



**Contributor:** Mary Sue Dougherty **Grade Level:** 6-12

**1. Identify the standards to be addressed:** Social Studies Learning for Virginia Public Schools

Civics and Economics: CE.1 a, d, e; CE.2,2-rule of law, CE.3, a, c, d; CE.4;

Virginia and U.S. Government: GOVT.1 a, b, d, e; GOVT.3 a, b, e; GOVT.4 c and Constitution as a resource; GOVT.11 e; GOVT.17; GOVT.18 a-g; GOVT.19 a-d

This lesson can be adjusted for middle and high school civics and government courses in any state of the union and has natural stopping points for teachers to use for multiple class sessions. In addition, the numbers of the standards above may change in that Virginia’s new Social Studies K-12 Standards Draft has met with political opposition and hasn’t been fully approved as of December 1, 2022.

**2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:**

Students will understand better what citizenship means, its privileges and responsibilities, and how a person becomes a citizen of the United States of America with an emphasis on nationalization.

**3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:**

(uscis.gov) United States Citizenship Resource Center, Citizenship and Naturalization,

(doe.virginia.gov) - Virginia Department of Education, History and Social Studies Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools

United States Constitution (pocket-sized copies for students, if possible),

(dar.org) DAR Manuel for Citizenship and the Americanism Committee Home Pages  
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), and local DAR chapters.

**4. Introduction of the topic:**

Warmup Activity: Students enter the classroom. Attachment 1 is on the classroom screen. The document has the questions:

What does it mean to be a citizen of the United States of America?

What are the privileges and responsibilities of being a United States Citizen?

In addition, in this document, students see directions on dividing into groups to discuss this question. (15-minute warmup discussion.)

## 5. Procedure for instruction:

### I. Introduction of Topic: Citizenship with a Focus on Naturalization

#### A. Setting the “stage” for the lesson

1. **Attachment 1** appears on the classroom screen at the end of the video. The document has two questions: What does it mean to be a citizen of the United States of America? What are the privileges and responsibilities of being a United States citizen? In addition, students see directions on how to organize into discussion groups in this document.
2. Students in a 15-minute group discussion

#### B. Topic warmup

1. The teacher defines the words citizen and citizenship and directs a logging session of the results of the group discussions. (A class citizen volunteers or is assigned as a scribe to log student responses)
2. The teacher verifies correct responses and begins to direct responses into “Privileges of Citizenship” and “Responsibilities of Citizenship,” ending with a Venn Diagram to help students see overlapping.
3. Compare student responses to **Attachment 2**: “Privileges of Citizenship” and “Responsibilities of Citizenship.”

### II. Citizenship and Naturalization Vocabulary

- A. Using **Attachments 3 a, b, c, d, e.**, the teacher engages students in a “what I already know” activity
- B. Using **Attachment 3 f**, discuss the correct answers, expand and enrich the vocabulary
- C. Advise students to use these words in classroom discussions and written assignments

### III. The United States of America is a “country of laws.”

- A. The teacher asks: What does it mean when we say the United States of America is a “country of laws?” Discuss with students examples from the U.S. Constitution. See **Attachment 4** for more information.
- B. Who has the power to make laws about immigration and naturalization? Students find the answer in their pocket-sized Constitution and respond.
- C. Use this exercise to reinforce the concept that our country is a “country of laws,” as our Constitution is the supreme law of the county (land.)
  1. What branch of government has the power to make laws about immigration?
  2. What part does a U.S. citizen play in deciding immigration laws?
  3. What articles in the body of f the U.S. constitution directly relate to citizenship?
  4. What are examples of amendments to the U.S. Constitution directly to citizenship
    - Amendment 1 – “The Bill of Rights” – This amendment guarantees many of the fundamental rights and liberties of American Citizens

-Amendment 14 – This amendment states who is a citizen of the U.S., and it says the states cannot abridge (reduce) any citizen’s rights without “due process of law,” which is a legal term that means “the fair, step-by-step process of law.”

#### IV. How does a person become a United States Citizen

A. **Student Assignment:** Using the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website (uscis.gov), research how a person becomes a U.S. Citizen and be ready to discuss findings. Remind students that official websites end in (.gov)

B. The teacher poses the question: How does a person become a citizen of the United States? and confirms or corrects answers

C. **Attachment 5** appears on the screen to see what students have left out of their answers

D. The teacher tells students they will focus on naturalization and will “scratch the surface” of the many complex laws involving naturalization

#### V. The United States of America is a “country of immigrants.”

A. **Attachment 6 a:** What does a “country of immigrants” mean?

1. The U.S. is a “settler’s colonial country.”

2. What role does a demographer play in helping us to understand citizenship, immigration, and naturalization?

B. **Attachment 6 b** - Brief historical background of immigration

C. **Attachment 6 c** - Examples of demography results about U.S. citizenship, immigration, and naturalization.

D. **Attachment 6 d** – Map of the top five native countries of naturalized citizens in 2012

E. **Attachment 6 e** – Map of the top states and cities where people who naturalized in 2021 reside (live).

#### VI. Why would a person want to leave their native country to become a citizen of the United States of America, and what is the country of origin for most immigrants?

