The Citizenship Test



CLINIC
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

The Citizenship Test

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Cover Photo:
The Statue of Liberty from Ellis Island, U.S. immigration station in New York Harbor, a small boy shows his parents the Statue of Liberty, ca 1930, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congresss, LC-DIG-ds-03375

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The English Language Requirement

According to United States (U.S.) law you must demonstrate "an understanding of the English language, including an ability to read, write, and speak words in ordinary usage in the English language" (Immigration and Nationality Act § 312(a)(1)).

English Understanding and Speaking



United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) tests your ability to speak and understand English throughout the interview. Your English is being tested from the moment you first meet the officer and every time the officer speaks to you and waits for your response or action.

USCIS Officer:	*How are you today?*
You:	*Fine, thank you.*
USCIS Officer:	*Is it still raining outside?*
You:	*Yes, it's raining a lot!*
USCIS Officer:	*Are you here to become a U.S. citizen?*
You:	*Yes, I want to be a citizen.*
USCIS Officer:	*Please raise your right hand.*

Most of the questions are taken from the citizenship application (N-400) to confirm the truth of your answers. When preparing for the English test, it is very important to study a copy of the N-400 that you submitted and learn all the terms and vocabulary on it so that you can answer questions about your application. Be sure to study the questions found in Part 11 of the N-400.

USCIS Officer:	*Have you ever registered to vote in any Federal, State, or local election in the United States?*
You:	*No.*
USCIS Officer:	*Have you ever not filed a Federal, State, or local tax return since you became a Permanent Resident?*
You:	*No, I've filed my tax returns every year.*

What to Do if You Don't Understand

You can ask the officer to repeat the question, speak louder or slower, or use simpler words. USCIS officers are required to repeat and rephrase questions until they are satisfied that you either understand the questions or you do not understand English.

USCIS Officer:	*Are you willing to bear arms on behalf of the United States?*
You:	*Can you say that again slowly with simple words?*
USCIS Officer:	*Are you willing to serve in the U.S. military if the government calls you?*
You:	*Yes, I am.*

English Reading

USCIS will ask you to read up to three sentences. The sentences will all be questions related to United States history and government, and will be based on a vocabulary list found on the USCIS website at: www.uscis.gov. The reading sentences are paired with the dictation (writing) sentences. There is no list of sample reading sentences to study before the test, only a list of vocabulary words that will be used in the sentences.[1]

How Your Reading is Evaluated

You must be able to read at least one sentence correctly in order to pass the reading test. This means reading a sentence without long pauses and reading most of the words in the sentence. USCIS will not fail you because of your accent when reading. You may make pronunciation errors or leave out short words and still pass the test if the meaning of the sentence is clear.

[1] See Attachment A for a copy of the reading vocabulary list.

English Writing



USCIS tests your writing ability by asking you to write up to three spoken (dictation) sentences. The sentences will all be related to United States history and government, and will be the answers to the questions you are asked to read for the English reading test. They will be taken from a writing vocabulary list found on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov. There is no list of sample sentences for you to study before the test, only a vocabulary list of words that will be used in the sentences.[2]

Examples of English Reading and Writing Test:

USCIS Officer: *[Pointing] Please read this sentence.*

You: *Who was the first President?*

USCIS Officer: *Please write the sentence, "Washington was the first President."*

You: Washington was the first President.

USCIS Officer: *[Pointing] Please read this sentence.*

You: *Where is the White House?*

USCIS Officer: *Please write the sentence, "The White House is in Washington, D.C."*

You: The White House is in Washington D.C.

[2] See Attachment B for a copy of the writing vocabulary list.

How Your Writing is Evaluated

If you do not know every word in the sentence, write as much as you can. You will be given up to three chances to write an acceptable sentence. You must be able to write at least one acceptable sentence in order to pass the writing test. USCIS will use scoring guidelines to determine whether your sentence is acceptable. USCIS will accept some small errors in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation as long as the meaning of the sentence is still clear. In addition, USCIS will accept a sentence that is missing short words if the meaning of the sentence is still clear. Numbers can be spelled out or written as digits. However, USCIS will not accept any abbreviated words in the sentence.[3]

Example Sentences

An example of a sentence with spelling errors:

The American flag is red, wite, and blu.

A sentence with capitalization errors:

the american flag is red, white, and blue.

A sentence with punctuation errors:

The American flag is red white and blue

A sentence missing short words:

American flag is red, white, blue.

A correctly written sentence:

The American flag is red, white, and blue.

[3] See Attachment C for a copy of the USCIS scoring guidelines for the English test.

The History and Government Requirement

According to the law, you must demonstrate "a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, and of the principles and form of government, of the United States" (Immigration and Nationality Act § 312(a)(2)).

Sources of Information for the Test

The test is based on a list of 100 study questions and answers which is found on the USCIS website at: www.uscis.gov.[4] The questions are divided into nine subject areas:

- Principles of American Democracy
- Rights and Responsibilities
- 1800s
- Symbols
- Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information
- System of Government
- Colonial Period and Independence
- Geography
- Holidays

Many of the questions have several correct answers listed, but you only need to give one of them. For example:

13. Name one branch or part of the government.

- legislative
- executive
- judicial
- President
- the courts
- Congress

Other questions require you to give two or more answers. For example:

9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

- life
- liberty
- pursuit of happiness

In addition, USCIS recognizes that some of the questions are more open-ended, and may have correct answers that are not given on the list. USCIS has trained officers on how to handle the open-ended questions, so as not to fail applicants who give a correct answer that is not listed.

[4] See Attachment D for a copy of the 100 study questions.

Phrasing of Questions



The questions will be asked exactly as they are shown on the study list. However, the officer may choose to re-phrase a question to help you understand it. For example:

- Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
- What do we call the war between the North and the South?
- The war between the North and the South is called what?

How USCIS Gives the Test

The United States history and government test is an oral (spoken) test, so the USCIS officer will ask the questions out loud and you will give spoken answers. You are not required to read the questions or write your answers.

How the History and Government Test is Evaluated

You will be given up to 10 questions. You must answer at least six questions correctly to pass.

Words to Recognize

Most of the questions begin with these words:

How many… ***What***… ***Who***… ***Why***… ***Name***…

Recognizing these words can help you answer the question correctly.

How many refers to a number.

Question: How many U.S. Senators are there?

Answer: 100

What usually refers to the name of a person, place, or thing.

Question: What is the economic system in the United States?

Answer: Capitalist economy, market economy.

Who usually refers to a person.

Question: Who is the "Father of Our Country?"

Answer:George Washington.

Why asks you the reason for something.

Question: Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

Answer: Because there were 13 original colonies.

Name usually asks you to give the name of a person, group of people, place, or event.

Question: Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

Answer: Cherokee.

Preparing for the Test

It is never too early to study for the test. The most common reason people are denied citizenship is for failing the test. There are many ways you can study.

Classes

Many adult schools and community centers offer citizenship test preparation classes. Studying with a teacher and other students is helpful to many people.

Some things to consider when choosing a citizenship class:

- Do you know anyone who went to the school? Did they like the class? Why or why not?
- What is the class schedule? How many weeks long is the class? How many hours per week?
- Does the class content include English and history/government or only history/government?
- How many levels or kinds of classes are offered? Does the school have a quick review class you can take right before your interview? Are there classes that meet your needs?
- Do the students in each class have a similar English level or are there many levels in one class?
- Does the teacher speak your native language? Are there other people in the class who speak your language?
- Where does the class meet? Is there adequate public transportation or parking?
- Does the class provide you with a textbook or other materials you can take home and study?
- Is the teacher a paid professional or a volunteer? How much experience and training does the teacher have?
- Is there a fee for the class? How much does the class cost?

Tutoring


U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Some organizations provide tutors to help you study. Tutors are usually volunteers who have been trained. You may be tutored alone or in a small group.

Some things to consider when choosing a tutor:

- Is the tutor knowledgeable about citizenship and the test requirements?
- Can the tutor spend enough time with you so you will be prepared for the test?
- Can you get a new tutor if you don't do well with the one assigned to you?
- Does the tutor speak your language?

Self-Study

Many people choose to study by themselves. Even if you do take a class or work with a tutor, you will need to do some studying by yourself.

Some things to consider in studying by yourself:

- Do you have the discipline to study regularly?
- Have you set aside a special time to study?
- Do you have a place you can concentrate without distractions like TV, people, or other noise?
- Do you need someone you can ask questions to or discuss topics with?
- Do you have someone who can quiz you?

Tips for Studying:


