



— Curriculum Overview —

Children Discovering Justice (CDJ) is a literacy-based social studies curriculum for kindergarten through grade eight, created by Discovering Justice. This interdisciplinary and experiential social studies curriculum teaches social studies and literacy while engaging students in discussions and activities concerning democracy, justice, community, and rights and responsibilities. Discovering Justice developed CDJ to teach students to embrace civic responsibility and to empower them to fulfill America's promise of liberty and justice for all.

CDJ teaches students about the history and foundations of our democracy while also equipping them to see issues from different viewpoints, express opinions in constructive ways, and effectively participate in groups. By engaging children's innate sense of fairness, CDJ encourages truly authentic expressions of justice and democracy. CDJ is aligned with Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts as well as the Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework.

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM: *IT BEGINS WITH YOU*

The kindergarten curriculum, *It Begins with You*, introduces students to *Children Discovering Justice*. Students explore the meaning of community and the role of good citizens within a community- beginning in their school and homes, then by looking at their own neighborhoods and thinking about neighborhoods around the world. By presenting models of empathy and fairness from history and fiction, the curriculum's primary focus is for students to reflect upon their role in creating and maintaining safe, caring, and inclusive communities.

KINDERGARTEN BOOKS:

Teacher Resources (1 per teacher)

Children Discovering Justice: It Begins with You curriculum guide

Read-aloud Books (1 per teacher)

The Golden Rule by Ilene Cooper

Swimmy by Leo Lionni

Be My Neighbor by Maya Ajmera and John D. Ivanko

The Peace Book by Todd Parr

Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport

The Kindness Quilt by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

Duck for President by Doreen Cronin

Know and Follow Rules by Cheri J. Meiners

Responsibility by Lucia Raatma

What If Everybody Did That? by Ellen Javernick

The Little Red Hen (Reader's Theater) by Byron Barton

We The Kids by David Caltrow

GRADE ONE CURRICULUM: *WHAT IS A RULE?*

What Is a Rule? teaches students about the laws and rules that help us work together as a group. The curriculum focuses on four central questions: What is a rule? Why do we need rules? Who makes the rules? What is a good reason to challenge a rule?

GRADE ONE BOOKS

Teacher Resources (1 per teacher)

Children Discovering Justice: What Is a Rule? curriculum guide

Read-aloud Books (1 per teacher)

Happy Birthday Martin Luther King by Jean Marzollo

Jamaica's Find by Juanita Havill

William's Doll by Charlotte Zolotow

King of the Playground by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Jan Brett

Bad Kitty by Nick Bruel

The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles

The Constitution of the United States by Christine Taylor-Butler

Harriet Tubman by Marion Dane Bauer

The Drinking Gourd by F.N. Monjo

Juneteenth by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson and Drew Nelson

GRADE TWO CURRICULUM: *JUSTICE FOR ALL*

Justice for All examines our nation's promise of equality and justice for everyone and explores both abstract ideas and real-life examples of freedom and justice. Four questions guide the curriculum: What is freedom? What is liberty? What is equality? How can an individual work toward justice?

GRADE TWO BOOKS

Teacher Resources (1 per teacher)

Children Discovering Justice: Justice for All curriculum guide

Read-aloud Books (1 per teacher)

The Daring Escape of Ellen Craft by Cathy Moore

Ellis Island by Elaine Landau

Red, White and Blue by John Herman

I Pledge Allegiance by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson

The 4th of July Story by Alice Dalgliesh

The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson

The Sneetches and Other Stories by Dr. Seuss

A Picture Book of Frederick Douglass by David A. Adler

A Picture Book of Thurgood Marshall by David A. Adler

Elizabeth Leads the Way by Tanya Lee Stone

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio

GRADE THREE CURRICULUM: *RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES*

Rights and Responsibilities delves into the relationship between individual rights and group responsibilities within the context of pre-Revolutionary Boston. As students learn about this transformative time in our history, they enhance their literacy skills through both teacher read-alouds and independent reading.

GRADE THREE BOOKS

Teacher Resources (1 per teacher)

Children Discovering Justice: Rights and Responsibilities curriculum guide
From Colonies to Country (History of US, Book 3) by Joy Hakim

Student Research Book (Set of 30)

...If You Lived At The Time of The American Revolution by Kay Moore

Literature Circle Books (three sets of 10 for each book)

Phoebe the Spy by Judith Berry Griffin
Revolutionary War on Wednesday by Mary Pope Osborne
Redcoats and Petticoats by Katherine Kirkpatrick

Read-aloud Books (1 per teacher)

The Kingdom of Mine by Gary Edwards
The Pilgrims of Plimoth by Marcia Sewall
Squanto and the First Thanksgiving by Joyce Kessel
Tapenum's Day by Kate Waters
Sarah Morton's Day by Kate Waters
Samuel Eaton's Day by Kate Waters
You Wouldn't Want to be at the Boston Tea Party! by Peter Cook
Sleds on Boston Common by Louise Borden
Can't You Make Them Behave, King George? by Jean Fritz
Paul Revere's Ride by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
A Voice of Her Own by Kathryn Lasky

GRADE FOUR CURRICULUM: *OUT OF MANY, ONE*

Out of Many, One provides students with opportunities to connect map skills with larger questions about people and modes of life. Through map-making, research, and writing, students learn how geography affects daily life. Students discover why the United States is known as a nation of immigrants, and they gain greater understanding of how immigration and our vast natural resources have contributed to the growth and diversity of our country.

