**Grades 6-8 Confidence in Institutions: working to keep our institutions fair and effective**

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| **Title** | **Location** | **Description** | **Type** | **Notes** |
| A One-House Legislature | [Click here](https://journalstar.com/what-is-a-unicameral-a-history-of-nebraskas-one-house-legislature/video_c9878f01-af63-50d8-860a-6b846f5e9e56.html) | Civics 101; Nebraska’s Unicameral | Video | 3 ½ minutes, by Lincoln Journal Star |
| Texas: Manage a Texas County Government | [Click here](https://www.icivics.org/games/counties-texas) | Run your own county in Texas. Spanish translation, voiceover and glossary. Teacher extension pack | Online game by iCivics, Spanish, voiceover, glossary, teacher materials | 15-30 minutes |
| Court Quest | [Click here](https://www.icivics.org/games/court-quest) | determine which cases go to which court, get people to the right court to solve problems and get justice. Spanish translation, voiceover and glossary. Teacher extension pack | Online game by iCivics | playing time will vary |
| Branches of Power | [Click here](https://www.icivics.org/games/branches-power) | Learn all branches of government. Spanish translation, voiceover and glossary. Teacher extension pack | Online game by iCivics | 30+ minutes |
| Darwin’s Dogs | [Click here](https://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/darwin-s-dogs/) | How wolves become dogs? Participate in this study by answering a survey about your own dog | Citizen Science Project from Scientific American | All ages, variable time commitment |
| Soil Collection Program | [Click here](https://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/citizen-science-soil-collection-program/) | University of Oklahoma study on soil samples. They will send you a collection kit and all the information you will need to send them soil | Citizen Science Project from Scientific American | All ages, time commitment varies |

**Grades 6-8 Community Engagement: solving problems and caring for the community**

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| **Title** | **Location** | **Description** | **Type** | **Notes** |
| Reverse the Odds | [Click here](https://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/reverse-the-odds/) | creatures known as the “Odds’,” world is falling into decline. Help them by completing mini puzzle games and upgrading their land, and restore the Odds to their lively selves. You will be contributing to a real study on cancer. | Citizen Science online game from Scientific American | Time commitment varies, all ages |
| iSeechange | [Click here](https://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/iseechange/) | contribute to a socially networked weather Almanac to collectively journal climate observations, in near-real time climate information | Citizen Science online game from Scientific American | Time commitment varies, all ages |
| Shelter Dog | [Click here](https://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/shelter-dog-rehoming-study-wants-your-help/) | “Rehoming” Study, looking for pet owners to help improve the lives of dogs, all ages | Citizen Science project from Scientific American | All ages, time commitment varies |
| Sortify | [Click here](https://www.icivics.org/games/sortify) | Are you an expert on U.S. citizenship? Put your knowledge to the test with *Sortify:* | Online game from iCivics, teacher extension pack | 15 min |
| Civic Heroism | [Click here](https://www.icivics.org/node/6623/resource) | Explore what it means to be a civic hero! In this WebQuest, students learn about their civic responsibilities and consider how citizens translate everyday civic duties into acts of heroism and engagement. | WebQuest: students view webpages and complete documents | iCivics; login to iCivics required |
| Lead India “The Tree” | [click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_uZ8AZfPTU) | excellent video on teamwork and perseverance | citizens work together to solve a problem | 2:36 YouTube video |

**Grades 6-8 Political Involvement: participating in our government**

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| **Title** | **Location** | **Description** | **Type** | **Notes** |
| The White House: Unstoppable, The Road to Women’s Rights | [Click here](https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/unstoppable-white-house/unstoppable-the-road-to-womens-rights-video/) | Youth narrated video set in Lafayette Park D.C. Youth discuss the women’s movement | Video from PBS Learning Media | 5 min 2 sec |
| Seneca Falls N.Y. The Road to Women’s Rights | [Click here](https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/unstoppable-seneca-falls/unstoppable-the-road-to-womens-rights-video/) | Youth narrated visit to Seneca Falls to discuss the Women’s movement | Video from PBS Learning Media | 6 min 10 sec |
| How Can We Get More Young People to Vote? | [Click here](https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/how-can-we-get-more-young-people-to-vote/how-can-we-get-more-young-people-to-vote/) | Youth narrated discussion of youth voting | Video from PBS Learning Media | 6 min 18 sec |
| Win the White House | [Click here](https://www.icivics.org/games/win-white-house) | Run your own presidential campaign, Spanish, voiceover, and glossary. Educator pack | Online game by iCivics | 30+ min |
| Cast Your Vote | [Click here](https://www.icivics.org/games/win-white-house) | Simulated election process, Spanish, voiceover, glossary. Educator pack | Online game from iCivics | 30+ min |
| Sojourner Truth | [Click here](https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/sojourner-truth-know-ohio-video/wviz-newsdepth-know-ohio/) | “Ain’t I A Woman” speech, background on the women’s movement and a rendition of the speech. | grades 3-8, PBS Learning Media video; discussion questions; downloadable | 3 min, 43 sec |
| Contact your elected officials | [click here](https://www.civicnebraska.org/forming-a-more-perfect-union/) | Tips on how to write a letter or email to an elected official | Contains links to find Unicameral and Congressional bills, links to congressional offices and addresses |  |