U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

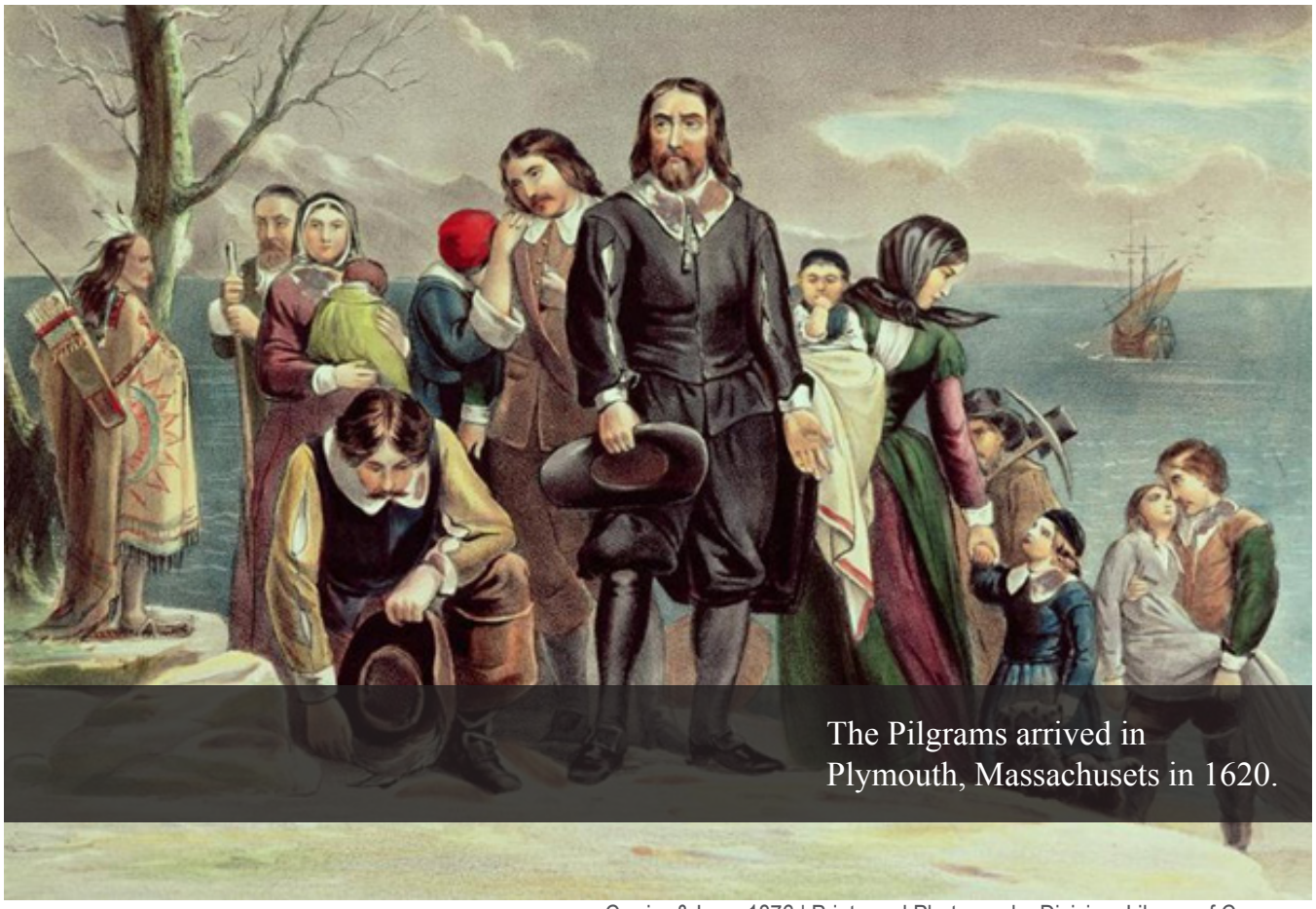
- Practice answering questions out loud.
- Post written questions and answers around your house in places you are likely to see them such as your refrigerator or the bathroom mirror.
- Use memory techniques. For example, make up a song or a poem with important information.
- Have family and friends help you. Have them give you dictations, quiz you on the 100 questions or go through a sample interview from beginning to end. Make sure they phrase questions in many different ways. For example: Have you filed your income tax every year? Have you ever failed to file your income tax? Do you pay your taxes? Did you fail to pay your taxes any year?
- Use index cards. On one side write a question and on the other side write the answer. Or, on one side write a vocabulary word and on the other side its meaning. USCIS has flash cards for the reading and writing vocabulary words and the history/government questions that you can print from its website. You can find those and other study materials at www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test.
- Underline or highlight key words on the N-400. Study those words so you can recognize the question when you hear those words.

Test Preparation Study Guide

Units in the Test Preparation Study Guide

Unit 1: European Exploration, American Indians, and the British Colonies in North America 15
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A Note to Teachers: Please note that this guide includes important content which is not on the test, but is provided because it amplifies the subject areas and offers a richer understanding. Some of the content is presented at an intermediate level and discussion questions are provided.



Currier & Ives, 1876 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress

Unit One

European Exploration, American Indians, and the English Colonies in North America

European Exploration

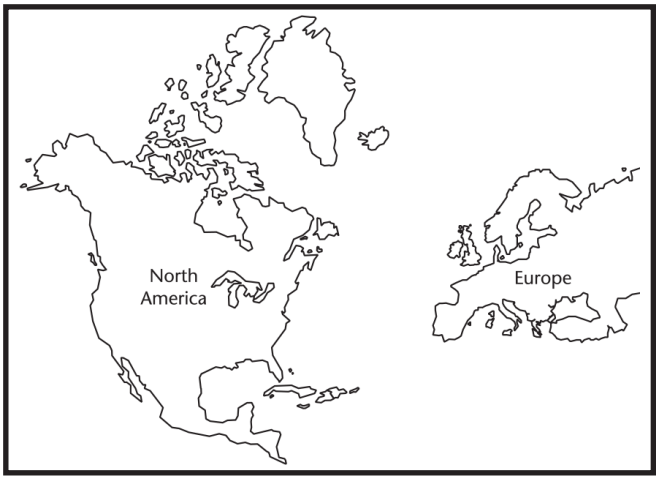
Section Glossary of Terms

Explorer
A person who travels long distances to find new places

Trader
A person who makes a living by exchanging goods, instead of buying and selling with money

Christopher Columbus was a European explorer and trader. He wanted to trade for gold, silk, and spices in Asia. Travel by land from Europe to Asia was very slow. It was dangerous to sail around Africa. Columbus thought he could get to Asia directly by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean.

Columbus left Spain to sail across the Atlantic Ocean. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain paid for his trip. Columbus and his crew set sail on three ships: the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.



For many years, Europeans did not know North America existed.



Currier & Ives, 1892 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USZC2-3385

Columbus reached the Bahamas in October of 1492.

On October 12, 1492, Columbus reached some islands in the Caribbean Sea. Columbus thought he was in India. He called the native people who lived there Indians (Indios). What he had really found was part of the Bahamas – islands close to the United States.

Later, people realized that Columbus had come to a place that the Europeans did not know. It was a New World. An Italian explorer named Amerigo Vespucci said it was a new continent. The New World was named America in his honor.

American Indians

Section Glossary of Terms

American Indian
The original people who lived in the Americas before the Europeans

Tribes
Groups of Native Americans who share a common culture, language, and land

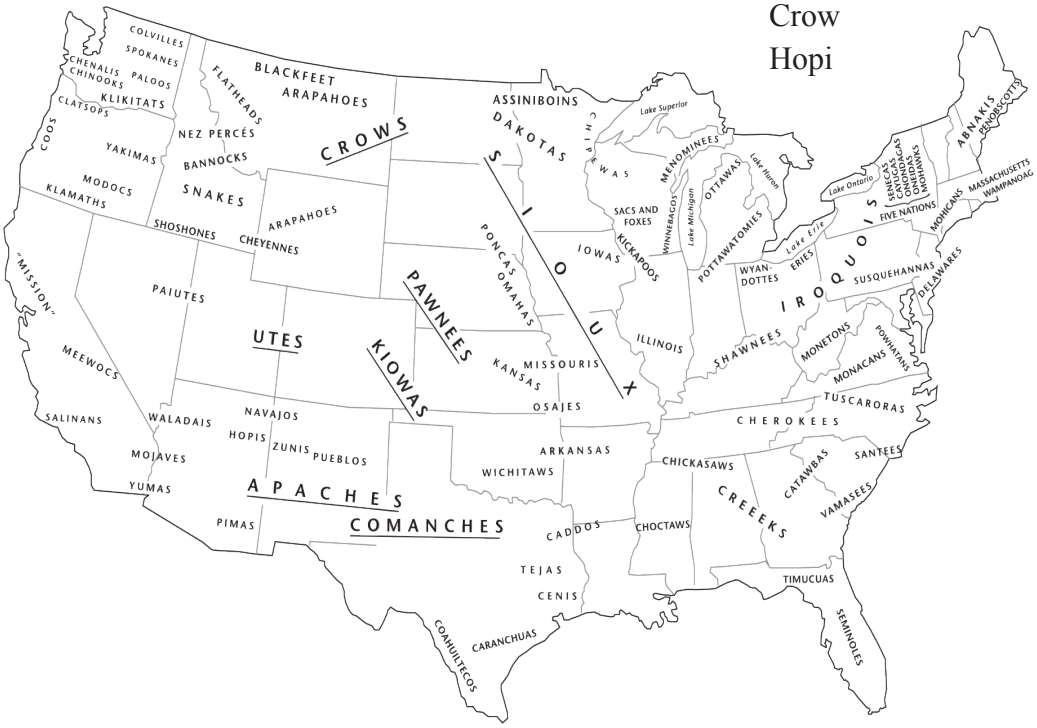
American Indians lived in America before the Europeans arrived. Many American Indians came to the Americas by walking across a land bridge from Asia thousands of years ago. Today, there are many different American Indian tribes.[5]

Six tribes and how to pronounce their names:

Apache (uh-patch-ee)
Arawak (ar-uh-wak)
Inuit (in-yoo-it)
Iroquois (ir-uh-kwoi)
Oneida (oh-nahy-duh)
Sioux (soo)

Other Native American tribes:

Blackfeet
Cherokee
Cheyenne
Chippewa
Choctow
Creek
Crow
Hopi
Huron
Lakota
Mohegan
Navajo
Pueblo
Seminole
Shawnee
Teton



[5] There are many other American Indian tribes, and USCIS officer will have a list of all federally recognized tribes.



Edward S. Curtis. 1905 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-12466

American Indians lived in America before the Europeans arrived.

With the arrival of Europeans, life became more difficult for the American Indians. Some were forced to work as slaves. Others died fighting in defense of their land. They used simple weapons like bows and arrows against the Europeans' guns. European diseases also killed many American Indians. Some tribes died out, but others still survive. As Americans moved West in the 1800s, they forced American Indians off their land. Many American Indians died because of this policy or in wars between American Indian tribes and the United States army.

The British Colonies in North America

Section Glossary of Terms

Colony
Land owned and governed by a dominant country; colonists are people who live in that land

Persecution
Treating someone badly

Pilgrims
People who traveled to the American colonies from England in search of religious freedom



Boughton, 1867 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress

The Pilgrims immigrated for freedom of religion.

In 1607, the first permanent English colony was founded in Jamestown, Virginia. The colonists grew and traded tobacco. The colonists left England because they wanted religious freedom, political liberty, economic opportunity, and to escape persecution. It was difficult to survive as settlers building new homes and farming the wilderness.

In 1620, the Pilgrims formed a colony in Plymouth, Massachusetts. They sailed to the colony across the Atlantic Ocean on a ship called the Mayflower.