GRADE FOUR BOOKS

Teacher Resources (1 per teacher)

Children Discovering Justice: Out of Many, One curriculum guide

Atlas (Set of 6)

National Geographic United States Atlas for Young Explorers

Student Research Books (five sets of 6)

...If You Lived With the Cherokee by Peter and Connie Roop

...If You Lived With the Iroquois by Ellen Levine

...If You Lived With the Hopi by Anne Kamma

...If You Lived With the Indians of the Northwest Coast by Anne Kamma

...If You Lived With the Sioux Indians by Ann McGovern

Read-aloud Books (1 per teacher)

Coming to America: The Story of Immigration by Betsy Maestro

When Jessie Came Across the Sea by Amy Hest

America is... by Louise Borden

GRADE FIVE CURRICULUM: SOLVING PROBLEMS: THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Solving Problems: The United States Constitution uses the process of writing this important document to study the various ways groups of people solve problems. Discussion questions include: How do you share power equally? What happens when a solution does not work for everyone?

GRADE FIVE BOOKS

Teacher Resources (1 per teacher)

Children Discovering Justice: Solving Problems curriculum guide

From Colonies to Country (History of US, Book 3) by Joy Hakim

Student Research Book (Set of 30)

...If You Were There When They Signed the Constitution by Elizabeth Levy

Literature Circle Books (three sets of 10)

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki

The Bracelet by Yoshiko Uchida

So Far From the Sea by Eve Bunting

Read-aloud Books (1 per teacher)

Yertle the Turtle by Dr. Seuss

The Bill of Rights in Translation: What It Really Means by Amie Jane Leavitt

GRADE SIX CURRICULUM: EXPLORING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

Exploring Constitutional Rights around the World takes students on a journey to seven regions across the world outside of North America. Students explore the government, history, geography, and culture of the following countries, one in each region: Brazil, Cambodia, China, India, Iraq, South Africa, and Ukraine. Students compare portions of each country's constitution that are similar to the First and Fourth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Through in-depth inquiry, students discover different rights that are not included in the U.S. Constitution and discuss, debate, and vote on whether these rights should be included as amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

GRADE SIX BOOKS

Teacher Resources (1 per teacher)

Children Discovering Justice: Exploring Constitutional Rights around the World curriculum guide

Informational Texts: (Sets of 30 of each book)

Brazil Enchantment of the World Second Series by Ann Heinrichs

India Enchantment of the World Second Series by Don Nardo

People's Republic of China Enchantment of the World Second Series by Wil Mara

South Africa Enchantment of the World Second Series by Etagale Blauer and Jason Lauré

Ukraine Enchantment of the World Second Series by Deborah Kent

Iraq Enchantment of the World Second Series by Liz Sonneborn

Optional Historical Fiction: (Sets of 30 of each book)

The Clay Marble by Minfong Ho

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan

Ties that Bind Ties that Break by Lensey Namioka

Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Li Jiang

Stones for my Father by Trilby Kent

Radiant Girl by Andrea White

The Winter Horses by Philip Kerr

Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees by Deborah Ellis

GRADE SEVEN CURRICULUM: *SHAPING HISTORY: RULES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD* (IN DEVELOPMENT)

Shaping History: Rules of the Ancient World introduces students to the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. While learning about the geography, religion, accomplishments, politics, economics, and social structures of each civilization, students come to understand how each of these elements helps to guide the creation, implementation, and evolution of rules in society. They evaluate the necessity and effectiveness of ancient rules and rule makers and compare them to rules and rule-making in the United States today.

GRADE SEVEN BOOKS

Teacher Resources (1 per teacher)

Children Discovering Justice: Shaping History: Rules of the Ancient World curriculum guide

Informational Texts: (Sets of 30 of each book)

The Ancient World: Ancient Egypt by Nel Yomtov

The Ancient World: Ancient Greece by Peter Benoit

The Ancient World: Ancient Mesopotamia by Allison Lassieur

The Ancient World: Ancient Rome by Peter Benoit

Optional Recommended Accompanying Books

The Epic of Gilgamesh (both illustrated and prose versions)

A Place in the Sun by Jill Rubalcaba

The Odyssey (illustrated version)

GRADE EIGHT CURRICULUM: A MORE PERFECT UNION (IN DEVELOPMENT)

The grade 8 curriculum, tentatively titled *A More Perfect Union*, explores the ways in which democratic principles have guided the country from its struggle to gain independence up through its reunification and recovery from civil war. Students analyze primary sources, research events from multiple perspectives, explore the role of technology during wartime, examine court cases and laws, and develop positions based on careful consideration of historical evidence, as they investigate how our nation has grappled with its founding promise to become a more just and “more perfect” union.

GRADE EIGHT BOOKS

Teacher Resources (1 per teacher)

Children Discovering Justice: A More Perfect Union curriculum guide

Optional Recommended Accompanying Books:

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

Forge by Laurie Halse Anderson

Constitution Translated for Kids by Cathy Travis

The Boys' War by Jim Murphy

Charley Skedaddle by Patricia Beatty

Early Thunder by Jean Fritz

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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