A. Use **Attachment 7** to create a role-playing activity of personal examples of immigrants who want to leave their native country and enter the U.S.

B. Use **Attachment 7 b, c** as teacher notes to enrich this activity. (Note that sometimes nationality and country of origin are terms used interchangeably.)

C. After the student activity, the teacher asks and discusses the following questions: What would a person gain, and what would they lose when they become a United States citizen? What is the difference between immigrant visas and non-immigrant visas?

#### VII. What is the Naturalization Process to become a United States Citizen?

A. **Attachment 8 a**– The teacher discusses the general steps to naturalization The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services has detailed naturalization information and naturalization forms on the [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) website.

1. Application

2. Interview

3. History and Government Test – **Attachments 8 b, c** —These attachments list about half of the questions applicants officials can ask applicants orally during the interview step. Applicants must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the test.

4. Naturalization Oath Ceremony – Applicants for citizenship aren't U.S. citizens until they take the Oath of Allegiance at a Naturalization Ceremony.

**Attachment 8 d:** Naturalization Ceremony -Proclaiming the Oath of Allegiance **Student Assignment:** Students complete and submit this assignment to their teacher. In addition, students should reflect on how the concept of “a country of laws” is addressed in the Oath of Allegiance and notice the choice of words, such as declare, absolutely renounce, abjure, fidelity, true faith, and allegiance. What does the use of these words tell us?

#### **VIII. The Lesson Closure:**

A. The teacher asks students to help summarize what they have learned about citizenship and naturalization. Then **Attachment 10** is used for closing statements

#### **B. Educational Field Trip to a Naturalization Ceremony**

Ideally, teachers will arrange an educational field trip for students to attend a Naturalization Ceremony. Or students can hold a mock Classroom Naturalization Ceremony. Local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are good sources of information. In addition, the DAR may be able to provide opportunities for students to serve as welcome hosts/hostesses at local naturalization ceremonies.

Suppose the above-suggested closure activities are not feasible. In that case, students can create videos with interviews of new citizens, write letters of welcome to new citizens (real or fictional), and view a Naturalization Ceremony video. Videos can be downloaded from the [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) website.

#### **6. Lesson Closure**

The teacher will ask students to help summarize what they have learned about citizenship and naturalization; then, use Attachment 9 or create statements to wrap up the last lesson.

Ideally, teachers would arrange an educational field trip for students to attend a local Naturalization Ceremony. Or students can hold a mock Naturalization Ceremony in their classroom. Local DAR chapters are good sources of information concerning these opportunities.

Suppose the above-suggested closure activities are not feasible. In that case, students can participate in a round table review of concepts, create videos with interviews of new citizens, write a letter of welcome to a new

citizen (real or fictional), and view Naturalization Ceremony Videos found on the U.S. Citizenship Resource Center website ([uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov))

### **7. Assessment of Student Understanding**

Attendance, participation in class discussions, submission of written assignments, research methods, role-playing, testing, use of citizenship vocabulary in class and written assignments, interest in the topic