**Grades 6-8 Social Connectedness: participating in our community**

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| **Title** | **Location** | **Description** | **Type** | Notes |
| Past/Present: Trouble at the Mill | [Click here](https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/5dc6f72a-1b54-41f6-b6ab-beb15631c52a/past-present-trouble-at-the-mill/) | Immigration, organized labor, the game promotes reasoning, cooperative learning, teamwork, and the use of primary sources, all while being fun | Online game from PBS Learning Media | time varies |
| Cherokee Nation Council House | [Click here](https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/cherokee-nation-council-house-interactive/virtual-field-trips-walking-tour/) | Virtual Walking Tour of Native American culture | Online tour from PBS Learning Media | Grades 3-12 |
| Face the Facts | [Click here](https://www.icivics.org/node/2563177/resource?referer=node/2512908&page_title=News%20Literacy) | Social media influencers share their best voting advice | Video | Student reporters |
| Newsfeed Defenders | [Click here](https://www.icivics.org/node/2563177/resource?referer=node/2512908&page_title=News%20Literacy) | Join a fictional social media site. Learn high-quality journalism and markers of deceptive posts Spot dubious posts that sneak in through hidden ads, viral deception, and false reporting. Teacher materials | Online game from iCivics |  |
| Smorball | [Click here](https://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/smorball/) | fighting robots on a gridiron while helping to digitize words to help anyone in the world find information | Online game Citizen Science from Scientific American | All ages |

**Civics Games**

**United States Memory Matching Game** – years 5 and up;flash card matching of state capitols and nicknames; $19.00

[Click here](https://www.amazon.com/MINDEMICS-Capitals-United-States-Capital/dp/B07XPH6QPZ/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=civics+games+for+children&qid=1614281015&sr=8-4)

Confidence in Institutions

**State Capitol Trivia Tower –** years 4 and up; Jenga style tower game using state trivia from all states, $18.00

[Click here](https://www.amazon.com/State-Capital-Trivia-Tower-Memorization/dp/B085KCFKKQ/ref=sr_1_4_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=civics+games+for+children&qid=1614281155&sr=8-4-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEyTEdPTUdaUVpUVjNNJmVuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwMTY2NzAzMTlLRTFBTjRMQVFBQSZlbmNyeXB0ZWRBZElkPUEwNTQ5NzM1MUhPUENPSjM2N0tYRiZ3aWRnZXROYW1lPXNwX2F0ZiZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRydWU=)

Social Connectedness

**Election Night** - 8 years and up; two sided Parents Choice Award winning game, strategize your way to the White House; math and geography on side two; $35.00

[Click here](https://www.amazon.com/Election-Night-Board-Game-Strategizing/dp/B07NDRRP33/ref=sr_1_2?crid=G3ZK4WAQGFW2&dchild=1&keywords=civics+board+games&qid=1614279576&sprefix=civics+board%2Cspecialty-aps%2C180&sr=8-2)

Political Involvement

**Constitution Quest Game –** 10 years+; simple directions; play in less than an hour; $55.00

[Click here](https://www.amazon.com/Constitution-Quest-Game/dp/B0170S0FWC/ref=sr_1_6?crid=G3ZK4WAQGFW2&dchild=1&keywords=civics+board+games&qid=1614279756&sprefix=civics+board%2Cspecialty-aps%2C180&sr=8-6)

Confidence in Institutions

**Election Board Game –** 9 years and up; winning the White House; $38.00

[Click here](https://www.amazon.com/Election-Board-Game/dp/B00UUFHTAY/ref=sr_1_9?crid=G3ZK4WAQGFW2&dchild=1&keywords=civics+board+games&qid=1614279756&sprefix=civics+board%2Cspecialty-aps%2C180&sr=8-9)

