

**Social Studies  
It's the Law**

**Unit 1: Introduction to Law and the Legal System**

<b>Essential Understandings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Every society that has ever existed has recognized the need for laws. There are different types of laws. Each law goes through a process in order to get passed. Once a law is made, the court system is in charge of enforcing it.</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is law?</li> <li>▪ How are laws made?</li> <li>▪ How does the court system work?</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Laws are necessary.</li> <li>▪ Laws have a path that they follow to get passed.</li> <li>▪ There are groups that help get laws passed.</li> <li>▪ The court system is there to help enforce laws.</li> <li>▪ Lawyers help represent people within the court system.</li> </ul>
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Terms:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ jurisprudence, criminal laws, civil laws, defendant, plaintiff, prosecutor, separation of powers, judicial review, Bill of Rights, statues, bills, trials, appeals, advocacy, lobbying, initiative, referendum, mediation, dissenting opinion, concurring opinion, litigators, retainer, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Essential Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Define important vocabulary.</li> <li>▪ Identify the importance of laws.</li> <li>▪ Describe the process of how a bill becomes a law.</li> <li>▪ Identify the various figures in the court system.</li> </ul>
<b>Related Maine Learning Results</b>	<p><u>Social Studies</u>  A. Applications of Social Studies Processes, Knowledge, and Skills  A1. Researching and Developing Positions on Current Social Studies Issues  Students research, develop, present, and defend positions on current social studies issues by developing and modifying research questions, and locating, selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing information from multiple and varied sources.  g. Develop a clear well-supported position.</p>

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<p><b>Related Maine Learning Results</b></p>	<p>B. Civics and Government            B1.Knowledge, Concepts, Themes, and Patterns of Civics/Government            Students understand the ideals, purposes, principles, structures, and processes of constitutional government in the United States and in the American political system, as well as examples of other forms of government and political systems in the world.</p> <p>a. Explain that the study of government includes structures, functions, institutions, and forms of government to citizens in the United States and in other regions of the world.</p> <p>b. Evaluate current issues by applying democratic ideals and constitutional principles of government in the United States, including checks and balances, federalism, and consent of the governed as put forth in founding documents.</p> <p>d. Describe the purpose, structures, and processes of the American political system.</p> <p>B2.Rights, Duties, Responsibilities, and Citizen Participation in Government            Students understand the constitutional and legal rights, the civic duties and responsibilities, and roles of citizens in a constitutional democracy and the role of citizens living under other forms of government in the world.</p> <p>a. Explain the relationship between constitutional and legal rights, and civic duties and responsibilities in a constitutional democracy.</p> <p>d. Compare the rights, duties, and responsibilities of United States citizens with those of citizens from other nations.</p> <p>e. Evaluate how people influence government and work for the common good including voting, writing to legislators, performing community service, and engaging in civil disobedience.</p>
<p><b>Sample Lessons And Activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Writing to a public official</li> <li>▪ Voting research project</li> <li>▪ Field trip to a local court house</li> <li>▪ Island activity</li> <li>▪ “You Be the Judge” game</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sample Classroom Assessment Methods</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quizzes over each section: What is Law? Quiz</li> <li>▪ Cumulative Unit Exam: Introduction to Law and the Legal System Test</li> <li>▪ Discussion, Lecture, Video, Reading, Group Projects</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sample Resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Publications:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Street Law: A Course in Practical Law</u> - Glencoe</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <u>Videos:</u></li> </ul>

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|  | ○ <u>Gideon's Trumpet</u> |
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