

Citizenship: Just the Facts

Time Needed: One class period

Materials Needed:

Student worksheets

Teacher materials

Projector

Copy Instructions:

Reading (2 pages; class set)

Graphic Organizer (1 page; class set)

Worksheets (2 pages; class set)

Learning Objectives. Students will be able to:

- Define citizenship
- Identify ways to become a U.S. citizen
- Describe loyalty and treason
- Identify the U.S. national anthem and major U.S. holidays, including Independence Day
- List rights and responsibilities of both U.S. citizens and all U.S. residents
- Define the Selective Service System
- Trace the progress of citizenship and voting rights for different groups over time

STEP BY STEP

- ANTICIPATE** by asking students what it means to be a U.S. citizen, what citizens do, and whether there are any expectations of citizens. Write their answers on the board.
- DISTRIBUTE** the reading and graphic organizer.
- READ** the first two paragraphs of the reading with the class, pausing to help them fill out the Graphic Organizer.
- PROJECT** the "Oath of Allegiance" projection master after finishing the second paragraph
- DISCUSS** the Oath with your class. Refer to their answers from the anticipation activity and help them make any connections between what they said and what's in the Oath.
- CONTINUE** the reading and the graphic organizer.
- REVIEW** the graphic organizer as a class.
- CHECK** for understanding by doing the true/false informal assessment.
- DISTRIBUTE** the worksheet activity.
- ASSIGN** students to complete the worksheet activities. Review answers if you wish.
- CLOSE** by asking students to think up one "quiz" question based on this lesson and write it down. Have students quiz a partner with their questions, or call on students to ask their questions to the entire class.

U.S. Citizenship: Just the Facts

Name: _____

Already A U.S. Citizen?

Citizenship means being a member of a country and having full rights and responsibilities under that country's law. Some people are born a United States citizen. People who are born in the United States are automatically citizens at birth. So are people born outside the U.S. to parents who are both citizens. The rules can get a bit complicated for people born outside the U.S. who have only one citizen parent, but generally they are also citizens at birth.



Citizen Parents



Born in the U.S.



Naturalized



New citizens take the Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony in Boston.

Becoming a U.S. Citizen

What if you weren't born in the U.S. and neither of your parents are U.S. citizens? You can still become a citizen through a process called **naturalization**. To qualify, applicants must be at least 18 years old and have been permanent residents of the United States for 5 years. (There is one shortcut: People who serve in the U.S. military for at least one year can become citizens sooner because they have demonstrated their commitment to the United States.) Applicants must also have good character, speak English, and pass a civics test and an interview. As a final step, they must take an **Oath of Allegiance** swearing loyalty to the United States and our Constitution.

Allegiance: Citizens Owe It

People who go through the naturalization process aren't the only ones who must be loyal to the United States. *All* U.S. citizens owe allegiance to our country. **Treason** is the act of betraying your country, and the U.S. Constitution makes this crime punishable by death! People who were born citizens may not think about allegiance as much as those preparing to take the Oath, but you can probably remember a time when you've said this word... Maybe even this morning! Americans often say the **Pledge of Allegiance** to show loyalty to the United States flag and the nation it stands for.



The U.S. flag has one stripe for each of the 13 original states and one star for each current state. Right now there are 50 stars.

Love of Country

Beyond owing allegiance to the United States, most U.S. citizens feel a deep bond with their country. We call this feeling **patriotism**. Many citizens get emotional when they hear the national anthem, which is called **The Star Spangled Banner**. Every July 4th, Americans celebrate **Independence Day**—the day the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, when the American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. Other national holidays, such as **Presidents' Day**, **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, honor the lives and sacrifices of important Americans. **Memorial Day** and **Veterans Day** are two national holidays honoring those who lost their lives or served in the U.S. military, and they can be very emotional days for many U.S. citizens.



Each Memorial Day, Americans in towns across the nation line up to watch local parades honoring those who have died.

Citizenship: Just the Facts

Rights in the United States

The United States is known for the rights and freedoms given to those who live here. The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are called the **Bill of Rights**. They list important rights that are guaranteed to all people in the United States—not just citizens! These are rights like the freedom of expression and the freedom to worship, assemble peacefully, and petition the government, as well as the right to be free from unreasonable searches by government officials. But some rights are only for U.S. citizens. These include the right to vote in federal elections, the right to run for federal political office, and the right to serve on a jury.



Those accused of a crime in the U.S. have the right to a speedy trial.



If needed, the Selective Service would use a lottery to draft men to serve.

Responsibilities, Too!

