

**GRADES 3-8 SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR
PROJECT SUGGESTIONS/EXAMPLES BY CATEGORY**

Civics and Government:

1. Charts showing branches of federal government, their purpose and function.
2. Take parts of U.S. Constitution (or just the Bill of Rights) and find current newspaper articles that show they are working.
3. Attend several courtroom sessions. Tape record, take pictures, or make a written statement explaining courtroom procedures.
4. Interview a judge or lawyer using tape recorder or written notes. Zero in on one concept, e.g., how does work reflect that our government is or is not working.
5. Make a comparison of socialistic government vs. democracy.
6. Explore the types of other governments in the world. Tell why you would or would not want to live there.
7. Create a government of your own. Write a constitution. Appoint types of leaders. How did they get their position? What would satisfy the people of your nation? How do they support their nation?
8. Pretend to run for a federal office: President, Senator, etc.
 - How will you get your money for the campaign?
 - What media would you use to get yourself known?
 - Write a campaign speech.
 - Create a poster/bumper sticker.
 - Tell why you would make a good candidate.
9. Make a portfolio or scrapbook about one elected official.
 - Make statements about their philosophy, record of voting in Congress, and articles in the paper about them. Explain why you would or would not support them.
10. Keep a scrapbook of worldly, national, state, or local events for a designated time (two months).
11. Video tape all three national news broadcasts for several weeks.
 - Compare coverage
 - Which did the best job in your opinion, and why?
12. Compare national magazines. Which gives the best coverage?
13. Make a comparison of newspapers, magazines, and television. Which media is best for certain occupations and why (lawyer, factory worker, teacher, housewife)?

Civics and Government (Cont'd.):

14. Make a chart explaining the U.S. voting system.
 - Find statistics.
 - Graph percentages of voters in past elections.
 - Who is selecting our government officials today?
15. Trace the history of the vote from the beginning of our country.
 - Who votes?
 - How did they vote?
16. Investigate one department of local government.
 - Go to the courthouse (City Hall) and speak with officials.
 - Take pictures.
 - Get samples of documents from the Register of Deeds, Treasurer, etc.
17. Trace the history of a law.
 - Beginnings in House of Representatives, Senate, or Executive Branch.
 - Brought by citizens.
 - How does legislation become a law?
18. Suppose our government was going to make a law you do not approve of.
 - Tell what you would do to stop it.
 - Which ways are legal?
 - How do you let your opinion be known?
19. Write your own newspaper.
 - Include "x" number of world, national, state and local activities.
 - Make a newspaper for another country.
 - What would you want people to know about your country?
20. Find laws of two different places. Compare how they work.
 - Example: Do they have capital punishment?
 - What is the impact of crime?

People, Customs, and Ways of Life:

1. Find pictures, do interviews, and write about the role of community helpers.
2. Show how transportation helps us in our daily lives.
3. Pictorial display of types of clothing worn in different countries of the world.
 - How do weather, social habits, and customs affect dress?
 - Example: Possibly dress dolls to show.
4. Make a family tree.
 - Use pictures for recent members.
 - Information: Location of members, show them on a map.
5. Make a comparison of two ways of life, e.g., Mayan/Aztec Indians.

History:

1. Make a diorama depicting an event in history.
 - Pilgrim landing or signing the Declaration of Independence.
2. Shoe box doll house showing different time periods of history/present day.
3. Create a newspaper from a special event in history.
4. Time table explaining events.
 - Use just a portion of history showing pictures and newspaper clippings.
5. Write a speech by an important person in history.
 - Make a puppet or doll showing the person.
 - Tape record or video record the speech giving expression to it.
6. Write a play or story line of an important event in history.
 - Have friends help you record it so you have different voices for different people.
7. Create a news broadcast from an important event in the past.
 - Make a box theater.
 - Make roll pictures with captions.
 - Create your own video.
8. Take a current newspaper article, trace the many past events that had an influence on the event.
 - Example: Strike at Patrick Cudahy. Find history of unions, labor, laws, etc.
9. Create posters and charts depicting strategy of past battles and wars. Use battleship game to show one of the plans for a sea battle of the past.

10. Make models of past warships and explain their impact on the war.
11. Make a scene showing battles using little models of ships, and show the terrain. Explain their impact on the war.
12. Pick out a character in history.
 - Write a journal, as if you were the person.
 - Example: Napoleon, Attila the Hun, Hitler
13. Pick out a president of the past.
 - Write a campaign speech, record it.
 - Create a campaign poster, buttons, etc.
14. Make a series of maps showing the history of borderline changes and control by the government. Use transparencies.
15. Make a map of Wisconsin, USA, the world, etc. Put in where certain historical events took place.

Geography:

1. Make relief maps of different places in the world.
2. Find pictures showing different types of terrain. Put them on a map. Show where you would find that type of land.
3. Make graphs showing average rainfall, temperature, etc. for various places. Would you want to live there? Why?
4. Describe the climate of several places in the world. Explain why you would like to live in one of the locations.
5. Maps of places: World, USA, Wisconsin. Show capitals and county seats.
6. Map of Wisconsin or world. Include important places. List distances from your home to that place. Suggest various ways in which you would travel there.
7. Make a booklet showing and explaining types of climate and geography. Find articles explaining the weather in certain places.
8. Write letters to various state Chambers of Commerce. Ask information about climate, places of interest, etc. Make a portfolio.