

US & COLORADO CIVICS:

K-12 Civics & History Curriculum for Home Educating Families

Scope & Sequence

by Julianna (Dotten) Duerksen

Wondering how to best organize Colorado Civics to fit into your family's school year? I've put together a Scope and Sequence with an easy, week-by-week schedule. (And find out more about purchasing the book [here](#).)

While I hope this schedule is helpful, the book is written in more of a unit study style, so please take it as a suggestion and use the book to best fit your family's needs! While you certainly won't be able to fit all the activities and readings into a given week, I would suggest picking topics your students have been interested in to read further.

If you are planning to count this course for high school credit, you will need to ensure that it takes 120-180 hours for one credit and 60-90 for a half credit. So guarantee that you've chosen enough of the supplementary materials to fit.

Most importantly, I highly recommend reading aloud one of the recommended read-aloud books alongside the textbook. This will help the history come alive for your students!

While the following scope and sequence does not include all of the supplementary materials and activities mentioned in the book, it gives a sample of what each week might look like and points out the highlights.

Happy learning!

~ Julianna

Key:

EL/MI = Elementary/Middle School
HS = High School Readings



Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 1	American Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • 1.1 The English Common Law • 1.2 The Beginnings of American Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS: excerpts from <i>Sir William Blacstone and the Common Law</i> or <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> • EL/MI: <i>A Light Kindled, Stories of the Pilgrims, Sarah Morton's Day</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on: Draw a picture of the Lex/Rex concept • Pilgrim Day ideas/Succotash recipe
Week 2	Revolutionary War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.3 The War for Independence • 1.4 The Articles of Confederation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start read-aloud: <i>Reb and the Redcoats</i> or <i>Yankee Doodle Boy</i> • HS: 1776 or excerpts from <i>My Dearest Friend</i> and <i>The Articles of Confederation</i> • EL/MI: <i>Mary Geddy's Day</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on Activity: Watch this video of Patrick Henry's speech
Week 3	The Constitutional Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 Our First President • 1.6 The Constitutional Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud from last week • HS: Read this article. • EL/MI: <i>We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States</i> and <i>We the People</i>

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 3 continued	The Constitutional Convention		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on Activity: Matching Activity • Watch the Preamble Song
Week 4	Federal Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.7 Checks and Balances • 1.8 Separation of Powers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • HS: consider watching Constitutional Literacy or reading <i>Original Intent</i> • EL/MI: <i>A Balancing Act: A Look at Checks and Balances</i> • Learning Journal questions <p>Hands-on Activity: Checks and Balances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act of Three Branches
Week 5	Federal Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.9 Mixed Government • 1.10 The Three Jurisdictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • HS: <i>The American Covenant</i> • Consider watching <i>Monumental</i> documentary • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on Activity: Jurisdictions Skit
Week 6	Principles of Freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.11 Enumerated Powers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • Learning Journal questions

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 6 continued	Principles of Freedom		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands-on Activity: City and government types role-playing
Week 7	Principles of Freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.13 Religious Liberty • 1.14 Economic Freedom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud or start <i>Freedom</i> (Swanson) • HS: <i>Economics in One Lesson</i> or <i>The Law</i> • EL/MI: Nancy Loewon books, <i>Whatever Happened to Penny Candy?</i> • Learning Journal question • Hands-on activity: Separation poll • Watch this video on supply and demand • Review questions
Week 8	The Legislative Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 The House of Representatives • 2.2 The Senate • 2.3 The Life of a Bill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • HS: <i>The Constitution Made Easy</i> • EL/MI: <i>Cappy Tall's Capitol Tales</i>, <i>Washington DC ABCs</i>, <i>How Congress Works: A Look at the Legislative Branch</i> • Learning Journal questions • Find your representative • Watch some congressional proceedings on C-SPAN • Watch I'm Just a Bill

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 9	The Executive Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.4 The President • 2.5 The President's Cabinet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • EL/MI: <i>Smart About the Presidents, Woodrow: The White House Mouse, The Camping Trip That Changed America, and Meet the President's Cabinet</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Watch FDR's Fireside Chat 19
Week 10	The Judicial Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.6 The Court System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • EL/MI: <i>Marshall: the Court House Mouse, The Supreme Court and the Judicial Branch, Supreme Court</i> • Learning Journal questions • Review questions
Week 11	The Bill of Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1 The Bill of Rights • 3.2 The First Amendment: Religious Liberty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • HS: <i>From Parchment to Power, Original Intent</i> • EL/MI: <i>The Bill of Rights in Translation</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Research and sign a petition

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 12	The Bill of Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3 The Second Amendment • 3.4 The Third and Fourth Amendments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • HS: Read this article from the Blaze • EL/MI: <i>With My Rifle by My Side</i> • Learning Journal questions
Week 13	The Bill of Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.5 Amendments Five Through Eight • The Ninth and Tenth Amendments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Field trip to judicial center or police department • Review questions
Week 14	Voting and Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 The Importance of Voting • 4.2 Political Parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • EL/MI: <i>Woodrow for President</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Mock election and parties
Week 15	Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.3 The Presidential Race • 4.4 Primary vs. Caucus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • EL/MI: <i>Presidential Elections and Other Cool Facts, Duck for President, America Votes</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Watch