Along with all these freedoms come some responsibilities. Everyone in the U.S. is responsible for obeying laws. Citizens are also responsible for voting in elections and serving on juries when asked. (Yes, these are both rights *and* responsibilities!) Male citizens between ages 18 and 26 must also register with the **Selective Service System**. In a time of national emergency, this agency is authorized to call up these citizens to serve in the armed forces.

U.S. Citizenship Timeline

- 1776 You must be a white male *and* own property to **vote!**
- 1791 All white males may vote even if they don't own property!
- 1795 "Free white persons" will become **citizens** after living in the U.S. for five years.
- 1848 80,000 Mexican residents of the Southwest are granted **citizenship** after the Mexican-American war.
- 1857 In *Dred Scott v. Sandford* the U.S. Supreme Court rules that African Americans who were brought into this country as slaves could never be citizens.
- 1868 The **14th Amendment** overrules *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, giving citizenship to African Americans.
- 1870 Laws changed to say that "white persons and persons of African descent" can be citizens; The **15th Amendment** gives African Americans the right to vote!
- 1913 Several states enact Alien Land Laws prohibiting non-citizens from owning property.
- 1920 The **19th Amendment** allows women to vote!
- 1924 All **Native Americans** are granted citizenship.
- 1940's All laws banning **Asians** from becoming citizens are overturned.
- 1947 Native Americans are given the right to vote!
- 1952 U.S. Congress passes a law that citizenship cannot be denied because of **race** or **gender**
- 1965 The **Voting Rights Act** gets rid of all barriers to voting, such as taxes and literacy tests
- 1971 The voting age is lowered from 21 to 18 by the **26th Amendment!**



allegiance:
loyalty to a
person, country,
or belief

abjure:
reject

fidelity:
loyalty

potentate:
ruler

heretofore:
before now

bear arms:
carry weapons

**noncombatant
service:** non-
fighting duties

**under civilian
direction:** not
led by the
military

reservation:
doubt

evasion:
avoiding the
truth

The Naturalization Oath of *Allegiance* to the United States of America

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and *abjure* all allegiance and *fidelity* to any foreign prince, *potentate*, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have *heretofore* been a subject or citizen;

that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

that I will *bear arms* on behalf of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform *noncombatant service* in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform work of national importance *under civilian direction* when required by the law;

and that I take this obligation freely without any mental *reservation* or purpose of *evasion*; so help me God.



Birth

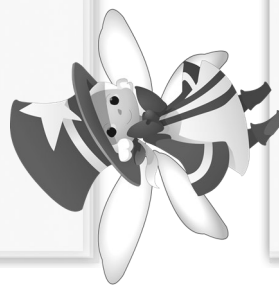
Two main ways to be a U.S. citizen by birth:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Naturalization

List 6 requirements:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



CITIZENSHIP

ALL ABOUT U.S. CITIZENS

HISTORY

Citizenship

Groups given the right to U.S. citizenship after 1860:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Voting

Group that always had the right:

- _____
- Groups given the right in...
- 1870: _____
 - 1920: _____
 - 1947: _____

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Rights

3 rights only for U.S. citizens:

- _____
- _____
- _____

3 rights for ALL U.S. residents:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Responsibilities

Everyone in the U.S. must:

- _____

Responsibilities for U.S. citizens:

- _____
- _____

Male U.S. citizens must:

- _____

DUTY & HONOR

Allegiance

Allegiance: All U.S. citizens

must be _____ to the U.S.

Patriotism

Patriotism: The _____

_____ most citizens feel with their country.

Treason: _____

U.S. National Anthem: _____

Pledge of Allegiance: _____

Independence Day: _____

Informal Assessment: True or False

Directions: After working through the reading pages with the class, read each true/false statement out loud. Have the class respond as a group by...

- Showing thumbs-up for true or thumbs-down for false
- Saying “true” or “false” as a chorus

Watch or listen for wrong or mixed answers. Use each statement as a springboard for quick review/discussion before moving on.

1. U.S. citizens are people who were born in the United States. (T)
2. People who want to become naturalized must meet a set of requirements. (T)
3. When Americans say the Oath of Allegiance, they are swearing loyalty to the flag. (F — Pledge of Allegiance)
4. The crime of betraying your country is called treason. (T)
5. The U.S. flag has one stripe for each state and one star for each year the U.S. has been a country. (F — one star for each state and one stripe for each of the 13 original states)
6. Patriotism is the love or deep bond citizens feel for their country. (T)
7. Each year on July 4th, Americans celebrate Presidents’ Day. (F — Independence Day)
8. The first ten constitutional amendments list which Americans can vote and which can’t. (F — Bill of Rights; lists important rights guaranteed to all people living in the U.S.)
9. Everyone living in the U.S. has the right to freedom of expression and freedom to assemble peacefully. (T)
10. There are some rights and responsibilities that are only for U.S. citizens. (T)
11. The Selective Service decides who gets to become a naturalized citizen. (F — can call up citizens to serve in the military during a national emergency)
12. When the United States began, only white male property owners were allowed to vote. (T)

Citizenship: Just the Facts

Name: _____

A. Citizenship Checkup. Decide whether each person is already a citizen, eligible for naturalization, or must wait to apply.