The first winter was very hard for the Pilgrims. It was very cold and they had no food. Half of the Pilgrims died that winter. Friendly Native Americans helped the Pilgrims by teaching them about farming, fishing, and hunting.



The next fall, the Pilgrims celebrated Thanksgiving. It was the first American holiday. The Pilgrims invited the Native Americans to a big meal. They gave thanks to God for their food and a year of peace.

Today, we celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November. Much of the food we eat is native to the Americas: turkey, pumpkin, corn, cranberries, and sweet potatoes.

The last of the 13 colonies was established in 1732. The 13 colonies were along the eastern coast of what is now the United States. They were Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Georgia. These colonies later became the first 13 states.

Unit One Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What is one reason the colonists came to America?

_____

2. Name three of the 13 original states.

_____

3. Who lived in America before the Europeans came?

_____

4. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What explorer sailed to the New World in 1492?

_____

2. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by the American colonists?

_____

3. Who helped the Pilgrims in America?

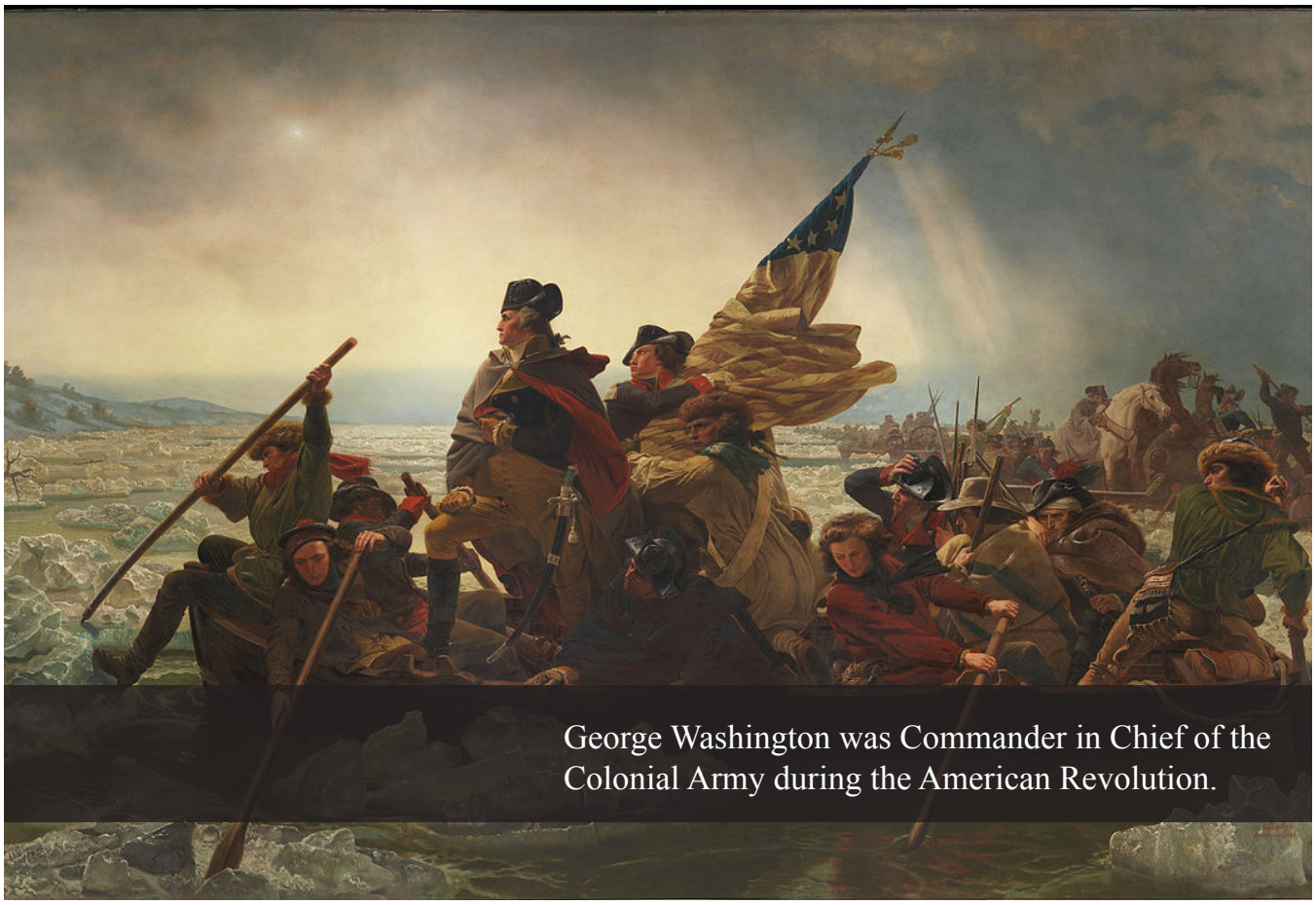
_____

4. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. Are there native peoples in your birth country today? If so, what are their lives like?
2. Does your country have a tradition of receiving immigrants? Where have the immigrants come from and why did they come?



George Washington was Commander in Chief of the Colonial Army during the American Revolution.

Emanuel Leutze, 1851 | Metropolitan Museum of Art

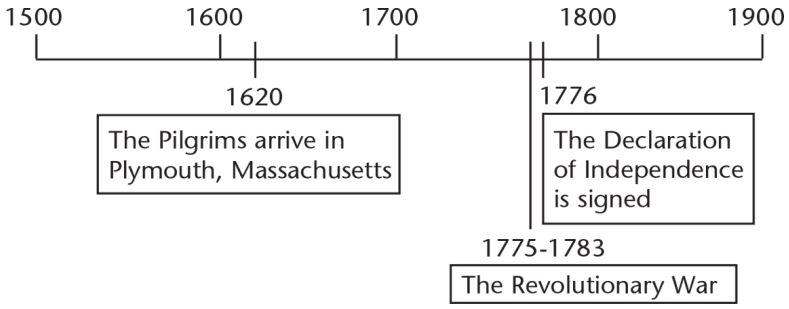
Unit Two

American Revolution and Independence

The Revolutionary War

Section Glossary of Terms

Adopted
Accepted or approved





Joseph-Siffred Duplessis, 1785 | National Portrait Gallert, Washington D.C.

Benjamin Franklin was an American inventor, writer, and politician.

King George III of Great Britian and Ireland governed the 13 colonies in America. He required the colonies to trade only with Great Britain. The colonies had to sell their goods to Great Britain for low prices. They could buy manufactured goods only from the British. The colonies also had to pay many taxes.



Allan Ramsay, 1765 | Art Gallery of South Australia

King George ruled Great Britain and the 13 colonies.

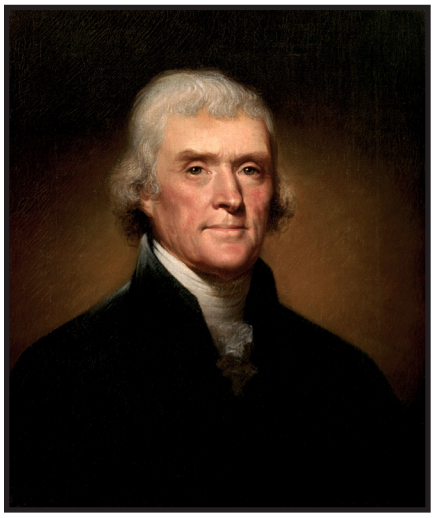
Many colonists thought that the British laws were unfair. Taxes were high, the colonists had to allow British soldiers to stay in their homes, and the colonists did not have self-government. They protested against the laws. Great Britain passed a tax on tea in 1773. A group of colonists in Boston got very angry. They secretly dumped 90,000 pounds of British tea into the ocean. This was called the Boston Tea Party.

Leading protesters from the colonies met. They wanted to solve their problems with Great Britain. They wrote a letter to the King. They asked him to stop the taxes and let them trade freely.

The Revolutionary War began in 1775. The King of Great Britain did not listen to the protesters or change the rules for trade and taxation. Many of the colonists decided it was time to fight for independence.

On July 4, 1776, representatives from all 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote the document. It explained the problems between the colonies and the King of Great Britain. It also declared that America was independent from Great Britain.

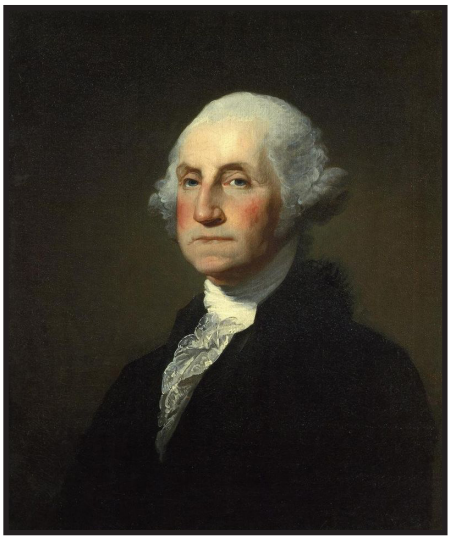
The basic belief of the Declaration of Independence is that "all men are created equal" and have certain important rights. These include "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Every July 4th, people in the United States celebrate Independence Day.