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 15 continued			<p>this summary of the Kennedy/Nixon debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue election simulation
Week 16	Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5 The Electoral College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • HS: <i>The Importance of the Electoral College</i> • EL/MI: <i>Today is Election Day, Our White House</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Look at a map of the electoral college • Review questions
Week 17	Patriotic Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1 Memorial Day • 5.2 Independence Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read-aloud “In Our Youth Our Hearts Were Touched by Fire” by Oliver Wendell Holmes and “In Flanders’ Fields” • EL/MI: <i>Memorial Day</i> • Hands-on activity: Make your own remembrance poppy • Founders charades
Week 18	Patriotic Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.3 Labor Day • 5.4 Veterans Day • 5.5 Thanksgiving Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud or start <i>Johnny Tremain</i> or <i>The Landing of the Pilgrims</i> • EL/MI: <i>Tuesday Tucks Me In, Squanto’s Journey, If You Were at the First Thanksgiving</i>

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 18 continued			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Journal questions Hands-on activity: Labor Day picture or Veteran's Day poster • Review questions
Week 19	Patriotic Symbols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.1 The Liberty Bell • 6.2 The Great Seal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • HS: <i>The Story of the Liberty Bell</i> • EL/MI: <i>The Bald Eagle</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Make your own Liberty Bell
Week 20	Patriotic Symbols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.3 Stars and Stripes • 6.4 The Statue of Liberty • 6.5 Mount Rushmore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • HS: <i>What So Proudly We Hailed or Enlightening the World</i> • EL/MI: <i>Betsy Ross and the Making of America, The Story of the Star-Spangled Banner, Red, White, Blue, and Uncle Who?, Hanging Off Jefferson's Nose</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Flag designing or Statue of Liberty model • Review questions

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 21	Colorado History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.1 Colorful Colorado • 7.2 The Indian Days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin <i>In the Heart of the Rockies</i> read-aloud • EL/MI: <i>Gold Nuggets of Colorado History, C is for Colorado</i> • Learning Journal questions • Field Trip: Visit a history museum • Make some Native American food
Week 22	Colorado History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.3 Early Expeditions • 7.4 The Long Expedition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • EL/MI: <i>The Lewis and Clark Expedition, The Land Beyond the Setting Sun</i> • Learning Journal questions • Field trip: Fort Garland Museum and Pike's Stockade • Hands-on activity: Natural history museum in a shoebox
Week 23	Colorado History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.5 Mountain Men and the Sante Fe Trail • 7.6 Mining Comes to Colorado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin <i>Kit Carson and the Wild Frontier</i> read-aloud • EL/MI: <i>Jed Smith</i> • Field trip: Visit Bent's Old Fort, Fort Lupton, or Fort Vasquez <p>and/or</p> <p>Tour a mine or visit the National Mining Hall of Fame</p>

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 24	Colorado History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.7 Father Dyer • 7.8 Conflicts on the Prairie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud or begin <i>The Snow-Show Itinerant</i> • Learning Journal questions
Week 25	Colorado History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.9 The Leadville Silver Bonanza • 7.10 Government Develops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • Learning Journal questions • Field trip: Visit the Matchless Mine, the Molly Brown House Museum, the Barney Ford Museum, or take a tour of the Capitol <p>Hands-on activity (HS): Summarize the excerpts from the Colorado Bill of Rights</p>
Week 26	Colorado History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.11 The War of the Railroads • 7.12 Agriculture, Cowboys, & Farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud or begin <i>Little Britches</i> • EL/MI: <i>General William Palmer, Ten Mile Day and the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad</i>, or take a look at <i>High Country Cowboys</i> • Learning Journal questions • Field trips: Visit the Museum of the Colorado Railroads, the Colorado Model Railroad Museum, the Royal Gorge Train, Rock Ledge Ranch, or the Littleton Historical Museum

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 27	Colorado History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.13 Hispanic Influence in Colorado • 7.14 Homeschooling in Colorado • 7.15 Colorado Symbols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud or being <i>Ten Peas in Pod</i> or <i>Home School Heroes</i> • EL/MI: <i>The Future Statesman's Handbook for Godly Government and U.S. Constitution</i> (available from CHEC), <i>How to Draw Colorado's Sights and Symbols</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Learn about a famous homeschooler or create a flag • Review questions
Week 28	Godly Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.1 What the Bible Says • 8.2 What the Founders Said 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Make prayer cards • Find a reliable public commentary source (like The Worldview in 5 Minutes)
Week 29	Godly Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.3 Self-Government • 8.4 Writing a Letter to the Letter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • HS: <i>The Changing of the Guard</i> • Learning Journal question • Hands-on activity: Word-find • Write a letter to editor

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities/Supplemental
Week 30	Godly Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.5 Campaigning • 8.6 Talking With Your Legislators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue read-aloud • EL/MI: <i>How Political Campaigns and Elections Work</i> • Learning Journal questions • Hands-on activity: Look into helping with a campaign or make an appointment with your legislator (find out more here).
Week 31	Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 8 Conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish read-alouds or other ongoing books • Questions for review • Consider taking some extra field trips from the Colorado History chapter • Hands-on activity: Look into some of the political organizations in the Appendix

About the Author: Julianna (Dotten) Duerksen



Julianna feels very blessed to have been homeschooled and disciplined by godly parents. She desires to see a new generation take hold of the same vision of Christ-centered education, and is privileged to serve CHEC as a marketing assistant. Julianna and her husband, Barry, are excited to start homeschooling their own children soon.

“I pray that God will use this guide to raise up a generation of young people passionate about exalting God in every area of life — including politics! May He alone be glorified!”