I was born in the Philippines, but I've been living in the U.S. as a permanent resident for 6 years. I'm 28 years old.

1. Citizen Eligible Wait

I'm 20 years old, and I was born in Korea. My parents are both U.S. citizens.



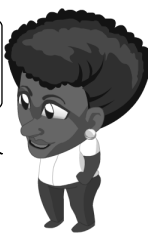
2. Citizen Eligible Wait



I'm 34 years old. My mother and father are citizens of Russia. I have been a permanent resident in the U.S. for 3 years.

3. Citizen Eligible Wait

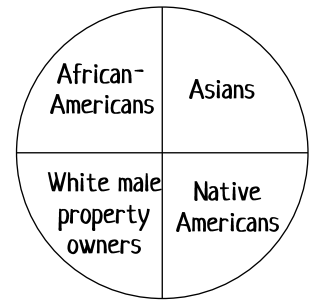
I'm only 17 years old, but I just got to spend a year living in Paris! I was born in Helena, Montana.



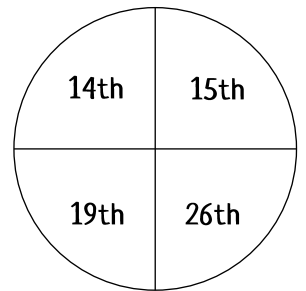
4. Citizen Eligible Wait

B. Which One Doesn't Belong? Cross out the part of each circle that does not belong. Explain why it's a mismatch.

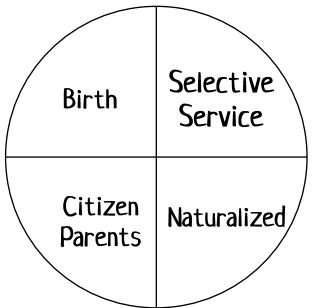
1. It's a mismatch because



2. It's a mismatch because



3. It's a mismatch because



C. Citizenship & Voting. This is a lesson about citizenship, so why all the information about voting rights? What does citizenship have to do with voting? That's the question YOU are going to figure out right here! Read the facts about voting, then explain the connection.

Explain the relationship between citizenship and the right to vote:

Facts About Voting

- The people who vote get to choose who will be part of the government.
- People elected to government make decisions about issues that affect everyone.
- The people's power to vote is the way change happens in government.

Citizenship: Just the Facts

Name: _____

D. Matching.

Match each sentence with the correct ending.



- _____ 1. Male U.S. citizens age 18 - 26 must register with ...
- _____ 2. People who weren't born U.S. citizens can still obtain citizenship through a process called...
- _____ 3. Someone who has betrayed his or her country might be convicted of...
- _____ 4. When you are a member of a country with full rights and responsibilities in that country, you have...
- _____ 5. Another word for loyalty is...
- _____ 6. You can find a list of rights guaranteed to all U.S. residents in the Bill of Rights, which is...
- _____ 7. When Americans sing "The Star-Spangled Banner," they are singing...
- _____ 8. The final step of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen is taking the...
- _____ 9. When Americans say the Pledge of Allegiance, they are...
- _____ 10. Every July 4, Americans celebrate...

- A. a crime called treason.
- B. allegiance.
- C. the U.S. national anthem.
- D. Independence Day.
- E. the Selective Service.
- F. showing loyalty to the flag.
- G. Oath of Allegiance.
- H. citizenship.
- I. naturalization.
- J. the first ten constitutional amendments.

E. Not So Long Ago.

Math? In social studies?? Sure! Use your subtraction skills to find out how long each group has been allowed to vote in the U.S.