Rembrandt Peale, 1800 | White House Historical Association

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

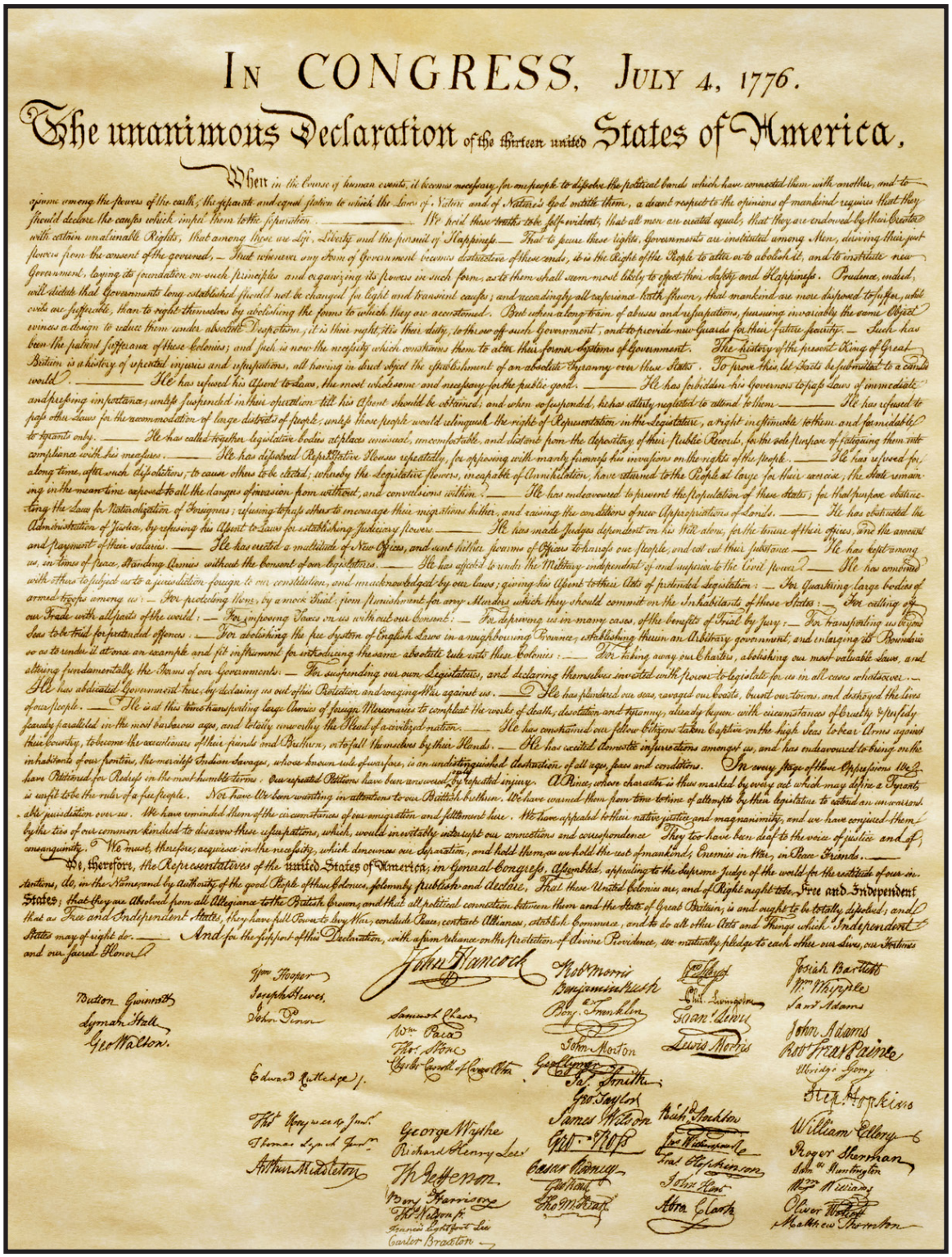
George Washington was the Commander in Chief (leader) of the colonial Army. He was the first Commander in Chief of the United States military.



Gilbert Stuart, 1797 | Clark Art Institute

George Washington became the first President of the United States.

George Washington declared victory over the British in 1783. The colonists won the war and the United States became an independent country. George Washington became the first President of the United States. He is called the "Father of Our Country."



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise, the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended legislation: For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free system of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The Declaration of Independence

Unit Two Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

_____

2. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

_____

3. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

_____

4. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

_____

5. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

_____

6. Why did the colonists fight the British?

_____

7. Who was the first President of the United States?

_____

8. Who is the "Father of Our Country?"

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What is the basic belief of the Declaration of Independence?

_____

2. What do we celebrate on the 4th of July?

_____

3. What country did the colonies fight during the Revolutionary War?

_____

4. Who was the first Commander in Chief of the United States military?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. Was your birth country ever a colony of another country?

2. Did your birth country ever fight for independence from another country? If so, how did it become independent and why?



George Washington attended the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1787.

Howard Chandler Christy, 1940 | United States House of Representatives

Unit Three

The United States Constitution

The United States Constitution

Section Glossary of Terms

Federal Government
The central authority over the states

Treaties
A treaty is a written agreement between two countries.

Preamble
An introduction

Establish justice
To make and enforce fair laws

Ensure domestic tranquility
To guarantee peace in the country

Provide for the common defense
To have soldiers to protect the country

Promote the general welfare
To work for the good of all people

Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity
To have freedom for people now and in the future

Amendments
Changes or additions

Supreme
Most powerful or important

After the Revolutionary War, the Founding Fathers, leaders from the new states, gathered at the Constitutional Convention and wrote the Constitution. The Constitution is the plan of government for the United States. It was written in 1787, and the 13 state governments voted to accept its authority.

The Founding Fathers wanted to explain the plan of government to the people so that they would support it and vote for the Constitution. The Federalist Papers were 85 essays that explained how the American form of government would work and why it was the best system of government for the new nation. The essays were written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, but they were published under the name "Publius."

The Constitution defines the government of the United States and creates three branches of government: the executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch includes the President and his/her Cabinet advisors, the legislative branch is the Senators and Representatives, and the judicial branch is the judges and courts. Each branch has certain powers. The founding fathers did not want one person or branch to have too much power. This system is called separation of powers, or a system of checks and balances.

The Constitution gives a voice in the government to both big and small states. The legislative branch of Congress has two parts, the Senate and the House of Representatives. In the Senate, each state has two senators. In the House of Representatives, each state has representation based on its population. States with more people have more representatives than smaller states. This is one reason it is important to be counted in the census every ten years.



Benjamin West. 1816 | Philadelphia Museum of Art

Benjamin Franklin is known for his experiments with electricity.

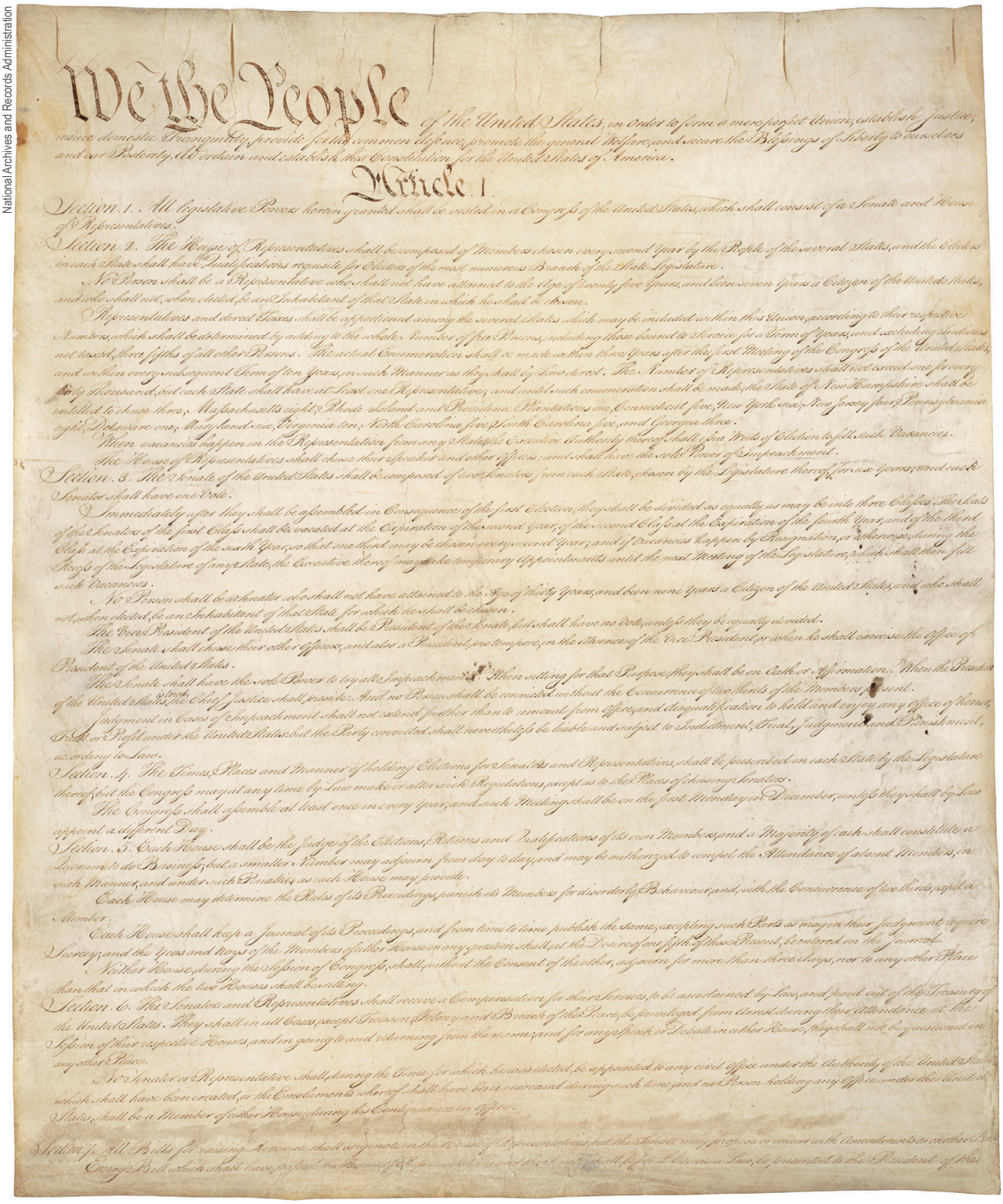
More About Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was an early supporter of the idea that the 13 colonies should be united into one nation. Franklin became famous as a writer, scientist, and politician. He wrote "Poor Richard's Almanac," a yearly publication that provided a calendar, information about the weather, and entertainment. He was the oldest member of the Constitutional Convention and a U.S. diplomat in France. He was also the first Postmaster General of the United States and started the first free libraries in the country.

The Constitution gives some powers to the federal government and some to state government. The federal government has the power to print money, declare war, create an army, and make treaties. The state governments have the power to provide education, protection, and safety; to give driver's licenses; and to approve zoning and land use.

