

4th Grade United States Government Resources

New York State Learning Standards for Social Studies

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/socst/>

Government

Basic democratic values (Taken from: National Standards for Civics and Government):

- The fundamental values of American democracy include an understanding of the following concepts: individual rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness; the public or common good; justice; equality of opportunity; diversity; truth; and patriotism.
- The fundamental values and principles of American democracy are expressed in the Declaration of Independence, Preamble to the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Pledge of Allegiance, speeches, songs, and stories.

Purposes of government

The basic purposes of government in the United States are to protect the rights of individuals and to promote the common good. (Taken from: National Standards for Civics and Government)

Local and State governments

- An introduction to the probable consequences of the absence of government
- The structure and function of the branches of government of New York State and local governments, including executive, legislative, and judicial branches
- The meaning of key terms and concepts related to government, including democracy, power, and citizenship
- The United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of New York and their respective Bills of Rights were developed as written plans for organizing the functions of government and safeguarding individual liberties.
- Representatives in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches at the local, State, and national levels of government and how they are elected or appointed to office
- People elect and/or appoint leaders who make, enforce, and interpret laws.
- Citizenship and the rules and responsibilities of citizenship in the classroom, school, home, and local community
- Citizenship includes an awareness of the holidays, celebrations, and symbols of our nation, including the flag of the United States of America, its proper display, and use.
- Effective, informed citizenship involves duties such as voting, jury service, and other service to the local community.
- Citizens can participate in political decision making and problem solving at the local, State, and national levels.

Books:

What Are Your Basic Rights by Jacqueline Gorman (2008)

Includes bibliographical references (p. 23) and index. The constitution and the Bill of Rights -- The freedoms of Americans -- Limits on the government -- The responsibilities of good citizens -- How you can be a good citizen. Describes some of the freedoms guaranteed to American citizens by the Bill of Rights, and discusses the link between rights and responsibilities.



Guided Reading: N
24 Pages

Making a Law by Sarah De Capua (2004)

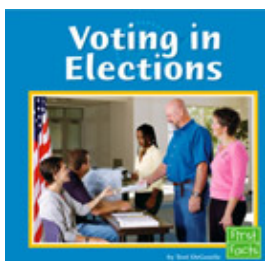
Includes bibliographical references (p. 44) and index. What is a law? -- Making local laws -- Making state laws -- Making federal laws -- You and the law. Explains what laws are, how local, state, and federal laws are made, and what citizens can do to participate in the lawmaking process.



Guided Reading: S
47 Pages

Voting in Elections by Terri DeGezelle (2005)

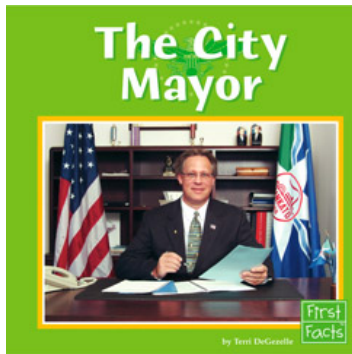
Explains democracy as a form of government and how to vote in the U.S. elections. Includes information on the history of voting rights.



Guided Reading: P
24 Pages

The City Mayor by Terri DeGezelle (2005)

Provides an introduction to city government and the role of the city mayor.



Guided Reading: M

24 Pages

The City Council by Terri DeGezelle (2005)

Describes what city councils and city council members do for communities and city government.



Guided Reading: N

24 Pages

Why We Need Laws by Bertram Wilberforce (2009)

Includes index. A world without laws -- Laws of the past -- The U.S. Constitution -- How national laws are made -- All kinds of laws -- The law and you. Introduces early readers to the social importance of laws, and discusses the U.S. Constitution, various types of laws, and how they affect individual citizens.



Guided Reading: N

24 Pages

What Are the Amendments by Nancy Harris (2008)

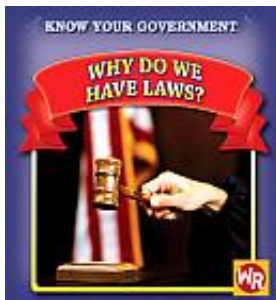
Includes bibliographical references (p. 31) and index. What is the United States Constitution? -- Why do we have amendments? -- How to amend the Constitution -- The first ten amendments -- Other amendments -- Repealing amendments -- Why are the amendments important? Simple text and illustrations provide an introduction to constitutional amendments, discussing why they are added to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, how they are repealed, and why they are important.