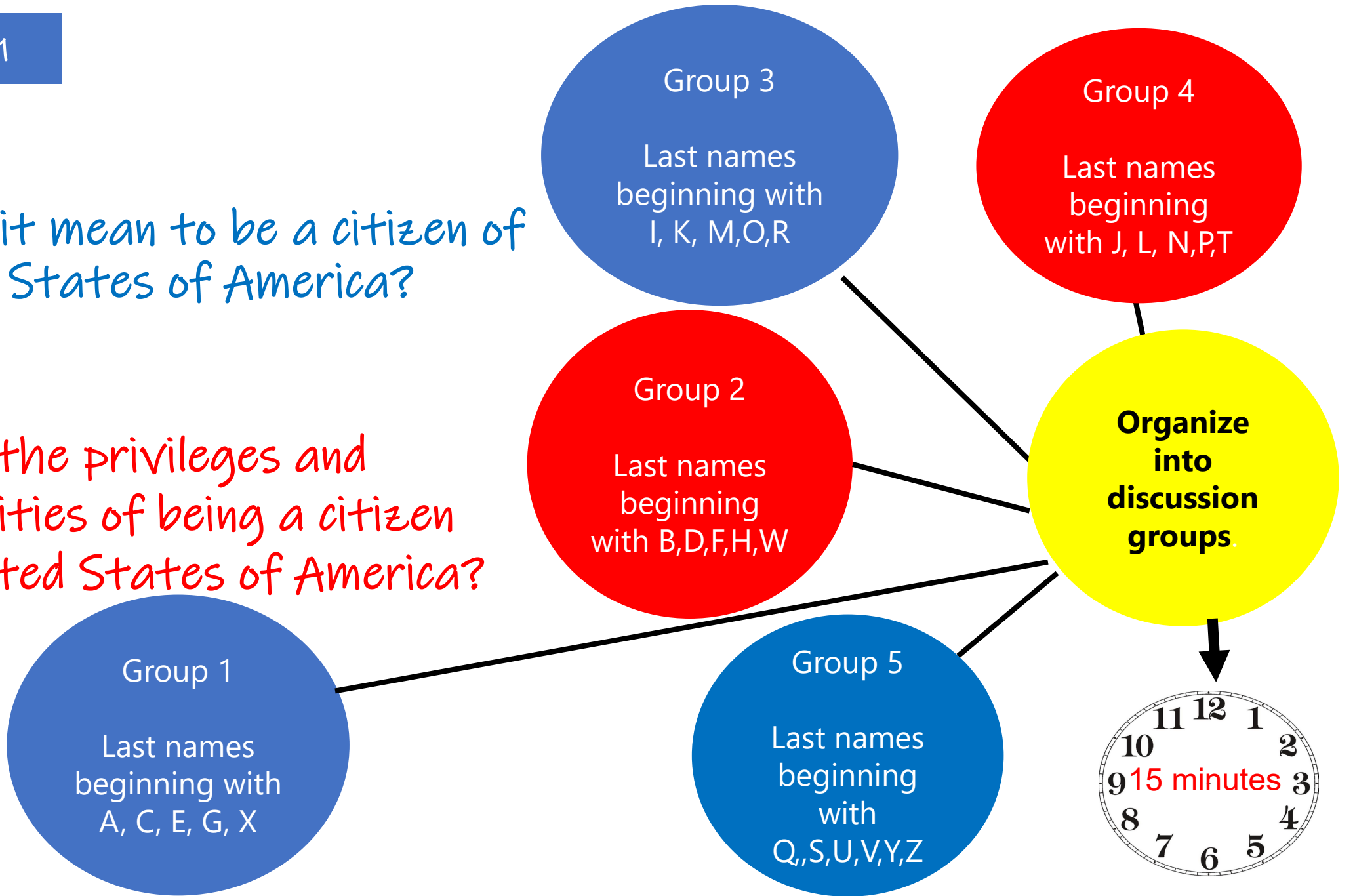
Attachment 1



What does it mean to be a citizen of the United States of America?



What are the privileges and responsibilities of being a citizen of the United States of America?