The first three words of the Constitution, called the Preamble, explain the American idea of self-government. The Preamble reads: *"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."*

National Archives and Records Administration



We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of Honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section. 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section. 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section. 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section. 7. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the

The United States Constitution

Amendments

Amendments are changes to the Constitution. Amendments can be added in two ways. One way is for two-thirds of the House of Representatives and the Senate to vote for the change. The other way is for Congress to call a special convention. A total of 27 amendments have been added to the Constitution since 1787.

The founding fathers wrote a Bill of Rights in 1791. The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments or changes to the Constitution. It defines individual and community rights that protect many of the activities of American life. The document provides a guide for how all people who live in the United States can participate in and benefit from democracy.

The Constitution and Bill of Rights together protect the basic rights of Americans and all people living in the United States. The Constitution is called, "the supreme law of the land."

The Bill of Rights

First Ten Amendments to the Constitution

1st Amendment	Gives the rights of freedom of speech, press, religion, peaceful assembly, and change in government.
2nd Amendment	Gives the right of people to own guns for a citizens' militia.
3rd Amendment	Says the government cannot force people to let soldiers stay in their homes when there is no war.
4th Amendment	Says the government cannot search or take a person's property without a warrant.
5th Amendment	Says a person cannot be tried twice for the same crime. A person cannot be forced to testify against herself or himself.
6th Amendment	Gives a person charged with a crime the right to a trial by jury and to have a lawyer.
7th Amendment	Gives people the right to a trial by jury in most cases.
8th Amendment	Says people cannot be charged high monetary fines or be given cruel and unusual punishment.
9th Amendment	Gives people additional rights not listed in the Constitution.
10th Amendment	Says any power that is not given to the federal government belongs to the states or the people.

The First Amendment Up Close

- Freedom of speech means you can say what you think and believe.
- Freedom of the press means you can say what you think and believe through print, television, radio, or the internet.
- Freedom of religion means you can practice the religion of your choice or not practice a religion at all.
- Freedom of peaceful assembly means you can gather in groups with other people for social causes or to peacefully ask for changes in the government.

Other Amendments to the Constitution

11th Amendment (1795)	Protects a state's government from being sued in federal court unless a national issue is involved.
12th Amendment (1804)	Says the election of the President and Vice President in the Electoral College is to be on separate ballots rather than together on one ballot.
13th Amendment (1865)	Ended slavery in the United States.
14th Amendment (1868)	Gives citizenship to any person born or naturalized in the United States.
15th Amendment (1870)	Gives all citizens the right to vote regardless of race, color or previous condition of slavery.
16th Amendment (1913)	Says Congress has the power to set taxes on the money people earn.
17th Amendment (1913)	Provides direct election of United States senators.
18th Amendment (1919)	Says it is illegal to make or sell liquor in the United States.
19th Amendment (1920)	Gives women the right to vote.
20th Amendment (1933)	Says the President and Vice President take office on January 20th.
21st Amendment (1933)	Ends the 18th amendment.
22nd Amendment (1951)	Says no President shall be elected for more than two terms.
23rd Amendment (1961)	Gives people living in Washington, D.C. the right to vote for the President and Vice President.
24th Amendment (1964)	Says people may vote in federal elections without paying a poll tax.
25th Amendment (1967)	Describes methods for filling vacancies in the offices of President and Vice President.
26th Amendment (1971)	Gives 18-year-old citizens the right to vote.
27th Amendment (1992)	Gives rules for the pay of senators and representatives.

Unit Three Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What is the supreme law of the United States?

_____

2. What does the Constitution do?

_____

3. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

_____

4. When was the Constitution written?

_____

5. What are the first three words of the Constitution?

_____

6. What is an amendment?

_____

7. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

_____

8. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

_____

9. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

_____

10. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

_____

11. Under our Constitution, what is one power of the federal government?

_____

12. Under our Constitution, what is one power of the states?

_____

13. Name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers.

_____

14. Name one branch or part of the government.

_____

15. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

_____

16. What is freedom of religion?

_____

17. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

_____



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Voting

Voting is a great privilege you get when you become an American citizen, so you have to use it!

When you become a voting member of our society, you make a difference in the community and play a role in the decision-making process.

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. Can the Constitution be changed?

_____

2. What did the Federalist Papers do?

_____

3. How many branches are there in our government?

_____

4. Name one amendment which guarantees or addresses voting rights.

_____

5. What is the introduction to the Constitution called?

_____

6. What is the most important right granted to U.S. citizens?

_____

7. Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. What kind of government does your birth country have? Do the people strongly support it?

2. Is freedom of speech supported in your birth country? If not, why?

3. What amendment to the Constitution is most important to you?



Americans celebrate their country in many ways.

Edited: Courtney Collison | https://www.flickr.com/photos/courtney_/7025502569

Unit Four

Americana and United States Geography

The Star Spangled Banner

Section Glossary of Terms

Fortress
A building with a wall or fence around it for security

National Anthem
The national song of a country

Dawn
Early morning when the sun rises

Twilight
When the sun goes down and the night begins

Broad
Wide

Perilous
Dangerous

Ramparts
Walls that defend or protect people

Gallantly Streaming
Fearless and waving in the wind

Bursting
Exploding

In 1812, England and the United States were at war again (the War of 1812). The English burned the White House and the Capitol Building. One night, England attacked Fort McHenry, a military fortress in Baltimore, Maryland. Francis Scott Key was a lawyer from Baltimore. He saw the fortress being attacked. He did not know who was winning the battle. The next morning, he saw the United States flag still flying over the fortress. Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the words of the Star Spangled Banner. Later, he put the words to the music of a popular song. The "Star Spangled Banner" became the national anthem of the United States

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services



People may sing the national anthem at the naturalization oath ceremony.



Percy Moran, 1913 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ds-00032a

Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the words of the Star Spangled Banner during the War of 1812.

The lyrics to the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner are:

Oh say can you see by the dawn's early light,

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;

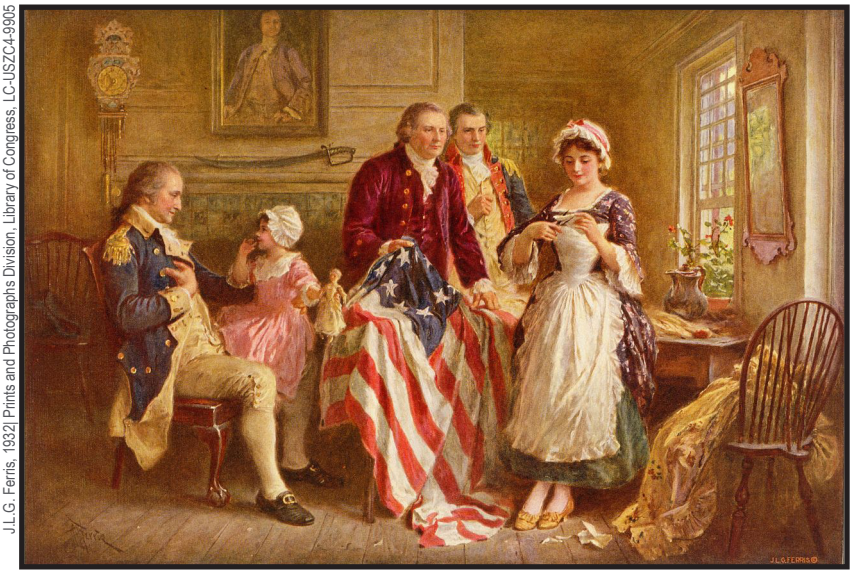
Oh say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

The United States Flag

The United States flag has 13 red and white stripes to represent the original 13 colonies. The 50 white stars on a blue square represent the current 50 states.

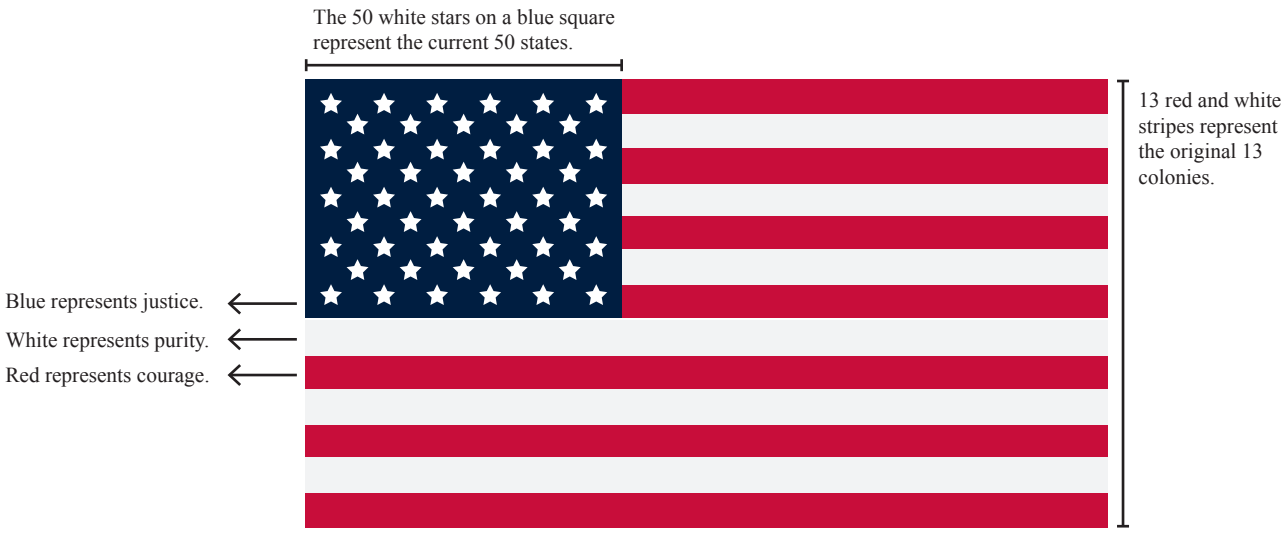
The flag is red, white, and blue. Red represents courage. White represents purity. Blue represents justice.



J.L.G. Ferris, 1932| Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-9905

Betsy Ross is widely credited with creating the first American flag.

The United States flag



The Pledge of Allegiance and National Holidays

Section Glossary of Terms

Indivisible
Something that cannot be divided or separated.