Guided Reading: S
32 Pages

Why Do We Have Laws by Jacqueline Laks Gorman

Includes bibliographical references (p. 23) and index. Following the rules -- A nation in need of laws -- Making laws -- Enforcing laws -- Changing laws. Provides an introduction to the U.S. Constitution, looks at the process by which laws are created, discusses who is allowed to make and enforce laws, and tells why laws are sometimes changed.



Guided Reading: N
24 Pages

I Pledge Allegiance by Francis Bellamy; Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson (2004)

Divides the pledge of allegiance into words and phrases in order to define its meaning.



Guided Reading: n/a
40 Pages

What is the Executive Branch by James Bow (2013)

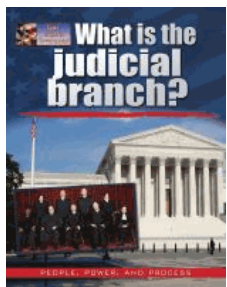
Contents: The three branches -- The executive branch -- The president -- The vice president -- The cabinet -- EOP -- Protecting America -- The State Department -- Enforcing the laws -- Hands-on work -- Helping the government -- The government at home -- Other governments -- Discussion questions -- Learning more, glossary, and index.



Guided Reading: S
32 Pages

What is the Judicial Branch by Ellen Rodger (2013)

An introduction to the judicial branch of government, and describes the Supreme Court, justices, court system, trials and appeals, and more.



Guided Reading: S
32 Pages

What is the Legislative Branch by James Bow (2013)

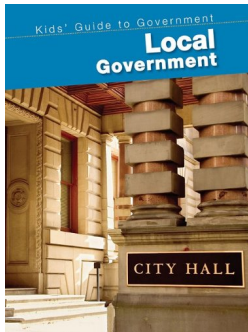
An introduction to the legislative branch of government, and describes the House of Representatives, the Senate, majority and minority, debating and voting, committee hearings, the President's veto, and more.



Guided Reading: Q
32 Pages

Local Government by Ernestine Giesecke (2000)

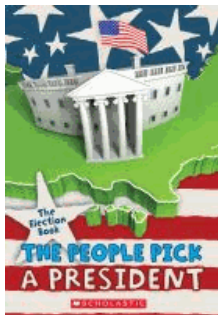
Introduces the purpose and function of local governments, explores the three branches of government at the city and county level, and presents the relationships between city and suburban governments and between various governments and schools.



Guided Reading: V
32 Pages

The Election Book : the people pick a president by Tamara Hanneman (2012)

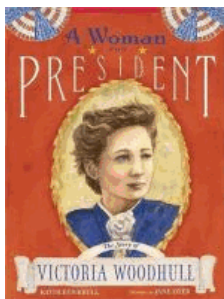
Helps the reader answers questions about the presidential election race.



Guided Reading: W
112 Pages

A Woman for President: The Story of Victoria Woodhull by Kathleen Krull (2004)

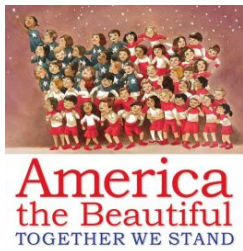
Do you know the first woman to run for president? The first woman to have a seat on the Stock Exchange? The first woman to own a newspaper? To speak before Congress? They were all Victoria Woodhull; this is her story.



Guided Reading: V
32 Pages

America the Beautiful: Together We Stand by Katherine Lee Bates (2013)

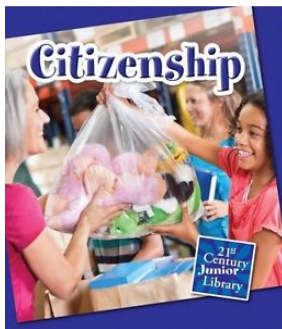
An illustrated presentation of the complete lyrics of "America the Beautiful" with inspiring presidential quotes, ten national landmarks and symbols, and more.



Guided Reading: R
32 Pages

Citizenship by Lucia Raatma (2014)

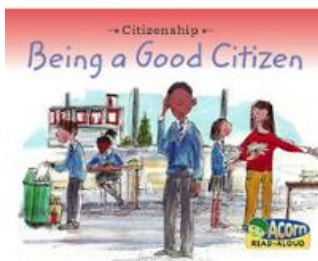
What is citizenship? -- Being a good citizen -- Spreading citizenship. Teaches young learners the importance of being a good citizen by helping out neighbors and other areas of the community, obeying the laws, and learning about voting.