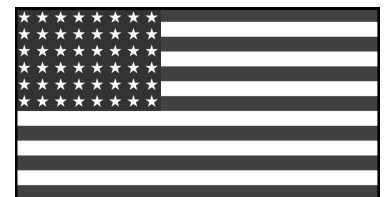
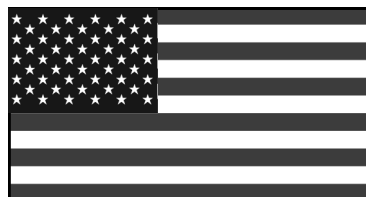
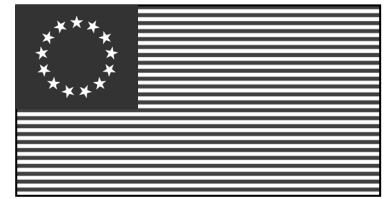
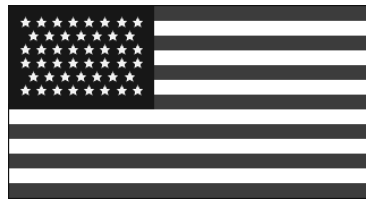
	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">African Americans can vote!</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Women can vote!</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">People 18 - 20 can vote!</p> </div>
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<i>Year amendment passed:</i>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
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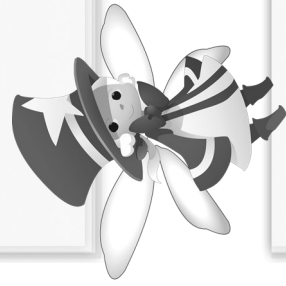
F. Find That Flag!

Solve this puzzle:

- Right now, there are 50 states.
- The last two states to be admitted were Alaska and Hawaii in 1959.
- Before that, no new states had been admitted since Arizona and New Mexico became states in 1912.

What did the flag look like in **1940**?





ALL ABOUT U.S. CITIZENS

CITIZENSHIP

Birth

Two main ways to be a U.S. citizen by birth:

- Born in the U.S. _____
- _____
- Parents are U.S. citizens _____
- _____
- Take Oath of Allegiance _____

Naturalization

List 6 requirements:

- At least 18 _____
- Permanent resident 5 yrs _____
- Good character _____
- Speak English _____
- Pass test & interview _____
- _____

HISTORY

Citizenship

Groups given the right to U.S. citizenship after 1860:

- African-Americans _____
- Native Americans _____
- Asians _____
- White male property owners _____
- Groups given the right in...
- 1870: African-Americans _____
- 1920: Women _____
- 1947: Native Americans _____
- 1971: Age 18-20 _____

Voting

Group that always had the right:

- White male property owners _____
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RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Rights

- 3 rights only for U.S. citizens:
- Vote in federal elections _____
 - Run for federal political office _____
 - Serve on a jury _____
- 3 rights for ALL U.S. residents:
- Freedom of expression; work _____
 - Freedom of assembly; petition _____
 - No unreasonable searches _____

Responsibilities

- Everyone in the U.S. must:
- Obey the law _____
- Responsibilities for U.S. citizens:
- Voting _____
 - Serving on a jury _____
- Male U.S. citizens must:
- Register w/Selective Ser- _____

DUTY & HONOR

Allegiance

Allegiance: All U.S. citizens must be loyal to the U.S.

Treason: The crime of betraying your country

Pledge of Allegiance:
Said by Americans to show loyalty to the flag & country

Patriotism

Patriotism: The deep bond or love most citizens feel with their country.

U.S. National Anthem:
The Star-Spangled Banner

Independence Day:
July 4

Citizenship: Just the Facts

Name: **** TEACHER GUIDE ****

A. Citizenship Checkup. Decide whether each person is already a citizen, eligible for naturalization, or must wait to apply.



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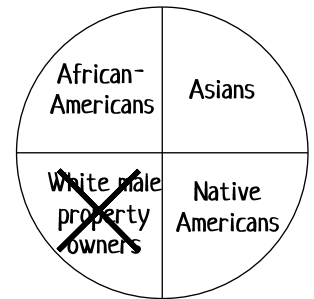
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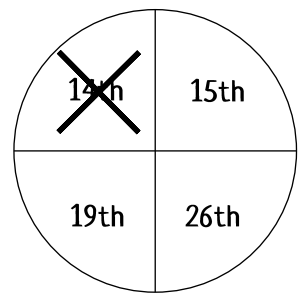
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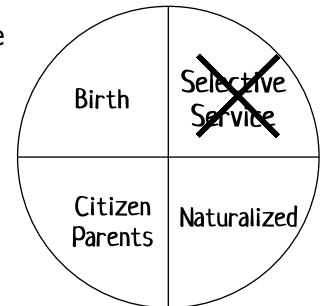
1. It's a mismatch because All the other groups were not allowed to vote at some point in history.



2. It's a mismatch because The 14th amendment gave citizenship while the others gave the right to vote.



3. It's a mismatch because All the others are ways to become a U.S. citizen.



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Answers will vary but should touch on the idea that having a voice is part of citizenship.

Citizenship: Just the Facts

Name: **** TEACHER GUIDE ****



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- B 5. Another word for loyalty is...
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<i>Year amendment passed:</i>	1870	1920	1971
<i>Do the math to find out how many years ago it was:</i>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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