The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise, or oath, of loyalty to the United States and the flag. It is often recited at public events and in public school classrooms.

> **The Pledge of Allegiance**
>
> *I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Many national holidays honor major events in American history, like Independence Day. Other holidays remember important leaders like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, or remember those who died in wars. United States national holidays are:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

The Statue of Liberty

Section Glossary of Terms

Harbor
A body of water suitable for ships

Huddled masses
Crowded groups of people; many immigrants arrived on crowded boats

Yearning to breathe free
Wanting very much to be free from oppression

Wretched refuse
Unfortunate poor people undesired by others

Teeming shore
Crowded land next to the water

Tempest-tost
People tossed in the wind or storm; in poetry it can also mean people who have had a difficult life, much like living in a storm

The Statue of Liberty is on Liberty Island in the harbor next to New York City. The statue is a symbol of freedom. France gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States as a gift in 1876 to celebrate 100 years of American independence. The Statue of Liberty was the first thing many immigrants from Europe saw when they arrived in the United States.



Detroit Publishing Co. | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-DIG-det-4a23254

The Statue of Liberty is on Liberty Island in the harbor next to New York City.

The statue is of a woman with long robes and a crown. In her right hand she carries a torch. In her left hand she has a book that reads July 4, 1776. On her feet there is a broken chain that symbolizes breaking out of oppression. Below the statue's feet is a poem written by an immigrant named Emma Lazarus:

"Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

United States Geography

Section Glossary of Terms

Contiguous
Connected to each othe

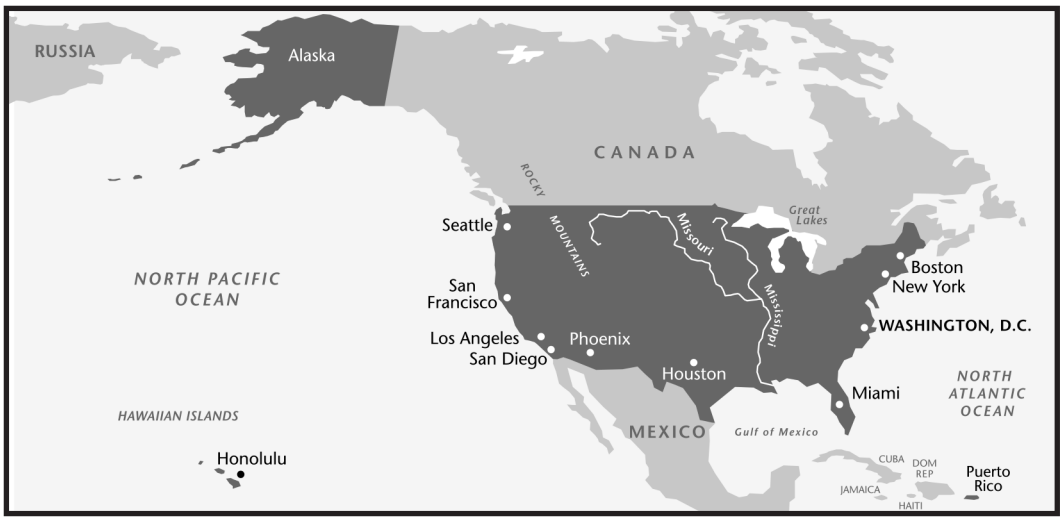
Landmark
A place of importance

Peninsula
Land surrounded by water on three sides

The United States is a large country that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean on the East Coast to the Pacific Ocean on the West Coast. It shares a border with Canada to the North and with Mexico to the South. There are 48 contiguous states on the North American continent, plus the peninsula of Alaska and the islands of Hawaii.

The capital of the United States is Washington, DC.

In addition to the 50 states and Washington, DC, the United States has a number of territories. Territories are governed by the United States government but they have less legal and political power than states. They do not have a vote in Congress. People born in some United States territories are U.S. citizens, but in other territories they are not. The most well known United States territories are Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.



The United States is the third largest country in the world. It has many major geographic landmarks. The longest rivers are the Missouri River and the Mississippi River. There are five "Great Lakes" in the north-central part of the country. There are also many mountain ranges. The Rocky Mountains are the longest mountain range in the country.

Unit Four Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1.Why does the flag have 50 stars?

_____

2. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

_____

3. What is the name of the national anthem of the United States?

_____

4. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

_____

5. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

_____

6. What is the capital of the United States?

_____

7. Name one state that borders Mexico.

_____

8. Name one state that borders Canada.

_____

9. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

_____

Test Questions, Continued
Write the answer in the blank space.

10. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

_____

11. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

_____

12. Name one U.S. territory.

_____

13. Name two U.S. national holidays.

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What are the colors of the United States flag?

_____

2. How many stars are in the flag?

_____

3. Who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever visited Washington, DC or the Statue of Liberty? If so, what was it like?

2. Does your birth country share any national holidays with the United States?

3. Which U.S. national holiday is most important to you and why?



Kurz & Allison-Art Publishers, 1890 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-507

Unit Five

The Civil War and Slavery

The Civil War and Slavery

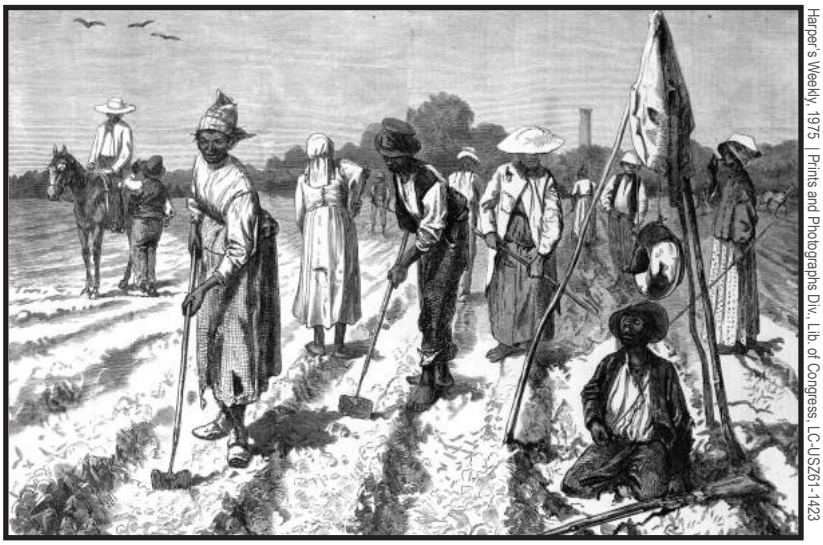
Section Glossary of Terms

Plantation
A large farm

Slave
A person who is bought and owned by another person, works for no pay, and has no rights

Reunite
To join after being separated

Prohibited
Not allowed



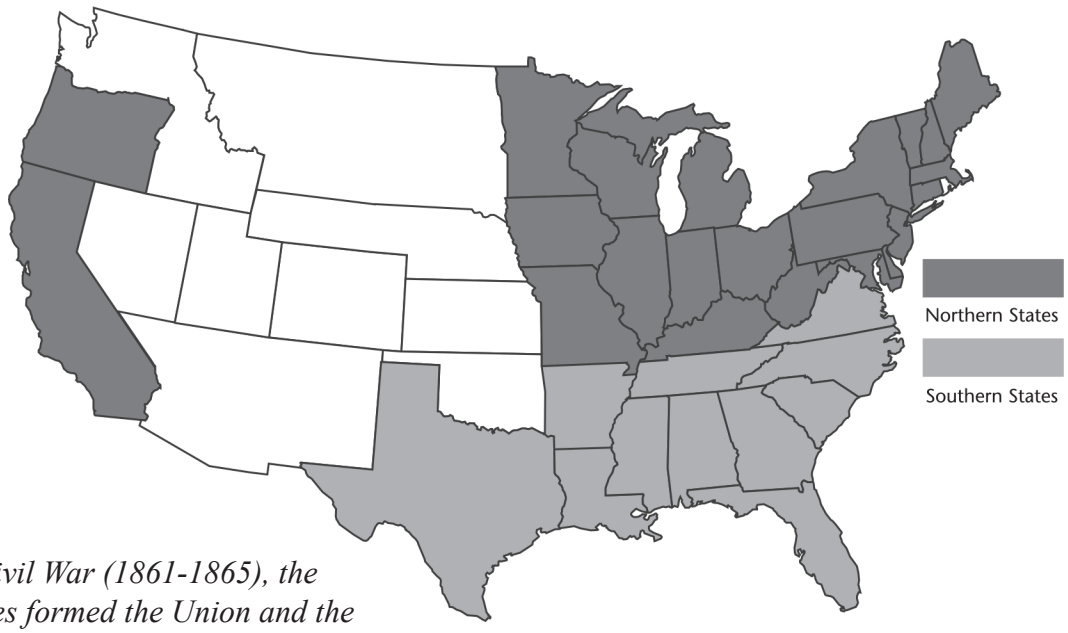
Harper's Weekly, 1975 | Prints and Photographs Div., Lib. of Congress, LC-USZ61-1423

African American slaves worked on farms and plantations long hours for no pay.

By 1860, the southern and the northern states were different in many ways. The South's economy was from farming while the North's was more industrial. The South grew a lot of cotton and tobacco. Southern farmers needed many people to work. Both large plantations and small farms used slaves as workers.

Slaves were people captured in Africa and sold to slave traders. They were forced to come to America in crowded ships. They were sold to new owners and they and their children were kept as property. Slaves were forced to work long hours for no pay and often with harsh physical punishment.