Guided Reading: N
24 Pages

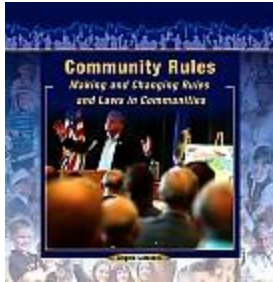
Being a Good Citizen by Adrian Vigliano (2010)

Includes index. What is a citizen? -- At school -- At home -- With friends -- Being a good citizen every day. Illustrations and text teach children the rights and responsibilities associated with being a good citizen.



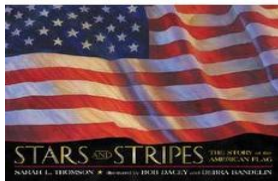
Guided Reading: K
24 Pages

Community Rules: Making and Changing Rules and Laws in Communities by Jake Miller (2005)
Includes index. Rules and laws -- Setting the rules -- Following laws -- Understanding rules and laws -- Making decisions -- Changing rules and laws -- Solving problems -- Citizens' rights -- Responsibilities -- Changing the rules -- Rules and laws help communities. Text and color photos introduce the process of community law-making, explaining why rules are important and covering such topics as judges, town meetings, and citizens' rights and responsibilities.



Guided Reading: P
24 Pages

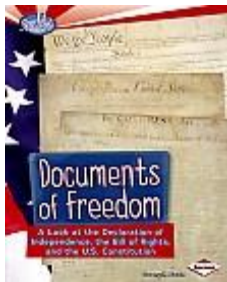
Stars and Stripes the Story of the American Flag by Sarah L. Thomson (2003)
An introduction to the history of the American flag, from colonial times to the present.



Guided Reading: N
32 Pages

Documents of Freedom: a look at the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the U.S. Constitution by Gwennyth Swain (2012)

Includes bibliographical references (p. 39) and index. Seeking freedom -- The Declaration of Independence -- The Constitution -- The Bill of Rights. Explores the origin, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.



Guided Reading: S
40 Pages

What's the Bill of Rights by Nancy Harris (2008)

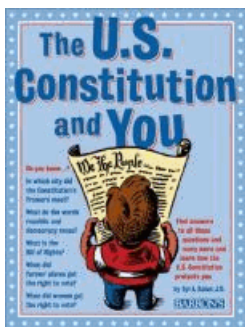
Includes bibliographical references (p. 31) and index. Simple text and illustrations provide an introduction to the Bill of Rights, discussing the history of the Constitution, when it was added, who wrote it, other amendments, and why it is important.



Guided Reading: n/a
32 Pages

The U.S. Constitution and You by Syl Sobel (2001)

All elementary school students learn about the history of the U.S. Constitution when they begin social studies. This book tells them about the great American document itself--explaining exactly what the Constitution does as well as how it affects and protects people today.



Guided Reading: V
48 Pages

Rights and Values by Patricia Freeland Hynes (2008)

Includes bibliographical references (p. 31) and index. Introduces students to the basic rights guaranteed to every American citizen under the Bill of Rights.



Guided Reading: U
32 Pages

Digital Resources

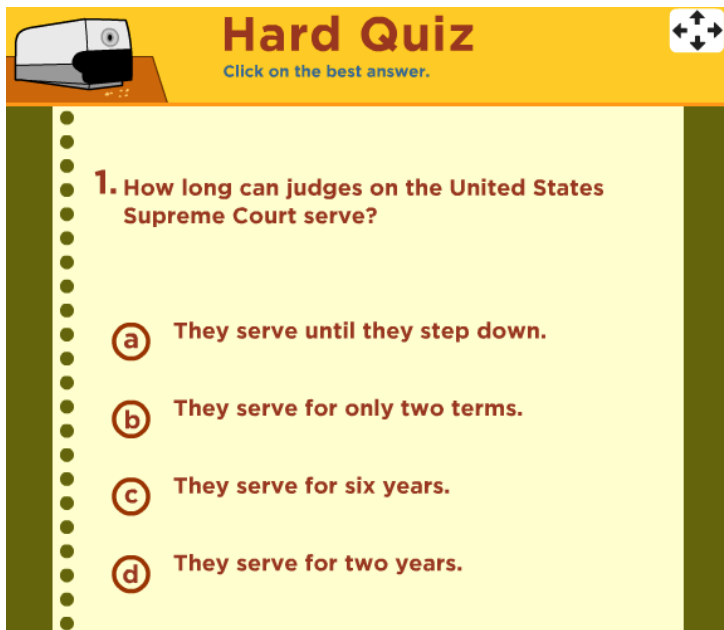
Databases: (To access these databases remotely, ask your librarian for your school's username and password.)

