Citizenship: Just the Facts

Learning Objectives. Students will be able to:

- Define citizenship
- Describe the process of becoming a US citizen (naturalization)
- Analyze the Oath of Allegiance
- Identify ways the rights of citizenship have changed over time

Time Needed: One class period

Materials Needed:
Student worksheets
Optional T/F cards

Copy Instructions:
Reading (2 pages; class set)
Graphic Organizer (1 page; class set)
Worksheets (2 pages; class set)
T/F cards (1/3 page; class set; optional)

STEP BY STEP

☐ **ANTICIPATE** by asking the question: “What does it mean to be a member of something?” Write down key words from their answers on the board.

☐ **DISTRIBUTE** the reading and graphic organizer.

☐ **READ** the reading with the class, pausing to fill out the Graphic Organizer with your students as you go.

☐ **REVIEW** the graphic organizer as a class.

☐ **CHECK** for understanding by doing the true/false anticipation activity.

☐ **DISTRIBUTE** the worksheet activity.

☐ **REVIEW** instructions for the activities.

☐ **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.
True/False Active Participation Activity

Option 1: Choral Response  Tell the class you will ask a series of questions and that they are to answer as a chorus. Tell them to wait to answer until you ask for the answer. Ask each question twice, give wait time, then ask for the answer. Call on students to explain why “false” or wrong answer choices are incorrect.

Option 2: T/F Cards  Distribute the “T/F” foldable cards to each student. Tell the class you will ask a series of questions and that they are to hold up “T” for true answers and “F” for false answers when you tell them to. Read each question prompt twice, provide wait time, then ask your class to hold up their cards. Call on students to explain why “false” or wrong answer choices are incorrect.

1. Naturalization is the process that allows you to be more natural.  FALSE
2. To be naturalized you must be under 18 yrs old.  FALSE
3. In 1791, the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution.  TRUE
4. Women have always had the right to vote.  FALSE
5. Allegiance means loyalty to a person, country, or belief.  TRUE
6. People who serve in the U.S. Military at least a year can become citizens.  TRUE
7. Today, you must be 21 years old to vote.  FALSE
8. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a march to protest the lack of food in the South.  FALSE
9. Today, people can be citizens regardless of their race or gender.  TRUE
10. As citizens, we have both rights and responsibilities.  TRUE
Becoming A Citizen

Citizenship means being a member of a nation or country and having full rights and responsibilities under the law. In the United States, there are three ways to become a citizen: being born in the United States, having parents who are citizens of the United States, and going through a process called naturalization.

Naturalization is the process that allows immigrants to become citizens. Most people who apply for citizenship fall into this category. To qualify, immigrants must be at least 18 years old and have been permanent residents of the United States for 5 years. They must also have good character, speak English, and pass a civics test and an interview. The last step involves taking an Oath of Allegiance to the United States and our Constitution. 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.

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

The Oath of Allegiance

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: Just the Facts

## Rights & Responsibilities

In 1791, ten changes, called *amendments*, were added to the Constitution. These first ten amendments are called the **Bill of Rights**. The Bill of Rights guarantees certain rights to United States citizens. These rights include freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, protection under the law, access to the judicial system, and more. But along with all these freedoms come some responsibilities. As citizens, we are responsible for things like serving on juries, obeying laws, tolerating differences in those around us, and participating in our government—for example, by voting.

## Citizenship in History

When the Bill of Rights was added to our constitution only “free white persons” were considered citizens. When the Civil War ended in 1865, the 14th Amendment was added to the Constitution. It granted citizenship to all people born in the United States. Over the next 100 years, citizenship was granted to Native Americans and children born to American parents outside the United States. In 1952, the U.S. Congress passed a law to say that citizenship could not be denied because of a person’s race or gender.

### 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**: California and other 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!
- **1965**: Martin Luther King, Jr. leads a march to protest lack of voting rights, and the *Voting* Rights Act gets rid of all barriers to voting (literacy tests, taxes, etc.).
- **1971**: The voting age is changed to 18 by the **26th Amendment**!
### Citizenship: Just the Facts

#### Naturalization
List five qualifications for citizenship by naturalization:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

#### History
- In 1791, ten ____________, called the ________________ were added to the Constitution.
- In 1868, the _______Amendment granted citizenship to _________________.
- In 1952, Congress passed a law that citizenship could not be denied because of ________________ or ________________.

#### Citizenship
Definition:

#### Rights
List five rights guaranteed to United States citizens:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

#### Responsibilities
List five responsibilities a citizen of the U.S. has:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5.
A. Is it in the Oath? First, put an X next to the lines that are required by the Oath of Allegiance. Then put a ★ next to the three lines that you would include if you were writing your own oath. These can be the same or different than things in the U.S. Oath.

2. Promising to be kind to other people.
3. Protecting and supporting the Constitution and laws of the U.S. against any attack.
4. Promising to always take care of the environment.
5. Promising all these things without hesitation and without lying.
6. Fulfilling duties other than fighting to support the Armed Forces.
7. Serving both my new country and my old country.
8. Swearing to say the Pledge of Allegiance every day.
9. Doing things that are important to the nation when the law requires it.
10. Serving in the military to protect the United States when the law says I need to.
11. Promising to take care of my family and friends.
12. Completely rejecting all loyalty that I have to another country or ruler.

