch of state government.
- Describe how the executive branch fulfills its role through state agencies that administer programs and enforce laws.

SS8CG4 Analyze the role of the judicial branch in Georgia state government.

- Describe the ways that judges are selected in Georgia.
- Analyze the dual purpose of the judicial branch: to interpret the laws of Georgia and administer justice in our legal system.
- Explain the difference between criminal law and civil law.

SS8CG6 Analyze the role of local governments in the state of Georgia.

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- a. Explain the origins and purposes of city, county, and special-purpose governments in Georgia.
- b. Describe how local government is funded and how spending decisions are made.

Concepts/Skills to be Mastered by Students

Information Processing Skills:

- 1. compare similarities and differences
- 2. organize items chronologically
- 5. identify main idea, detail, sequence of events, and cause and effect in a social studies context
- 11. draw conclusions and make generalizations

Literacy Skills:

- L6-8RHSS1:** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- L6-8RHSS2:** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- L6-8RHSS4:** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
- L6-8WHST4:** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

MCS Gifted Standards

- MCS.Gifted.S2D:** Apply components of creative thinking in finding, solving, and evaluating solutions to authentic real-world problems and dilemmas.
- MCS.Gifted.S4C:** Establish a common goal utilizing strengths of each group member.
- MCS.Gifted.S5C:** Develop and practice critical analysis in judgement of one’s actions, feelings and thoughts.

Key concept	Related concept(s)	Global context
Systems are sets of interacting or interdependent components. Systems provide structure and order in human, natural and built environments. Systems can be static or dynamic, simple or complex.	Government Rights	Fairness and Development: What are the consequences of our common humanity? Students will explore rights and responsibilities; the relationship between communities; sharing finite resources with other people and with other living things; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

Statement of inquiry

Systems balance power, ideology, and governance through fairness and development.

Inquiry questions

- Factual**
- How is the Georgia Constitution structured?
- What qualifications do Georgia citizens need to have in order to vote?
- What 4 principles are in the Pledge to the Georgia Flag?

Conceptual

Explain separation of powers and the system of checks and balances.
 How does a bill become a law?
 Explain the purpose of state agencies.

Debatable

Which branch of Georgia's state government is most important for protecting citizens' rights, and why?
 Should decisions that affect people's daily lives be made more at the state level or the local level in Georgia?

MYP Objectives	Assessment Tasks	
<i>What specific MYP objectives will be addressed during this unit?</i>	Relationship between summative assessment task(s) and statement of inquiry:	<i>List of common formative and summative assessments.</i>
Criterion B: Investigating Criterion C: Communicating Criterion D: Thinking Critically	Performance Task: I'm Just a Bill	Formative Assessment(s): CFA: State and Local Government Summative Assessment(s): Performance Task CSA: State and Local Government
Approaches to learning (ATL)		
Category: Thinking Skills Cluster: Transfer Skill Indicator: Students will use their understanding of the role of the executive branch of Georgia to handle Georgia specific scenarios as through the eyes of the governor or the lieutenant governor.		

Learning Experiences Add additional rows below as needed		
Objective or Content	Learning Experiences	Personalized Learning and Differentiation
All information included by PLC in the differentiation box is the responsibility and		

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		ownership of the local school to review and approve per Board Policy IKB.
SS8CG1 Describe the foundations of Georgia’s government. a. Explain the basic structure of the Georgia state constitution (preamble, bill of rights, articles, and amendments) as well as its relationship to the United States Constitution.	The U.S. Constitution and the Georgia Constitution Students will compare and contrast the Georgia State Constitution Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution Bill of Rights.	Flexible Grouping Preteach Vocabulary
Content Resources		
Support Resources: Rosen Learning Online Textbook (https://rosenlearningcenter.com) https://georgiastudies.gpb.org		