Brainpop Jr.: *Brainpop, Jr. is a database that provides a 3-6 minute video on informational topics followed by a comprehension quiz. The database includes activities and lesson plans as well. It is geared towards grades K-3, but can be used in 4th and 5th grades as well.*

These videos offered by Brainpop Jr. supports New York State Social Studies Standards on Government for 4th Grade.



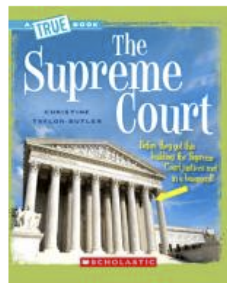
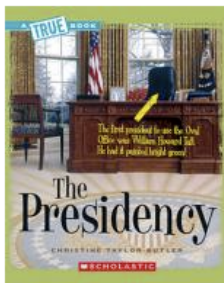
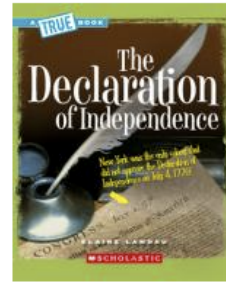
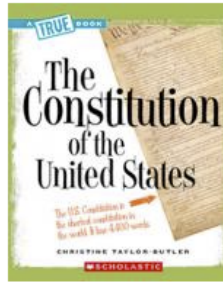
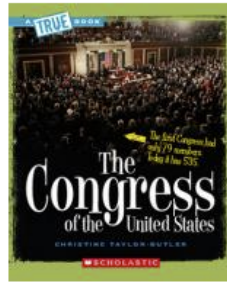
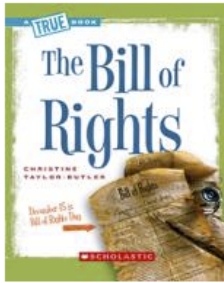
Two different online quizzes are offered after each video to check for understanding. They are entitled "Easy" and "Hard" with 5 questions each.






TrueFlix: Trueflix is a database that includes non-fiction electronic books. Within each selected book you will find a 3-6 minute informational video on the subject, and a list of recommended websites.

Trueflix contains these six books which support the New York State Social Studies Standards on United States Government for 4th Grade. The books are 48 pages long, and include a “Read-Along” button which highlights each word as it is read aloud.

U.S. Government



Here is a sample contents page of the book *The Constitution of the United States*:

 <h1 style="color: red;">Contents</h1>	
<p>1 What Is a Constitution? It's a big word. It's an even bigger idea! 7</p> <p>2 The Divided States of America Can 13 cranky colonies get together? 13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE BIG TRUTH!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meet Five Framers of the Constitution Who made it happen? 18</p> <p>3 The Constitutional Convention Finally, everyone makes it to the meeting! ... 21</p>	 <p>4 Working Out the Problems It was big states against small states. Who won? 25</p> <p>5 The Constitution in Action How does it affect us today? 35</p> <p>True Statistics 43</p> <p>Resources 44</p> <p>Important Words 46</p> <p>Index 47</p> <p>About the Author 48</p> 
4	5

Each subject in *Trueflix* has a part called “Show What You Know.” This is a ten question quiz that can be used to check understanding from the text.

Show What You Know

1. The Constitution created a _____ government in the United States.



- local
- federal
- county
- city-state

SUBMIT

Trueflix also offers word match activity that can be done online. Word match gives a clue that can then be matched with a keyword from the text. As you can see from the toolbar on the left, there are project ideas for the classroom, a list of other non-fiction resources on the same topic in “Explore More,” related websites that have been tested and recommended, and a 3-6 minute video in “Watch the Video.”



Start

Watch the Video

Read the Book

Explore More

Project Idea

Activity Center

- Show What You Know
- Word Match

Explore the Web

More Space

Word Match

Read the clue below. Click on the word it matches.
Match all the words to uncover a picture.