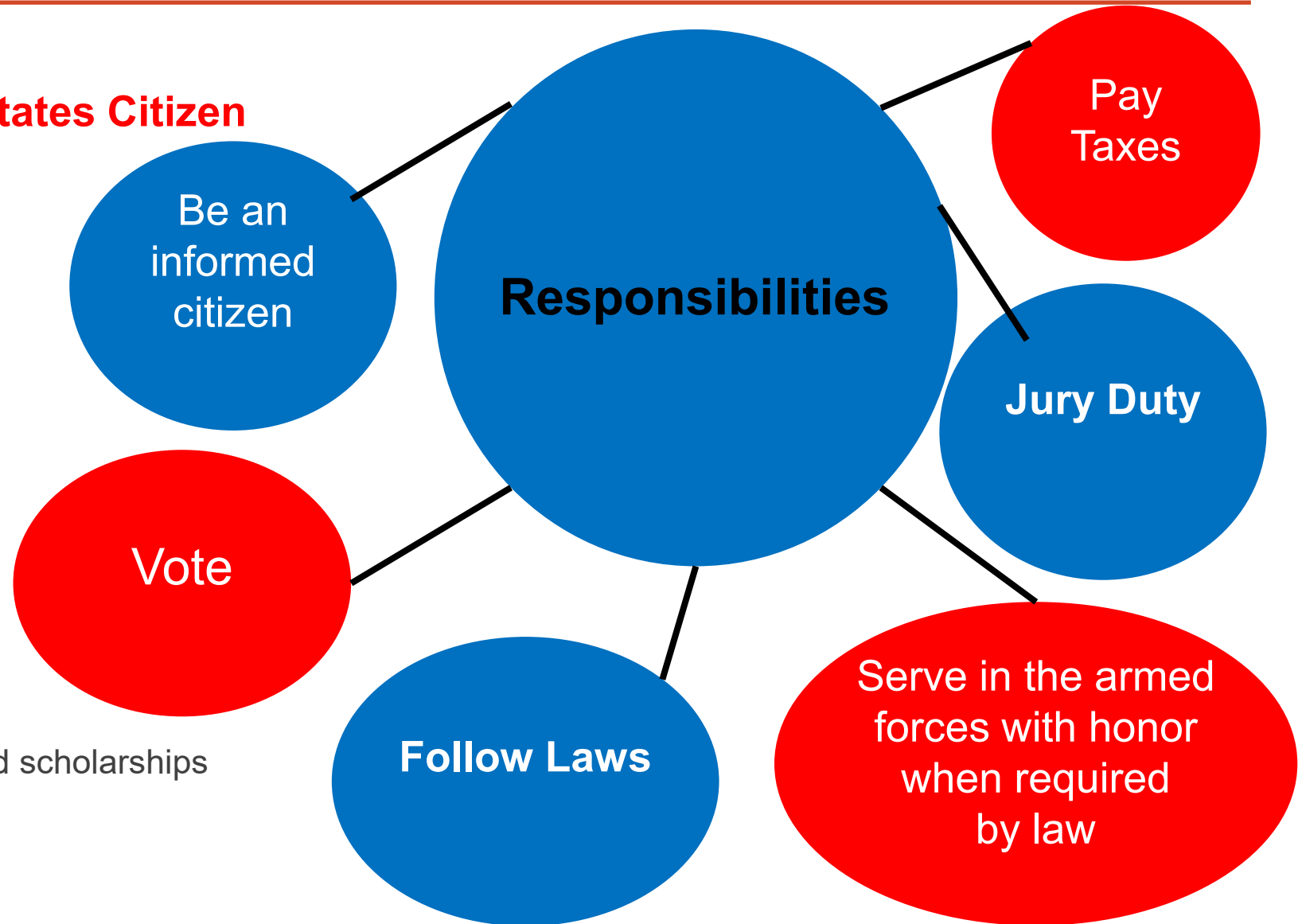


## Attachment 2: What are the privileges and responsibilities of being a United States Citizen?



### Privileges of being a United States Citizen

- First Amendment Freedoms
- Protection from deportation
- Citizenship for your children under 18
- Family reunification
- Freedom to travel, U.S. Passport
- Right to vote (by secret ballot)
- Eligibility for government jobs
- Become an elected official
- Obtain government benefits
- Become eligible for federal grants and scholarships
- Other benefits





Students need to know and use these terms in classroom discussions, written assignments, and tests to better understand United States citizenship, immigration, and naturalization.

### Word Bank

1. abjure
2. allegiance
3. asylum seeker
4. birthright
5. citizen
6. citizenship
7. demography
8. Ellis Island
9. embassy
10. fidelity
11. "green card"
12. immigrant
13. immigration
14. immigrant visa
15. jurisdiction
16. migrant worker
17. native citizen
18. "country of laws"
19. nationality
20. naturalized citizen
21. naturalization
22. Naturalization Ceremony
23. nonimmigrant visa
24. oath
25. potentate
26. "open door policy"
27. refugee
28. sovereignty
29. United States Constitution





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Select a word or term from the "word bank" that best fits the definition in the following sentences:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a lawful permanent resident after meeting the requirements established by Congress.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who is legally recognized as a member of a certain state or country, owes allegiance to and has rights and duties under that government.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the act of permanently settling in a foreign country.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who immigrated to a country and then later became a citizen of that country.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a physical document held by a permanent resident that authorizes them to live (reside) indefinitely in the United States.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the event during which applicants for citizenship swear the Oath of Allegiance to become citizens of the United States.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is the status of having the rights, privileges, and duties of a legal member of a group.

## Activity

## "What I Already Know"

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8. \_\_\_\_\_ is the official place of business of an ambassador (official representative) to a foreign country.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is the type of citizenship a person is given when they are born in a country.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ means a ruler or monarch (a sovereign head of state, king, queen, or emperor) who is an autocratic ruler in which the absolute (final word) power is in the hands of a single authority.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ means that laws, not people, rule the United States. Everyone is to be government by the same laws, regardless of their station and all must observe the rules.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who temporarily moves to a country to take a short-term job.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is the status of belonging to a country; the place/culture that a person identifies with.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ is a federally-owned site in New York that was used to inspect and process immigrants arriving in the United States.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ means to reject solemnly beliefs, renounce a belief, cause, or claim.

Attachment 3 d-  
Activity

# Citizenship and Naturalization Vocabulary

## "What I Already Know"

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16. \_\_\_\_\_ means faithfulness (steadfast or firm in promises).
17. \_\_\_\_\_ is a policy of allowing foreign nationals who wanted to become a U.S. citizen to do so without any other provision, except that they were not deemed dangerous to the security of the U.S. by the President of the United States.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ is the science of populations. It is the statistical study of human populations which the main areas of study are birth, migration, aging (including death), and other areas of study that help to analyze the size, movement, and structure of populations.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape persecution, war, or natural disaster.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who chooses to leave their country.
21. \_\_\_\_\_ is a form of permission for a non-citizen to enter, transit (move about) and remain in a particular country.
22. \_\_\_\_\_ are issued to foreign nationals wishing to enter the U.S. on a temporary basis for tourism, business, study, medical treatment, or other similar reasons.

Attachment 3 e -  
Activity

## Citizenship and Naturalization Vocabulary "What I Already Know"

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23. \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who is asking for international protection but whose claim for refugee status has not been determined.
24. \_\_\_\_\_ is the official power of an entity (a thing with distinct and independent existence) to make legal decisions and judgements, such as in the U.S. court system
25. \_\_\_\_\_ means to make a solemn promise.
26. \_\_\_\_\_ means loyalty to a person or place.
27. \_\_\_\_\_ means supreme power or authority, as in the authority of a nation to govern itself.
28. \_\_\_\_\_ a person who was born in their country of citizenship, and who obtained their citizenship upon birth.
29. \_\_\_\_\_ is a document that defines the fundamental law of the United States Federal government, setting forth the three branches of the federal government and outlining their jurisdictions. It is the oldest written national constitution currently in use. This document gives the power to Congress to make laws for immigration and naturalization.

