

Grade 3 Social Studies Standards

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STANDARD 3.1– Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities

3.1a. America is a Country of Many People

a. recognize that Americans are people of diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions that are united by the basic principles of a republican form of government and respect for individual rights and freedoms



People in the United States come from **many different backgrounds**. They may

speak different languages, celebrate different holidays, and have different traditions.

But even though we are different, we are **united by shared American values**. These include:

- **Freedom**
- **Fairness**
- **Respect for others**
- **Following the law**

Americans are united in a Republic

Our government is called a **republic**.

- In a **republic**, the **people elect** or choose leaders.
- Citizens elect **representatives** that make the laws and are responsible to the people who elected them.
- This means that the **people are the source of power**.

In a REPUBLIC



people elect representatives to make the laws

3.1b. The First Amendment: Our Basic Freedoms

b. describe the rights guaranteed to citizens in the First Amendment

A Virginian, **James Madison**, wanted the new nation to have a **written plan for the government**.

- He helped others agree on the **Constitution** and **Bill of Rights**.
- People call him the “**Father of the Constitution**.”



The U.S. Constitution is the **written plan** for the government.

- The Constitution called for a **national government** with **three branches**.
- The U.S. Constitution **unites Americans** and the **50 states**.

The Bill of Rights, the **first ten amendments** to the U.S. Constitution, describes the **rights and freedoms** of citizens.

The **First Amendment** is part of the **Bill of Rights** in the **U.S. Constitution**. It gives every American these **important rights**:

- **Freedom of Speech** – You can speak your mind.
- **Freedom of Religion** – You can believe in and practice any religion, or no religion at all.



- **Freedom of the Press** – Newspapers, TV, and websites can share news and opinions.
- **Right to Assemble** – People can meet together peacefully.
- **Right to Petition the Government** – You can ask leaders to make changes.

3.1c. 📄 Protecting the Constitution and Bill of Rights

c. understand the importance of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights;

- The **Constitution** is our country's written plan for government. It sets up the rules and explains how our leaders are chosen.
- The **Bill of Rights** is the first 10 amendments (or changes) to the Constitution. It protects our freedoms.
- We show that we care about our country by **supporting and defending** these important documents.

3.1d. ⚖️ Following the Rules and Laws

d. respect and follow local, state, and federal laws

- Good citizens **follow local, state, and national laws**.
- Rules and laws help keep everyone **safe and fair**.
- Just like we follow rules in school or at home, adults follow laws in their communities.



3.1e. 🗳️ Voting in Class and Community

e. take part in the voting process when making classroom decisions

- In America, people help make decisions by **voting**.
- In class, you may vote



on what game to play or what book to read.

- Voting is how people share their voice and **make fair choices**.

3.1f. 🎓 Running for Office

f. run for elected office

- Citizens can also choose to **run for office**—that means trying to become a leader, like a mayor, governor, or president.
- Even students can try being leaders by running for **class jobs** or the school council.

3.1g. 👤 Serving on a Jury

g. serve on a jury

- A **jury** is a group of people who help decide if someone broke the law.
- Serving on a jury is an important job for adult citizens.



Jury

3.1h. 💰 Paying Taxes

h. pay local, state, and federal taxes

- Citizens pay **taxes** to the local, state, and national governments.
- Taxes help pay for:
 - **Schools**
 - **Parks**
 - **Police and firefighters**
 - **Libraries**
 - **Roads and bridges**



3.1i. Why We Have Rules

i. Describe the purpose of rules

- **Rules** help everyone know what is okay and what is not okay.
- They help keep us **safe, fair, and organized**.
- We **follow rules** in games, in school, and in our communities.

- Protect **our private information**
- Use the internet **safely and responsibly**

This is called being a **responsible digital citizen**.

3.1j. Being a Good Digital Citizen



j. understand responsible digital citizenship.

When we use computers, tablets, and the internet, we should:

- Be **kind online**

What Makes a Good Citizen?

A good (or **responsible**) citizen:

- Follows rules and laws
 - Votes and helps make decisions
 - Volunteers to help others
 - Pays taxes
 - Shows respect to others
 - Helps their school, community, and country
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