CLUE: relating to a form of government in which states are united under one central power

preamble	compromise	executive
amendments	judicial	delegates
unanimous	legislative	federal

Pebble Go! *Pebble Go is a database that includes non-fiction books, videos and activities. The target audience for Pebble Go is Kindergarten through 3rd grade, however Pebble Go can be a great way to pique interest in a topic for 4th and 5th graders. Each book is 5 pages long and includes a read-aloud button that highlights each word as it reads aloud. There are often one or two very short videos on the topic embedded within each book.*

Pebble Go has this wide selection of introductory books that align with New York State Social Studies Standards on U.S. Government for 4th Grade:

U.S. Government

U.S. Constitution

Declaration of Independence

Democracy

Voting

President

Governor

Mayor

Congress

State Legislature

City Council

Courts

Juries

Here is an example of the inside of the book “Congress”:

Congress

What Is Congress?

The Senate

The House of Representatives

Serving Terms

Making New Laws

Related Articles

Members of Congress make laws for the United States. The U.S. **government** has three branches. They are the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Congress is part of the **legislative branch**.

The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

World Book Web:

The World Book Web is a suite of online research tools that includes encyclopedia articles, primary source collections, educator tools, student activities, pictures, audio, and video, complemented by current periodicals and related Web sites. Most all of these World Book Web research tools include options where text can be read aloud to the user. All Ithaca elementary school libraries currently subscribe to **World Book Kids**, **World Book Student**, **World Book Discover**, **World Book Timelines** and **World Book Classroom: Early World of Learning**. For specific training in how to use these amazing tools consult Worldbook's training website or ask your school's librarian. <http://www.worldbookonline.com/training/>

World Book Student has an article called "United States, government of the" which aligns with New York State Social Studies Standards for 4th Grade. You can use this link to access the article on day and night: <http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar575980> OR you can simply type "united states government" in World Book Student and choose the first article.

This large article's contents includes these broad headings. Each heading is then divided into many subsections. You'll notice the little camera or video camera next to some of the subsections. It shows that instead of text you will get a still image or short video. For example there is a video in the legislative branch called "How a bill becomes law in the United States." This article is full of pictures, graphs and information. It is very useful for digging deep into the functions of the United States government.

Article Contents

MAIN SECTIONS

Lexile® Measure: 1010L

Introduction

- + Principles of American government
- + The legislative branch
- + The executive branch
- + The judicial branch
- + Growth of the federal government
- + Current issues in U.S. government

Citation Information

Article Contents

MAIN SECTIONS

Lexile® Measure: 1010L

Introduction

- Principles of American government
 - Constitutional authority
 - Separation of powers
 - Federalism
 - Representative democracy
- + The legislative branch
- + The executive branch
- + The judicial branch
- + Growth of the federal government
- + Current issues in U.S. government

