

Lesson Plans for National Civics Day & Civics Day NJ

[iCivics](#) has created a large collection of ready-to-use lesson plans that can be used for National Civics Day (Oct. 27).

The list below is just a sample of what they have created for Elementary, Middle, and High school. Visit [iCivics Education](#) to see all they have created and download the resources for free.

Elementary School			
Lesson Name	Lesson Summary	Time	Materials
How Do People Practice Being Civic-Minded?	Students explore what it means to be civic-minded and how individuals can make decisions that support the common good and contribute to their communities.	One class period	Google Slides presentation, script, lesson plan, student handout, Civic Star Challenge teacher guide and graphic organizer, reflection activities. Available as PDF and compatible with Kami
How Can Groups Make Decisions?	Students practice civic participation by voting, tallying, and recounting votes to make a decision for their class.	One class period	Google Slides presentation, lesson plan, script, student handout, Civic Star Challenge teacher guide and graphic organizer, reflection activities. Available as PDF and compatible with Kami
Why Do We Have So Many Governments?	Students analyze how life under British rule and the Article of Confederation influenced the creation of the U.S. government. They learn how federalism balances power between national and state governments.	Multiple sessions	Google Slides presentation, lesson plan, script, student handout, Civic Star Challenge teacher guide and graphic organizer, reflection activities. Available as PDF and compatible with Kami
What Makes	Students will use	One class period	Google Slides

<u>Someone a Good Leader?</u>	inquiry to discover what makes someone a good leader by examining leadership within their school community.		presentation, lesson plan, script, student handout, Civic Star Challenge teacher guide and graphic organizer, reflection activities. Available as PDF and compatible with Kami
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Middle School			
Lesson	What it teaches	Time	Materials
<u>Anatomy of the Constitution</u>	Students explore the structure and purpose of the U.S. constitution, including the roles and powers of the three branches of government, the amendment process, and how the Constitution establishes the framework for the US government.	One class period	Student documents, teacher guide, answer key, Spanish materials, Kahoot quiz, Nearpod slide deck
<u>Speech and the First Amendment</u>	Students examine the First Amendment's protections for free speech and explore the limits the government can place on speech. They also learn how the Supreme Court has interpreted protected and unprotected speech and consider when schools may discipline students for their speech, including online speech.	One class period	Lesson plan, student documents, answer key. Available as PDF and compatible with Kami.

<u>Equal Protection Clause</u>	Students learn how the 14th amendment's Equal Protection Clause protects individuals and explore why the clause was created and how it has been used to expand civil rights. Students apply the clause to different scenarios and examine how expanded equal protection has changed American society.	One class period	Lesson plan, student documents, answer key, Civic Star Challenge teacher guide & graphic organizer, reflections activities. Available as PDFs and compatible with Kami.
<u>Voting Rights</u>	Students explore how voting rights have expanded and contracted overtime by examining laws and constitutional amendments that have shaped voting eligibility. They then apply their understanding to scenarios involving individuals from different periods in U.S. history and evaluate obstacles to voting.	One class period	Interactive Google Slides presentation, student documents, teacher guide, answer key, Civic Star Challenge teacher guide and graphic organizer, reflection activities, Spanish materials, Nearpod integration. Available as PDF and compatible with Kami.
<u>Congress in a Flash!</u>	Students learn about the structure and powers of Congress, the constitutional role of the legislative branch, and how a bill becomes a law. They examine actual constitutional language, compare the House of Representatives and Senate, and simulate the lawmaking	One class period	Teacher guide, student documents, answer key, Spanish materials, Kahoot quiz, and Nearpod integration. Available as PDHs and compatible with Kami.

	process by reconciling two versions of a fictional bill.		
Voting in Congress	Students learn how members of Congress decide whether to vote for or against a bill. They examine the role of Congress's constitutional powers, constituents' opinions, political party positions, and representative's personal views. Students then stimulate the decision making process by voting on hypothetical bills based on real-life issues.	One class period	Student documents, teacher guide, answer key, Google Slides, and Nearpod integration. Available as PDFs and compatible with Kami.
Judicial Branch in a Flash!	Students learn the basic levels and functionals of the judicial branch, including trial courts, courts of appeals, and the Supreme Court. They compare the three levels of the U.S. court system, examine state and federal courts, and follow how a case moves through the system.	One class period	Teacher guide, Student documents, answer key, Spanish materials, Kahoot Quiz, and Nearpod integration. Available as PDFs and compatible with Kami.

High School			
Lesson	What it teaches	Time	Materials
Public Policy 101	Students define public policy and	One class period	Teacher guide, student documents,

	regulations, identify different forms of public policy, and understand why public policies create debate. They will also evaluate appropriate policy responses to real-world scenarios.		answer key, Civic Start Challenge teacher guide and graphic organizer, reflection activities
<u>Nothing Absolute About Rights</u>	Students define civil rights and civil liberties, explain how and why courts can limit them, and identify competing rights. Students take on the role of a Supreme Court Justice and analyze and rule on several real Supreme Court cases.	One class period	Lesson plan, student documents, answer key. Available as PDFs and compatible with Kami ne
<u>Expanding Protections</u>	Students explain how civil rights and liberties can be expanded to additional groups, identify historical examples of expanded rights, and explain the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. They will also identify court cases that expanded rights through the Equal Protection Clause and analyse a fictional scenario to determine the best course of action for expanding rights.	One class period.	Lesson plan, student documents, answer key, Civic Star Challenge teacher guide and graphic organizer, reflection activities. Available as PDF and compatible with Kami.
<u>Accused? Know Your Rights</u>	Students examine the rights of the accused under the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh,	One class period	Lesson plan, student documents, answer key. Available as PDF and compatible

	and Eighth Amendments. They learn why these protections were included in the Bill of Rights , how court decisions have expanded these rights over time, and apply constitutional protections to different scenarios.		with Kami.
Give Us Liberties and Give Us Rights	Students distinguish between civil rights and civil liberties and examine where these rights come from and how they are protected through the Constitution, constitutional amendments, federal laws, and the courts.	One class period	Lesson plan, student documents, Civic Star Challenge teachers guide and graphic organizer, reflection activities, answer key. Available as PDF and compatible with Kami.
Voting Rights Act of 1965	Students identify key protections in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, examine why the law was created, analyze its impact on people's lives and voter behavior, and study the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Act in <i>Shelby County v. Holder</i> (2013). Students also write a persuasive argument using evidence from the reading.	One class period	Lesson plan, student documents, Civic Star Challenge teacher guide and graphic organizer, reflection activities, answer key.