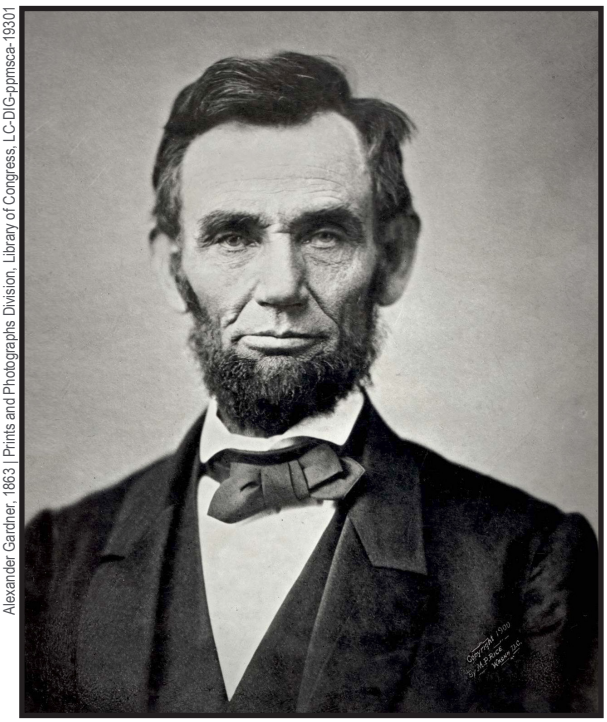
Africans first came to the United States in the 1600s. Some were free and others were slaves. Later, the northern states made slavery illegal. By 1860, the United States had four million slaves in the South.



During the Civil War (1861-1865), the northern states formed the Union and the southern states formed the Confederacy.

The northern and southern states had many disagreements over slavery, economics, and states' rights. Many people in the South believed they needed slaves. Some people in the North wanted to end slavery. Because the North had more people, it had more representatives in Congress. Congress passed laws that helped the northern states grow, but hurt the southern economy. The expansion of new states in the Union made the debate on slavery more important.

The Civil War, also called "The War Between the States," began soon after Abraham Lincoln was elected President. Many southern states were angry because Lincoln was personally against slavery and also from the North. The Civil War began in 1861 after eleven southern states separated from the Union (the United States) and formed the Confederacy, a new government of slave owning states.



Alexander Gardner, 1863 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-19301

Abraham Lincoln was President during the Civil War.

The Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865. The northern Union government wanted to reunite the country. The southern Confederate government wanted to remain separate. As leader of the United States during the war, Lincoln was the Commander-in-Chief of the Union army.

In 1863, Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This document started the process of freeing the slaves in the Confederate states. The 13th amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1865. It prohibited slavery.

The North won the war in 1865 and the United States became unified again. President Lincoln was responsible for saving the Union. Shortly after, Lincoln was murdered.

President's Day is a national holiday celebrating the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and George Washington (February 22). On the third Monday in February, people in the United States remember these leaders.



1861 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-36882

Union soldier (North)



1861 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-37159

Confederate soldier (South)

Unit Five Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

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

_____

2. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

_____

3. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

_____

4. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

_____

5. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. Who was President during the Civil War?

_____

2. Which President freed the slaves?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. Has there ever been slavery in your birth country?

2. Has there ever been a civil war in your birth country?

3. Who is the most respected leader in your birth country's history? What did he or she do?



Many American pioneers crossed the Great Plains in covered wagons in the late 1800s.

Henry Bryan Hall, 1869 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-2634

Unit Six

The United States Grows

The United States Grows

Section Glossary of Terms

Hemisphere
Half of the earth

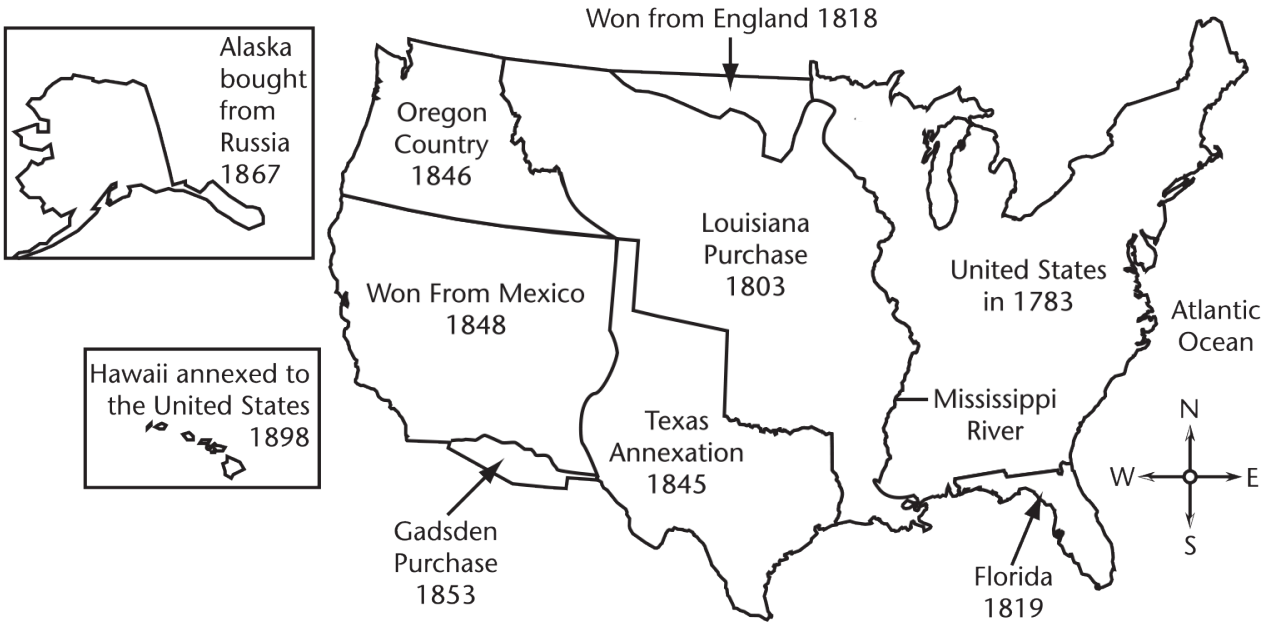
The United States grew from 13 to 50 states. When George Washington became President, the Mississippi River was the western border of the United States. By the mid-1850s, the country covered all the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

Alaska and Hawaii were the last states to join the Union. They joined in 1959. Alaska was the 49th state and Hawaii was the 50th state.

The United States also has non-state territories. People born in the territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands are U.S. citizens.

All of the land that is now the United States was owned by the American Indians when the first explorers arrived. American settlers claimed and farmed much of the American Indians' land for themselves.

The United States government bought much of North America from European countries. In 1803 the government bought the Louisiana Territory (land west of the Mississippi River) from France called the Louisiana Purchase. Then, in 1819 the United States bought Florida from Spain. Finally, Russia sold Alaska to the United States in 1867.



The United States gained the Northwestern Territories (Oregon Country) in 1846 from England. England kept what is now the province of British Columbia in western Canada.

The southwestern states were colonies of Spain, and then were part of an independent Mexico before they became part of the United States. In 1845, the United States took over Texas. This angered many Mexicans. The United States and Mexico fought the Mexican-American War as a result. It ended with the United States taking control over most of the southwest. In 1853, the United States government bought a piece of land from Mexico called the Gadsden Purchase.



By the 1890s, the United States was the main power in the Western Hemisphere, but Spain still had colonies in the Caribbean. The Spanish-American War started when Spain sunk an American ship in Cuba. The war ended when the United States Navy destroyed the Spanish Navy in the Philippines and Cuba. In this war, the United States won control of the Spanish colonies of Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam.



Unit Six Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1.What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

_____

2. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

_____

3. Name one U.S. territory.

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. How many states are there in the United States?

_____

2. What is the 50th state added to the Union (the United States)?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. Does your birth country have states or provinces? Were any of these once part of another country?

2. How did the United States gain territory? How did this impact the people who lived in this territory first?



At the turn of the 20th century, the United States received hundreds of thousands of immigrants.

Bain News Service | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-B2- 678-15

Unit Seven

The 20th Century and Today

The 20th Century and Today

The 20th century began and ended with large waves of immigration to the United States. From 1900 to 1910 the United States had its highest decade of immigration, nearly all from Europe. In the 1920s, the government passed a law that limited immigration for many years. However, in 1965 a new law opened up immigration to people from all over the world based on family sponsorship. As a result, the United States experienced its second highest decade of immigration during the 1980s. This time the majority of the immigrants were from Asia and Latin America. Except for the Native Americans, all people in the United States have an immigrant heritage.

World War I began in 1914, but the United States did not enter the war until 1917. Woodrow Wilson was President during this time. It was the first war using modern weapons such as submarines, tanks and airplanes. The United States helped England, France and Russia defeat a group of countries led by Germany and Austria-Hungary. The war ended in 1918.



Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USW33- 035391-ZC

Breadline during the Great Depression.

In 1929, the United States and the rest of the world entered into an economic depression called the "Great Depression." The stock market dropped. Many businesses closed and people lost their jobs or had their salaries cut. Many banks permanently closed and people lost their money. The depression gradually ended by 1939.

President Franklin Roosevelt helped end the Great Depression with the New Deal. Roosevelt was first elected President in 1932 and served until 1945. In the New Deal, the government gave jobs to the unemployed, provided loans to prevent farmers and homeowners from losing their property, and passed laws to protect against another depression. In addition, many bank accounts were guaranteed from bankruptcy by the government.



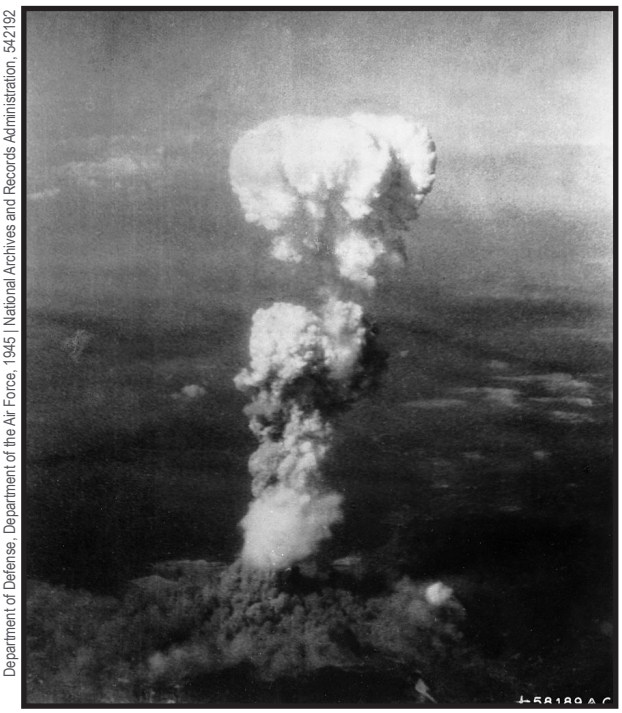
Robert Sargent, 1944 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-4731

The United States entered World War II after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

World War II began in 1939. The United States entered World War II in 1941 on the day after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. More than 2,000 people died in the attack. The United States joined the Allied powers—England, Russia, and other countries—against the Axis powers led by Germany, Italy, and Japan.