## Attachment 3 f- Activity Key

## Citizenship and Naturalization Vocabulary "What I Already Know"

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- |                                |         |                            |
|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 1. #21 naturalization          | 16. #10 | fidelity                   |
| 2. #5 citizen                  | 17. #26 | "open door policy"         |
| 3. #13 immigration             | 18. # 7 | demography                 |
| 4. #20 naturalized citizen     | 19. #27 | refugee                    |
| 5. #11 "green card"            | 20. #12 | immigrant                  |
| 6. #22 Naturalization Ceremony | 21. #14 | immigrant visa             |
| 7. #6 citizenship              | 22. #23 | nonimmigrant visa          |
| 8. #9 embassy                  | 23. #23 | asylum seeker              |
| 9. #4 birthright               | 24. #15 | jurisdiction               |
| 10. #25 potentate              | 25. #24 | oath                       |
| 11. #18 "country of laws"      | 26. #2  | allegiance                 |
| 12. #16 migrant worker         | 27. #28 | sovereignty                |
| 13. #19 nationality            | 28. #17 | native citizen             |
| 14. #8 Ellis Island            | 29. #29 | United States Constitution |
| 15. #1 abjure                  |         |                            |

## Attachment 4 - The United States is a "country of laws".



John Adams, one of our founding fathers, wrote, "we are a government of laws, and not of men." And the "rule of law" means that everyone has to follow laws, and no one is above the law.

The "rule of law" supports and ensures the practice of democracy, the protection of human rights, and establishes the accountability of elected officials through the limitation of the exercise of power.

The United States Constitution is the supreme law of the country (land).

Using your copy of the Constitution to find the articles and amendments to the Constitution that are directly related to citizenship.

Why is the "rule of law" important in a democratic government?



Constitution of the United States of America

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment begins with these words:**

***“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, are subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. “***

## Acquisition

Acquisition of U.S. citizenship is obtained through U.S. citizenship parents either at birth, or after birth, but before the age of 18.

## Naturalization

Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a lawful permanent (LPR) after meeting the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) .

# The United States is a “country of immigrants”.



The United States is a “settlers colonial country” because except for 100% Native Americans, every American is either an immigrant themselves or directly descended from an immigrant. We are a great “melting pot” - we are a country of immigrants. The United States was built in part by immigrants, and the U.S. has benefited from the new energy and ingenuity that immigrants usually bring.

Demography, the study of human populations, tell us through statistics the changes in populations: births, aging (including death), movement, etc. Demographic studies tell us that 14.2 percent of our country’s residents are foreign-born, and over half of whom are naturalized U.S. citizens. One in seven U.S. residents is an immigrant, while one in eight is a native –born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent. One in six U.S. workers is an immigrant which makes up a vital part of the country’s labor force. And these workers contribute taxes and are consumers in our economy. A fascinating fact is that today nearly 70% of immigrants from diverse backgrounds report speaking English well.

In 2019, 38.3 million people in the U.S. (12 % of the country’s population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.

Immigration statistics can change rapidly; for examples. the war in Ukraine, a coup, or changing immigration laws.

In 2021, 68% of all refugees originated in five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar.



# Attachment 6 b – The United States of America is a “country of immigrants.”

## Teacher Notes for Historical Background

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1776

After becoming a new country, the U.S. had an open-door policy. As a result, many immigrants came to make their homes in the U.S.

1800-1900

Ellis Island opened in 1892 in New York Harbor and it quickly became the most famous Port of entry. Between 1892-1954, around 12 million immigrants were processed into U.S. Over the years, this overwhelming influx of immigrants changed American welcome attitude.

1920's

As time passed, economic and political conditions caused several Congressional Acts limiting immigration from certain countries and established a quota system based on national origin.

1948

After World War II, many refugees entered the U.S. from war-torn Europe.

1965

Congress passed the Immigration and Nationalization Act designed to reunite families and attract skilled workers. As a result, large numbers of Latin Americans and Asians have changed our Citizenship's demography – the composition of our population. Later, Congress overhauled the entire immigration and naturalization process, and the total number of immigrant visas available per year was increased by 40%.

Today

Eligibility requirements for U.S. citizenship are found in the U.S. Code Title 8: Aliens and Nationality laws. Congress continues to work to create an immigration system that is fair to current citizens and new immigrants alike. But we aren't there yet. You can play a role in these decisions as you reach 18, vote, and participate in our democracy.

# Attachment 6 c – The United States of America is a “country of immigrants.”

## Teacher Notes for discussion

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Demography, the study of human populations, tell us through statistics the changes in populations: births, aging (including death), movement of people, etc.

Recent demographic studies tell us that -

- 14.2 percent of our country’s residents are foreign-born, and over half of whom are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- 1 in 7 U.S. residents is an immigrant, while 1 in 8 is a native –born U.S. citizen with at least 1 immigrant parent.
- 1 in 6 U.S. workers is an immigrant which makes up a vital part of the country’s labor force. And these workers contribute taxes and are consumers in our economy.
- 70% of immigrants from diverse backgrounds report speaking English well.
- In 2019, 38.3 million people in the U.S. (12 %) of the country’s population) were native-born Americans who had at least one immigrant parent.

**Immigration statistics can change rapidly.** Examples

In 2021, 68% of all refugees originated in five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar. Why were these refugees forced to leave their countries? What does this statistic tell us? How will the war in Ukraine, an unexpected coup in Africa or South America, or a natural disaster affect demographic statistics.

