



T E X A S
HOME SCHOOL
COALITION

Keeping Texas Families Free™

Lone Star Study

A Unit Study in Good Citizenship

Table of Contents

Introduction to the Parent	3
Project: Make a Lone Star Notebook	5
Lone Star Vocabulary	6
Good Citizenship	7
What is a Study of Good Citizenship?	10
Purpose of Government	19
Spheres of Government	20
Which Sphere?	21
Scavenger Hunt!	22
History of the Texas Constitution	26
My Constitution Worksheet	27
Statesman vs Politician	28
My Government	30
Executive Branch of Texas	31
Judicial Branch of Texas	34
Legislative Branch of Texas	38
My Legislature Worksheet	39
Checks and Balances	42
Who's in Office?	45
A Principled Approach to Analyzing Legislation	48
Project: Write a Report	50
A Citizen's Job	51
My Job	54
The Law by Frederic Bastiat	55
Closing	85
Answer Key	86

Introduction To the Parent

The Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) presents Lone Star Study (LSS). The LSS was compiled with all three branches of state government in mind, with an emphasis on the legislature. It is an ideal supplement to the THSC Capitol Days experience, allowing your students to delve more deeply into the process of government so that they may be involved in and fulfill their civic duties as well as meet the good citizenship requirement for Texas home school students. It is important to understand that a lack of action by all citizens in the realm of government inevitably leads to slowly and willfully surrendered freedoms and the unintended consequences which regrettably follow.

Grade Key

Some worksheets, activities, and projects in the LSS are geared toward specified grade levels. However, parents are encouraged to review the material and require completion of all aspects that will appropriately challenge their students, whether intended for lower or higher grades. An answer key is provided at the end of this textbook. There are symbols at the top of the pages indicating the grades for which the material is intended. Here is the key:

- Grades K-6
- Grades 7-12

- ☆ Grades 3-6 (with parental assistance)
- △ All Grades

Online Research

This unit study encourages research, much of which can be adequately done online. Helpful websites are listed as resources. Please monitor your student as he researches and finds answers to questions posed in this material. All websites referred to in the LSS are created and maintained by the state of Texas.

My Lone Star Notebook

Elementary-age students will create a notebook throughout the study. Watch for the notebook sign beside items students should add as they complete their unit study.

Vocabulary

All students can benefit from a strong vocabulary. Watch for vocabulary words at the beginning of each section. Elementary students should write these words on a separate sheet of paper and place them behind the Vocabulary Words tab of their Lone Star Notebook. Middle school and high school students should define any words that are not familiar.

The Report

For students in grades seven and up, the report component is critical to the LSS. The report is intended to reinforce the process of how a bill becomes law and how to track

and analyze legislation. It should be created throughout the process of completing the entire LSS. We recommend the report be five to seven pages in length. However, you may adjust the length requirement to best fit the ability of your student.

The Law

Included at the end of the LSS is an article written in 1850 called, "The Law." We recommend that older students read the article, as it is applicable today and serves as a reminder of the purpose of government.

The hope of the Texas Home School Coalition is that this unit study will broaden the horizons of your student, enabling him to better understand what happens on a governmental level and to become an active part of the process.