Article Contents

MAIN SECTIONS

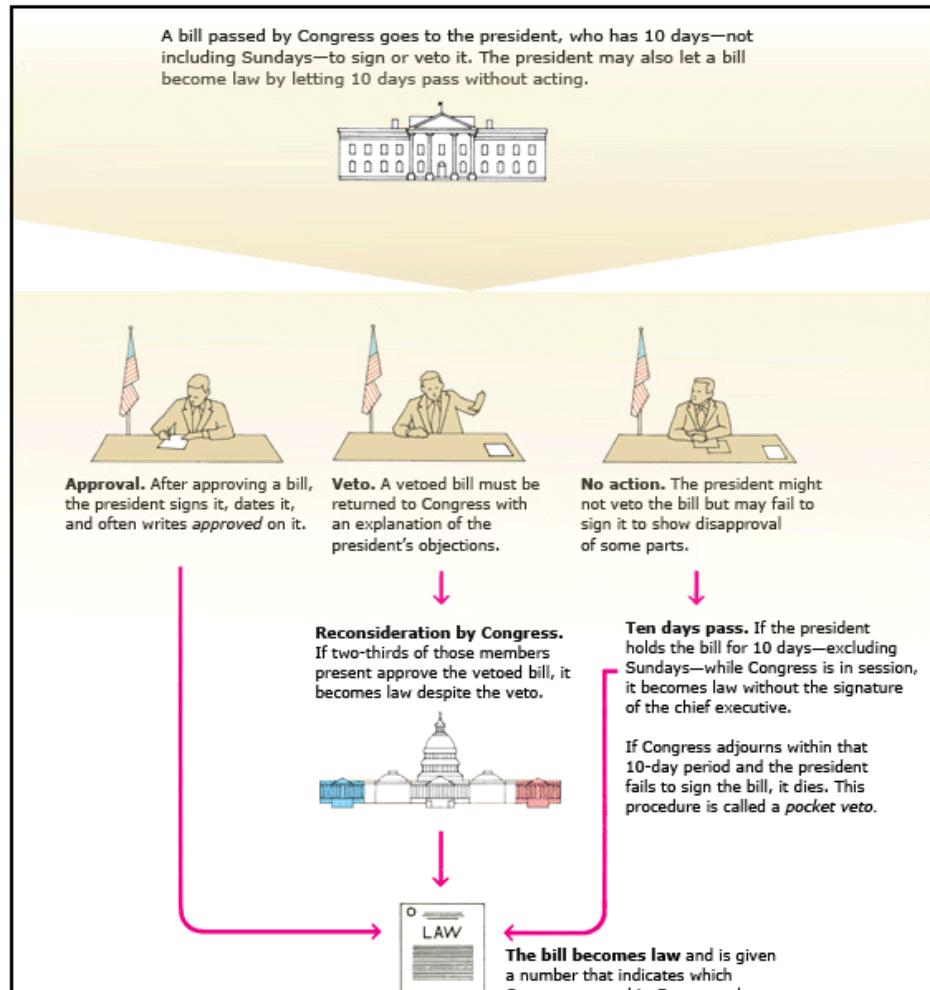
Lexile® Measure: 1010L

- + Principles of American government
- The legislative branch
 - Organization
 - 📷 United States Capitol
 - Functions
 - 📷 Joint session of the U.S. Congress
 - Committee system
 - Party leadership
 - The lawmaking process
 - 📷 How a bill becomes law in the United States

Here is a sample from the article showing presidential action:

🖼️ Picture: **Action by the President of the United States**

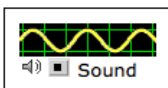
(Home Article: [United States, Government of the](#))



There is a sound clip of the presidential oath in the article:

🔊 Sound: **Presidential oath of office**

(Home Article: [President of the United States](#))



The oath of office is the highlight of the inauguration ceremonies of each new president of the United States. In this recording, U.S. President John F. Kennedy takes the oath of office from chief justice Earl Warren during his inauguration on January 20, 1961.

I, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. So help me God.

Websites:

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/index.html>

This comprehensive website includes sections on branches of government, historical documents, our nation, election process, symbols and much more. There is a games and activities section as well.

New Beta version of Ben's Guide to U.S. Government: <http://beta.fdlp.gov/>

America's Story: Library of Congress

<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/>

Meet amazing Americans, jump back in time, explore the states and more.

First Ladies of the United States

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/first-ladies>

Short histories on each of the first ladies of the United States.

Presidents of the United States

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/>

Short histories on each of the presidents of the United States.

Internet Public Library: Presidents of the United States

<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/>

In this resource you will find background information, election results, cabinet members, notable events, and some points of interest on each of the presidents. Links to biographies, historical documents, audio and video files, and other presidential sites are also included.

Our Documents

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/index.php?flash=true&>

Includes online copies of all of America's important historical documents.

Kids in the House

<http://kids.clerk.house.gov/grade-school/>

The U.S. House of Representatives plays an important role in the United States government.

Learn more about its Members, responsibilities, and history through lessons and activities.

Includes "What is Congress," "How Laws are Made," "Around the Capitol," and "Art and History."

History for Kids

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/northamerica/after1500/government/>

Documents like the Bill of Rights, The Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution re-written in language that is more accessible for elementary aged students.

iPad apps:

The White House - by The White House

Cost: Free

Includes news from the White House blog and press briefing room, photo and video archives, and live streams of events around the country.

Constitution - by Kids Discover

Cost: \$3.99

Learn about the battle to write ratify and enforce the Constitution. Discover how amendments are proposed and incorporated into legislation.

American Presidents for Kids - by D Douglas Limited

Cost: \$1.99

Provides lessons about each president. Covers facts about the presidency as well as life before and after. Includes a “build your own quiz” section.