**Between October 2021, through September 2022, the U.S. welcomed 1,023,200 new naturalized citizens.**

# Attachment 6 d - The United States is a "country of immigrants".

This document illustrates the work of demographers (people who use census data, surveys, and statistical models to analyze the size, movement, and structure of populations.)

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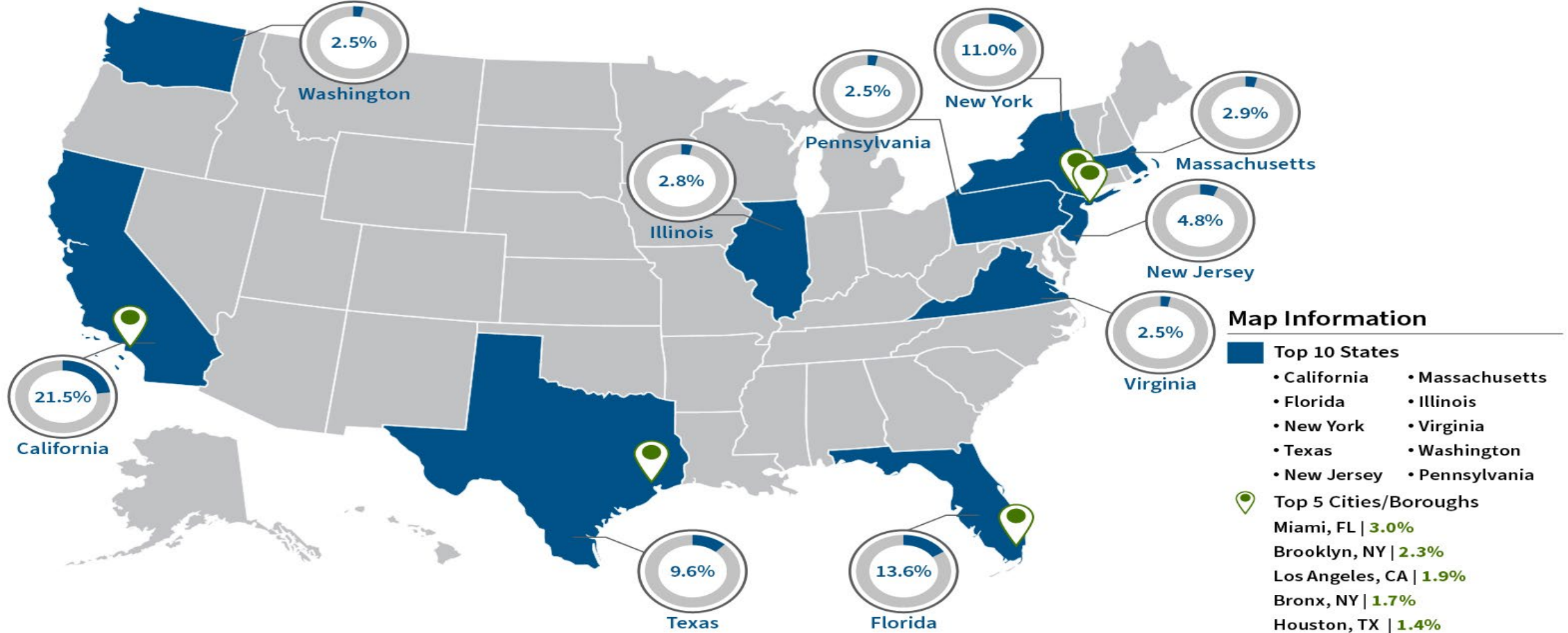


Source: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, usis.gov

The top five countries of birth comprised 36% of the naturalized citizens in 2021.

# The United States is a "country of immigrants".

This document illustrates the work of demographers (people who use census data, surveys, and statistical models to analyze the size, movement, and structure of populations.)



Source: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, usis.gov

Of all citizens naturalized in 2021, 74% resided in 10 states and more than 46 % resided in the top three states. This map shows the top five cities (including boroughs) where people who naturalized resided.

# Why would a person want to leave their native country become a United States citizen?

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Teacher notes to share after each student speaks as an immigrant during the Attachment 7a student activity.

**1 Mexico (24%)** as the highest number of immigrants. Most live in California, New York, Florida, or Texas.

Background: | The Mexican Revolution in 1910 and 120 drove many Mexicans to flee political persecution as many were war refugees. Then between 1965-2015, more than 16 million Mexican immigrants came to improve their economic situation. Other motives exist, such as kinship relations in destination cities. About 24% of all U.S. immigrants were born in Mexico and entered through permanent legal residence – “the green card” or temporary work visa for farm workers or visas for high-skilled immigrants. However, some overstay their work permit, enter the border without inspection and reside in U.S. as unauthorized immigrants.

**2. India (6 %)** Economics is only one factor to come to U.S. Unlike the U.S., in India the unit of consideration is the family. In India, people make Decisions based on stages concerning family development. There are decision points in people’s lives, i.e. where to go for university education, where to obtain on-the-job training, where children should be raised, where is the best career opportunities, and where retirement should be spent. Going abroad becomes an enhancement and sometimes there is an unrealistic view of what the U.S. is and what to expect.