Political Involvement

**Politicraft Action Civics Card Game –** no age given likely MS to HS; Civic engagement and civil discourse; 45-60 minutes; engage in civil discourse with friends and opponents; endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies; advocate for issues you care about; $15.00

[Click here](https://www.amazon.com/PolitiCraft-Action-Civics-Card-Game/dp/B07N2XXMZH/ref=sr_1_14?crid=G3ZK4WAQGFW2&dchild=1&keywords=civics+board+games&qid=1614279756&sprefix=civics+board%2Cspecialty-aps%2C180&sr=8-14)

Social Connectedness

**Constitution Games We the People Fight Tyranny –** 15 years and up;illustrates the difference between freedom and entitlement, big government vs. small government; History cards, Social Justice cards;

[Click here](https://www.amazon.com/Constitution-Games-People-Fight-Tyranny/dp/B074Q4ZCXH/ref=sr_1_11?crid=G3ZK4WAQGFW2&dchild=1&keywords=civics+board+games&qid=1614279756&sprefix=civics+board%2Cspecialty-aps%2C180&sr=8-11)

Confidence in Institutions

**America Adult Coloring Pages;** 50 American designs on artist paper; $18.95

[click here](https://www.amazon.com/America-Adult-Coloring-Book-Perforated/dp/1733574409/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=adult+american+coloring+pages&qid=1626379435&sr=8-4)

Confidence in Institutions

**The Ultimate Black Women Coloring Book;** $13.95

[click here](https://www.amazon.com/ULTIMATE-BLACK-WOMEN-COLORING-BOOK/dp/B08VYLNZHD/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=adult+american+coloring+pages&qid=1626379693&sr=8-5)

Social Connectedness

**6-8 Voting**

Unit Goal: to demystify the voting process for K-12 students.

**6-8 Vote on a justice issue**

Example: Who should make the choice of which high school to attend?

The student and parent(s)/guardian together

The student and the counselor together

The student only

**Key steps in voting**

1. Registration
2. Campaigning
3. Casting Your ballot
4. Tabulation
5. Implementation
6. Reflection

**Registering to Vote**

Grades 6-8 will register. [Click here](https://www.civicnebraska.org/forming-a-more-perfect-union/) for an authentic registration form. Instructions on the right side of the form clearly give the steps. Teachers should note that there are 5 cells for voter information. The first cell will determine if the person is qualified to vote. The third cell is for party affiliation. Instruct students that this will determine which primary they will vote in.

Possible discussion points:

What happens if a person is homeless?

What happens after you mail the form in or turn it in? (response is in the instructions)

**The Ballot:**

[click here](https://www.civicnebraska.org/forming-a-more-perfect-union/) for two ballot options. Both ballots are editable so you can insert your own ballot options. Explain to the class what they will be voting on. The example is who should make the decision of which high school a student should attend? Teachers should feel free to substitute any other example.

**The Campaign:**

Have students in groups of 2-4 and assign each group one of the ballot choices. More than one group can have the same choice; however, all choices should be represented. Groups should talk about why their choice is best and assign one student the role of trying to persuade the class to vote for that choice. After a few minutes of discussion, one student from each group should stand and explain why the group’s choice is best. Present all ballot choices. The “campaign” needs to be civil. Encourage students to use clear, reasoned arguments and to respectfully listen to others. Avoid loud, competitive arguments but do have fun.

**The Vote**:

Hand out pencils and ballots, explain how to fill in the bubble that represents their choice. When everyone has voted, collect the ballots or place them in a ballot box. A small group of students can begin to tabulate the votes by separating the ballots into piles. At this point, the teacher should explain that the choice that gets the most votes will become policy in this fictitious scenario. This is a critical part of the voting step.

**Implementation**:

In the case of the example, there is no action since the ballot issue is hypothetical. If, however, you are voting on selecting a treat, or an activity, it will important that the class as a whole gets the same treat or participates in the same activity. Teachers may have to differentiate for students with disabilities or limitations.

**Reflection:**

The teacher might ask a student who voted for the winning policy how she/he felt about winning. Ask someone whose choice did not win how they felt. It is important to guide all students toward accepting the results of the election and participating with the class as a whole.

**Voting Kit:** ballot boxes, booths, signs, stickers, etc. $198

[click here](https://electionsource.com/collections/school-election-kits/products/basic-school-election-kit?variant=32371715833936)