

Redrawing Democracy – 8th Grade Teacher Guide

Unit Overview

In this project, students examine how voting district boundaries influence elections and the fairness of democracy. Students will learn key vocabulary, analyze real maps of Georgia, and design their fair districts. They will work with simple data and create visual and written explanations of their new designs.

Pacing Guide (2 Weeks)

Week 1:

- Introduce vocabulary and concepts (Democracy, Voting, Redistricting, etc.)
- Analyze existing Georgia voting district maps (printed visuals)
- Small group discussions on fairness and representation
- Exit Ticket: Map analysis and key learnings

Week 2:

- Teach the basics of Census data and why districts are redrawn
- Students redesign their districts using paper templates
- Write short explanations (3-5 sentences) of their new designs
- Final presentations to peers or a classroom showcase

Materials Needed

- Print current Georgia district maps or simple handout versions
- Vocabulary handouts
- District map templates for redesign
- Civic engagement reflection sheets
- Basic art supplies (colored pencils, markers) for map drawing
- Rubrics for assessment (included in Student Packet)