**3. China (5%)** Early immigration came from Southern China looking for a better life, escaping a high rate of poverty left after the Taiping Civil War – mostly male immigrants at first as many immigrated with the thought of returning home to start a new life. They came as students because of relative U.S. living costs, changing sociopolitical conditions at home, and a well-established (extensive and longstanding) support network of Chinese communities in the U.S.

**4. The Philippines (4.5%)** Filipino immigration began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, driven mainly by longstanding political, military, and educational ties between the two countries. Economic reasons cause Filipinas to move. The U.S. and Philippines have been treaty allies since 1951 and are the U.S.’s oldest security ally in Southeast Asia.

**5. El Salvador (3%)** Immigration dates back to the 1930’s - Driven by economic and humanitarian issues, a long civil war (1979-1982), and continued Violence. In the past 20 years, disputes over social and political issues, social inequality, and increased violence in Central America’s smallest and most overpopulated country have increased asylum seekers.

# Why would a person want to leave their native country become a United States citizen?

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**8 Dominican Republic** – Immigrants came to the U.S. seeking greater economic opportunity and settled in the the U.S. for political and family reunification reasons.

**7. Vietnam** - 125,000 Vietnamese refugees came to the U.S. in 1975 because of the dramatic evacuation undertaken by the U.S. government. The recent confused and disorderly flights and withdrawal of military forces in Afghanistan compares to the evacuation in Vietnam. More Vietnam refugees and their families followed and doubled between 1980-2000. The Vietnamese immigrant population is the fourth largest Asian Immigrant group in the U.S. after India, China, and the Philippines.

**8. Cuba** – The early Cuban immigrants came for economic reasons due to the Great Depression 1929. In addition, Cuba's sugar prices were volatile, and migrant farm labor contracts fueled immigration. Then anti-Batista refugees fled the military dictatorship with pro-U.S. diplomatic ties. In 1959, during the Communist Revolution led by Fidel Castro, a Cuban exodus began as Fidel Castro allied with the Soviet Union. Now, many of these immigrants were from Cuba's educated, landowning upper class. Why do you think these immigrants wanted to leave Cuba

If we continued to list immigrants in numerical order, South Korea, Jamaica, Pakistan, Iraq would come next.  
Let's now hear from our number 9 immigrant. Student who has #9 card reads and then the teacher gives background..

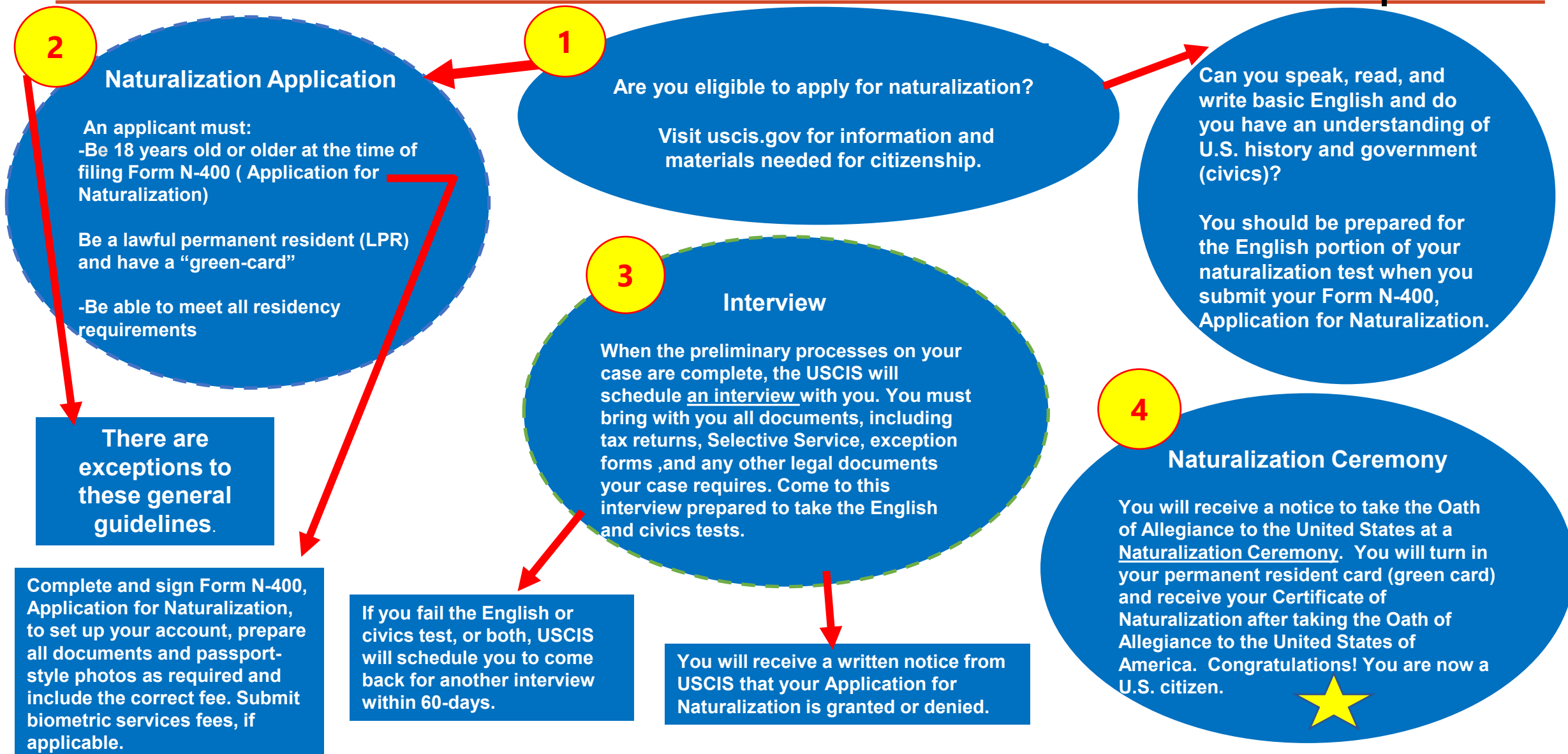
**9. Afghanistan** – Refugees or special-status immigrants granted visas because they served the U.W. war mission. Displaced by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. If there were no war, many of these immigrants wouldn't be here.

