Teacher’s Guide

Citizenship: Just the Facts

Time Needed: One class period

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

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)

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.

Media Literacy Moment

Have the class research trends in immigration statistics (number of undocumented immigrants, countries of origin, education, labor force participation, etc.) over the past 20 years.

Discussion opportunities:
• What did students discover that surprised them? Do the facts differ from narratives presented in the media? Have students discuss the discrepancies they identified and the importance of fact-checking.
• Ask students to explore each online source’s ‘about’ page. How do these organizations describe their mission? How are they funded? How is public policy shaped by the data they provide?

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Citizenship: Just the Facts

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.

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.

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** and **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.
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 peaceably, 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.

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.
- **1871**: Several states enact Alien Land Laws prohibiting non-citizens from owning property.
- **1890**: 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!
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.
CITIZENSHIP

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

Naturalization
List 6 requirements:
• ______________________
• ______________________
• ______________________
• ______________________
• ______________________
• ______________________

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

Voting
Group that always had the right:
• ______________________

All U.S. residents:
1870: ____________________
1920: ____________________
1947: ____________________
1971: ____________________

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:
• ______________________
• ______________________
• ______________________

Duty & Honor

Allegiance
All U.S. citizens must be __________ to the U.S. __________ most citizens feel with their country.

Pledge of Allegiance:
____________________________________
____________________________________

Patriotism
The __________

Treason: ______________________
U.S. National Anthem:
____________________________________

Independence Day:
____________________________________

Male U.S. citizens must:
• ______________________
• ______________________

HISTORY

ALL ABOUT U.S. CITIZENS

Groups given the right in...
1870: ____________________
1920: ____________________
1947: ____________________
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)
A. Citizenship Checkup. Decide whether each person is already a citizen, eligible for naturalization, or must wait to apply.

1. ○ Citizen ○ Eligible ○ Wait
   - 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.
   - I'm 20 years old, and I was born in Korea. My parents are both U.S. citizens.
   - 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.
   - I'm only 17 years old, but I just got to spend a year living in Paris! I was born in Helena, Montana.

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.

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...
A. a crime called treason.

_____ 2. People who weren't born U.S. citizens can still obtain citizenship through a process called...
B. allegiance.

_____ 3. Someone who has betrayed his or her country might be convicted of...
C. the U.S. national anthem.

_____ 4. When you are a member of a country with full rights and responsibilities in that country, you have...
D. Independence Day.

_____ 5. Another word for loyalty is...
E. the Selective Service.

_____ 6. You can find a list of rights guaranteed to all U.S. residents in the Bill of Rights, which is...
F. showing loyalty to the flag.

_____ 7. When Americans sing "The Star-Spangled Banner," they are singing...
G. Oath of Allegiance.

_____ 8. The final step of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen is taking the...
H. citizenship.

_____ 9. When Americans say the Pledge of Allegiance, they are...
I. naturalization.

_____ 10. Every July 4, Americans celebrate...
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Year Right Now</th>
<th>Year Amendment Passed</th>
<th>Do the Math to Find Out How Many Years Ago It Was</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People 18 - 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?
Citizenship: Just the Facts

** TEACHER GUIDE **

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**CITIZENSHIP**

- **Birth**
  - Two main ways to be a U.S. citizen by birth:
    - Born in the U.S.
    - Parents are U.S. citizens

- **Naturalization**
  - List 6 requirements:
    - At least 18
    - Permanent resident 5 yrs.
    - Good character
    - Speak English
    - Past test & interview
    - Take Oath of Allegiance

- **Citizenship**
  - Groups given the right to U.S. citizenship after 1860:
    - African-Americans
    - Native Americans
    - Asians

- **Voting**
  - Group that always had the right: White male property owners
  - Groups given the right in:
    - 1870: African-Americans
    - 1920: Women
    - 1947: Native Americans
    - 1971: Age 18-20

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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

- **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 Service

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**HISTORY**

- **ALL ABOUT U.S. CITIZENS**
  - Born in the U.S.
  - Parents are U.S. citizens
  - At least 18
  - Permanent resident 5 yrs.
  - Good character
  - Speak English
  - Past test & interview
  - Take Oath of Allegiance

- **GROUPS GIVEN THE RIGHT TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP AFTER 1860:**
  - African-Americans
  - Native Americans
  - Asians

- **GROUPS GIVEN THE RIGHT IN:**
  - 1870: African-Americans
  - 1920: Women
  - 1947: Native Americans
  - 1971: Age 18-20

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**DUTY & HONOR**

- **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**
  - The **deep bond** or love most citizens feel with their country.

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

- **Independence Day**
  - July 4
**TEACHER GUIDE**

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

1. ○ Citizen ○ Eligible ○ Wait
   - 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.
   - 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.

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 All the other groups were not allowed to vote at some point in history.
   - African-Americans
   - Native Americans
   - White male property owners
   - Asians

2. It’s a mismatch because The 14th Amendment gave citizenship while the others gave the right to vote.
   - 14th
   - 15th
   - 19th
   - 26th

3. It’s a mismatch because All the others are ways to become a U.S. citizen.
   - Birth
   - Selective Service
   - Citizen Parents
   - Naturalized

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.

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.

Explain the relationship between citizenship and the right to vote:

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

** TEACHER GUIDE **

D. Matching. Match each sentence with the correct ending.

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

The year right now: __________
Year amendment passed: 1870
1920
1971
Do the math to find out how many years ago it was:

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?