B. Fill in the blank. Fill in the blanks below with words from the word box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>allegiance</th>
<th>eighteen</th>
<th>naturalization</th>
<th>oath</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>military</td>
<td>five</td>
<td>one</td>
<td>three</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. There are _________ ways to become a citizen of the United States.
2. The process of becoming a U.S. citizen when you are not born in the United States or to parents who are U.S. citizens is called ____________________________.
3. Most people who apply for citizenship are older than ____________ and have lived in the United States for ____________ years.
4. One way to become a citizen more quickly is to serve in the ____________________ for ____________ year.
5. The last step in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen is taking the ___________________ of __________________________________.
C. Matching. Match each sentence with the correct ending.

_____ 1. Originally, the only people allowed to vote were ...
A. the year 1795.
B. 19\textsuperscript{th} Amendment.
C. barriers to voting.
D. age of 18.
E. property owning, white males.
F. the year 1870.
G. \textit{Dred Scott v. Sandford}.
H. the right to vote!

_____ 2. The case that said that African-Americans brought into the country as slaves could never be citizens was...

_____ 3. “Free, white persons” that had lived in the US for five years were given citizenship in...

_____ 4. \textit{Dred Scott v. Sandford} was overruled in...

_____ 5. The 15\textsuperscript{th} Amendment to the Constitution gives African Americans...

_____ 6. Women were given the right to vote by the...

_____ 7. According to the 26\textsuperscript{th} Amendment you can vote if you are over the...

_____ 8. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a protest against...

D. How long ago was it? Do the subtraction problems below to find out how long each group has been allowed to vote in the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>African Americans can vote!</th>
<th>Women can vote!</th>
<th>People over 18 can vote!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What year is it now?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What year did the Amendment pass?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long ago was it?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. True or False. Determine if the following sentence is true or false. Then, support your answer by giving TWO examples.

Citizenship in the United States has always had the same meaning.

☐ True
☐ False
Citizenship: Just the Facts

Naturalization

List five qualifications for citizenship by naturalization:

1. Over 18 years old
2. Permanent resident for 5 years
3. Good character
4. Speak English
5. Pass a civics test and an interview

History

- In 1791, ten __________ amendments ________, called the __________ Bill of Rights ________ were added to the Constitution.
- In 1868, the __________ Amendment granted citizenship to All people born in the United States __________.
- In 1952, Congress passed a law that citizenship could not be denied because of __________ gender ________ or __________ race ________.

Citizenship

Definition:
To be a member of a nation or country, and to have full rights and responsibilities under the law.

Rights

List five rights guaranteed to United States citizens:

1. Freedom of speech
2. Freedom of religion
3. Freedom of the press
4. Protection under the law
5. Access to the judicial system

Responsibilities

List five responsibilities a citizen of the U.S. has:

1. Serving on juries
2. Obeying laws
3. Tolerating differences in those around us
4. Participating in our government
5. Voting
Citizenship: Just the Facts

A. Is it in the Oath? First, put an X next to the lines that are required by the Oath of Allegiance. Then put a ★ next to the three lines that you would include if you were writing your own oath. These can be the same or different than things in the U.S. Oath.

- 2. Giving loyalty to vegetables. Vegetables are the best.
- X 3. Protecting and supporting the Constitution and laws of the U.S. against any attack.
- 4. Promising to always take care of the environment.
- X 5. Promising all these things without hesitation and without lying.
- X 6. Fulfilling duties other than fighting to support the Armed Forces.
- 7. Serving both my new country and my old country.
- 8. Swearing to say the Pledge of Allegiance every day.
- X 9. Doing things that are important to the nation when the law requires it.
- X 10. Serving in the military to protect the United States when the law says I need to.
- 11. Promising to take care of my family and friends.
- X 12. Completely rejecting all loyalty that I have to another country or ruler.

B. Fill in the blank. Fill in the blanks below with words from the word box.

allegiance eighteen naturalization oath
military five one three

1. There are three ways to become a citizen of the United States.
2. The process of becoming a U.S. citizen when you are not born in the United States or to parents who are U.S. citizens is called naturalization.
3. Most people who apply for citizenship are older than eighteen and have lived in the United States for five years.
4. One way to become a citizen more quickly is to serve in the military for one year.
5. The last step in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen is taking the Oath of Allegiance.
C. Matching. Match each sentence with the correct ending.

______ 1. Originally, the only people allowed to vote were ...

______ 2. The case that said that African-Americans brought into the country as slaves could never be citizens was...

______ 3. “Free, white persons” that had lived in the US for five years were given citizenship in...

______ 4. *Dred Scott v. Sandford* was overruled in...

______ 5. The 15th Amendment to the Constitution gives African Americans...

______ 6. Women were given the right to vote by the...

______ 7. According to the 26th Amendment you can vote if you are over the...

______ 8. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a protest against...

D. How long ago was it? Do the subtraction problems below to find out how long each Amendment has been in effect!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>How long ago was it?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Americans can vote!</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women can vote</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People over 18 can vote</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. True or False. Determine if the following sentence is TRUE or FALSE. Then, support your answer by giving TWO examples.

Citizenship in the United States has always had the same meaning.

☐ True
☑️ False