**Summarize why people want to leave their native county and become a U.S. citizen.**

Some Reasons: Economic, Political, Education, Reunification with Family, War, Freedoms and the land of possibilities

# Attachment 8 a- Steps to Become a Naturalized United States Citizen

Source: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)



1

Are you eligible to apply for naturalization?

Visit [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov) for information and materials needed for citizenship.

3

Interview

When the preliminary processes on your case are complete, the USCIS will schedule an interview with you. You must bring with you all documents, including tax returns, Selective Service, exception forms, and any other legal documents your case requires. Come to this interview prepared to take the English and civics tests.

2

Naturalization Application

An applicant must:  
-Be 18 years old or older at the time of filing Form N-400 ( Application for Naturalization)  
Be a lawful permanent resident (LPR) and have a “green-card”  
-Be able to meet all residency requirements

There are exceptions to these general guidelines.

Complete and sign Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, to set up your account, prepare all documents and passport-style photos as required and include the correct fee. Submit biometric services fees, if applicable.

4

Naturalization Ceremony

You will receive a notice to take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States at a Naturalization Ceremony. You will turn in your permanent resident card (green card) and receive your Certificate of Naturalization after taking the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America. Congratulations! You are now a U.S. citizen.



# Attachment 8 b - Naturalization Interview and American History and Government Test Activity



The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions, and the applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test. Would you be able to pass this test?

Examples of 100 questions naturalization applicants can be asked at their interview.

## Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What does the U.S. Constitution do?
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
4. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
5. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
6. What is the “rule of law”
7. Name one branch or part of the federal government?
8. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
9. We elect House of Representatives for how many years?
10. Name your U.S. Representative – Name your U.S. Senator and who do they represent? ( Current names expected)
11. What is the name of the President and Vice-President?
12. What does the President’s Cabinet do?
13. What does the judicial branch do?
14. Who is the Governor of your state now? What is the capital of your state?
15. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
16. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
17. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?



## Attachment 8 c - Naturalization Interview and American History and Government Test Activity

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18. Name two rights of everyone who is a citizen of the United States.

19. What is one promise you make when you become a U.S. citizen?

20. When must all men register for the Selective Service?

### American History – Example questions

21. What is one reason colonist came to America?

22. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

23. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

24. Why did the colonist fight the British?

25. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? When? How many original states? Name three

26. When was the U.S. Constitution written?

27. Who is the “Father of Our Country” and the first President?

28. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

29. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

30. Name one war fought by the U..S. in the 1900’s

31. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

32. Who did the U.S. fight in World War II?

33. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

34. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

35. What major event happened on September 11, 2002, in the U.S.?

36. Name one of the American Tribes in the United States

# Naturalization Ceremony

## Proclaiming the Oath of the United States of America

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A candidate for naturalization doesn't become a citizen of the United States until they proclaim the Oath of Allegiance to the United States at the Naturalization Ceremony.



1. Visualize that you are a candidate for U.S. citizenship. You have done all the necessary paperwork, met all requirements, and are approved for U.S. citizenship. The last step to becoming a U.S. citizen is to proclaim the following oath:

### **Oath of Allegiance for United States Citizenship**

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

2. Reread the Oath of Allegiance and think about how you would feel about making the promises you will proclaim at your Naturalization Ceremony.

3. Then, write a paragraph about your feelings as a candidate for U.S. Citizenship, be ready to discuss this assignment in our next class, and submit your paragraph at the end of class.



*“Throughout our history, the United States has welcomed immigrants from all over the world who have helped’ shape and define our country. Granting citizenship to eligible lawful permanent residents is vital to our nation’s security, economic prosperity, and a future built on the principles of the United States Constitution. “*

Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Studying citizenship gives us the foundation to build an understanding and appreciation of our country so all of us will participate, in our democratic society. And learning about the multi-step process immigrants go through to become naturalized citizens can help us value our status as citizens. Our democracy requires engaged, informed, and responsible citizens in order to grow and be successful. The U.S. needs YOU to be an active citizen.