The United States and the Allied countries won World War II in 1945. During the war, they defeated Germany months after the famous D-Day invasion in Normandy, France in 1944. Japan did not surrender until after the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who later became President of the United States, commanded the United States army during World War II.

The United Nations was born after the terrible experience of World War II. During World War II, more than 22 million people died. Many countries thought it was important to come together to try and resolved world problems peacefully. They formed a new international organization called the United Nations (UN). The UN also helps many countries with economic assistance and provides education and health problems.



Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, 1945 | National Archives and Records Administration, 542192

World War II ended when the United States dropped two nuclear bombs on Japan.

After World War II, the Soviet Union and the United States – the two major world powers – became involved in the Cold War. The United States and Western European democratic countries, who opposed communism, led one side. In these countries, the people chose the leaders of their government and could also own private property. The Soviet Union led the communist Eastern European countries. Under the Soviet system, the Communist Party ran the government and private property was not allowed. Both sides influenced other countries around the world during the Cold War.

The Cold War was a war for the political support and economic markets of developing countries. It did not involve actual fighting between the superpowers of the United States and the Soviet Union, although each side had many weapons in its military.

In the early 1990s, the Cold War ended as the Soviet Union and other communist countries moved toward democracy. Today, there are fewer communist countries left in the world.

In the Korean War, the United States tried to defend the non-communist government in South Korea from the communist government in North Korea. The war lasted from 1950 to 1953. At the end of the war, Korea remained divided with an unstable peace.



Signal Corps, U.S. Army, 1951 | Prints and Photographs Division, Lib. of Congress, LC-USZ62-72424

The Korean War war lasted from 1950 to 1953.



Warren Leffler, 1968 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-U9- 18528

The Vietnam War was controversial politically and morally among many people in the United States.

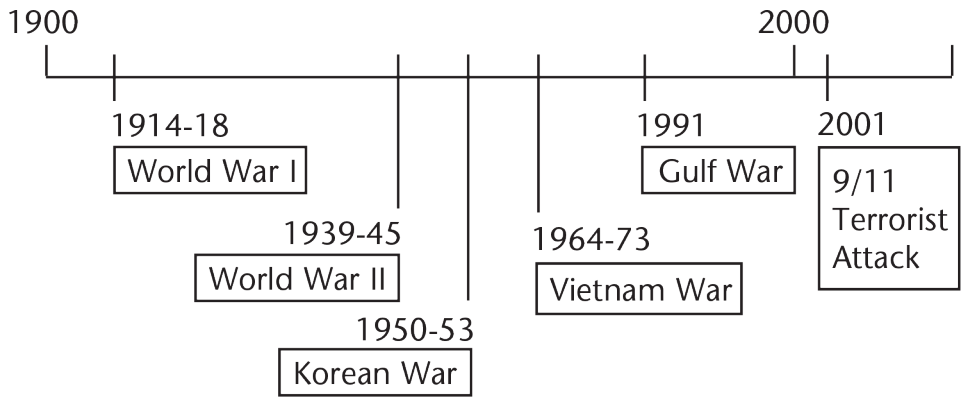
The United States also tried to protect anti-communist South Vietnam from Communist North Vietnam. The United States was involved in the Vietnam War from 1964 to 1973. The United States government sent troops to help the South Vietnamese.

The Vietnam War was controversial in the United States. Americans strongly debated whether or not the United States should be involved in Vietnam. The people against the war marched and demonstrated all over the country, attracting a lot of attention from the media.

The United States withdrew from South Vietnam in 1973. In 1975 the North Vietnam military invaded the South and united the country under communist leadership.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the United States led a group of countries to help free Kuwait. Iraq left Kuwait and the United States and its allies won the Persian Gulf War quickly in February 1991.

September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States. This event led to wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Unit Seven Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1.Who was President during World War I?

_____

2. Who did the United States fight during World War II?

_____

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

_____

4. What war was President Eisenhower in?

_____

5. What was the main concern of the United States during the Cold War?

_____

6. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.

_____

7. What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. Which countries were the enemies of the United States during World War II?

_____

2. Name one purpose of the United Nations.

_____

Discussion Questions

1. How was communism different from the United States' way of life?

2. What effect does immigration have on the United States today?



The March on Washington was a large protest in the nation's capital.

Warren K. Leffler, 1963 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-U9- 10361-15

Unit Eight

The Civil Rights Movement

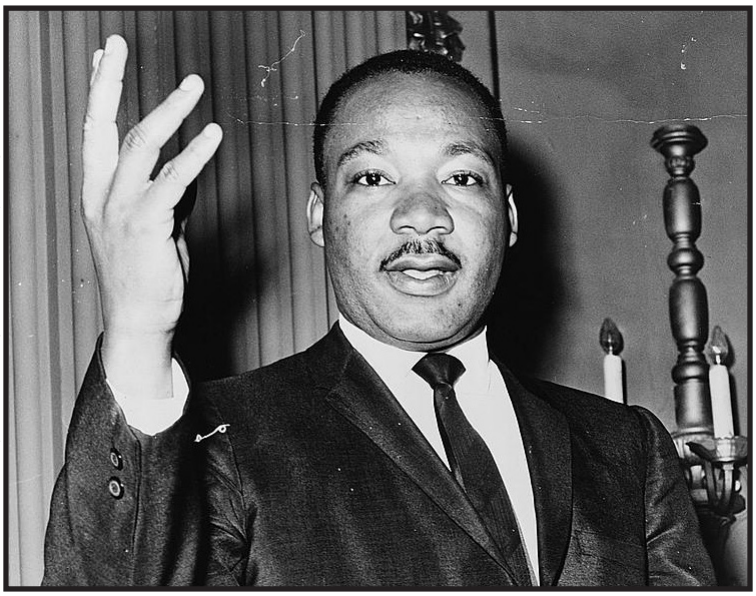
The Civil Rights Movement

Section Glossary of Terms

Discrimination
An act or behavior against someone due to color of skin, accent, or some other difference

The civil rights movement tried to end discrimination against African Americans and other minorities during the 1950s. Although they were freed from slavery, African Americans continued to suffer from discrimination. In some parts of the country, they were segregated or separated from white people in schools, restaurants, restrooms, and other public places. In addition, some state laws made it very difficult for them to register to vote.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the most famous leader of the civil rights movement among many courageous leaders. Through his peaceful protests against discriminatory laws, he worked for equality for all Americans and inspired people throughout the United States and the world. For his work, he won the Nobel Peace Prize.



Dick DeMarsico, 1964 | Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-126559

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a result of the civil rights movement, many new laws were passed against discrimination. These laws helped women, African Americans, and other racial and ethnic minority groups claim their constitutional rights.



Warren Leffler, 1963 | Prints and Photographs Div., Lib. of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-03128

In some parts of the country, African Americans were separated from white people. This photograph shows a procession of African Americans carrying signs for equal rights.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is now a national holiday on the third Monday in January. People remember his important leadership on this day and his death by assassination in 1968.

On August 28, 1963 more than 100,000 people marched in Washington, DC to demand civil rights. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a famous speech. The speech was called "I Have a Dream." Here is part of that speech.

"I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American meaning…We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. I have a dream that one day…sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood…I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but the content of their character…

This is our hope…With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, knowing that we will be free one day…And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true…"

Unit Eight Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

_____

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

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

_____

2. What was Martin Luther King, Jr.'s most famous speech called?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. Are there any leaders in the United States today like Martin Luther King, Jr.? Who and why?

2. What types of discrimination still exist in the United States?



The Senate and the House of Representatives meet to make laws inside the Congress Building in Washington, D.C.

Martin Falbisoner, 2013

Unit Nine

The Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch of the Federal Government



Lawrence Jackson, 2009 | whitehouse.gov

Laws are debated by the Representatives in the House Chamber.

The legislative branch of government is called Congress. Congress makes the federal laws for the United States.

Congress meets in Washington, DC at the United States Capitol Building. Washington, DC is the capital of the United States.

Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Senators work in the Senate and Representatives work in the House of Representatives. This is called a bicameral legislature (two houses).

It is the duty of Congress to write bills and vote on them. After a bill passes both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the President may sign it into law or reject it. The judicial branch makes sure the law is constitutional. The executive branch puts the new federal law into effect. For example, only Congress has the power to declare war, but the President is the Commander in Chief of the military.

There are 100 Senators in the Senate. Each state has two Senators. Senators serve a six year term of office. Every six years there is a new election. There is no limit on how many times a Senator can be re-elected. A Senator represents all the people of a state.

There are a total of 435 voting members in the House of Representatives. The total of 435 remains the same according to the Constitution, but the number of Representatives from each state varies. It depends on the population of each state. States with a lot of people have many Representatives. States with small populations have fewer Representatives. Each Representative represents people from a certain part of the state. Representatives serve a two year term of office. Every two years there is a new election. There is no limit on how many times a Representative can be re-elected.

Roberto Koltun



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Republican-Florida), a naturalized U.S. citizen from Cuba.

How Congress Makes Laws

A bill (proposal for a new law) is intoduced in the House of Representatives.

↘

The bill is referred to the appropriate committee, which holds hearings and gives its reccomendations to the full House.

↓

The leadership of the House schedules the bill for debate by the full House.

↓

The House debates and can admend the bill.

↓

The House passes the bill.

A bill (proposal for a new law) is introduced in the Senate.

↙

The bill is referred to the appropriate committee, which holds hearings and gives its reccomendations to the full Senate.

↓

The leadership of the Senate schedules the bill for debate by the full Senate.

↓

The Senate debates and can admend the bill.

↓

The Senate passes the bill.

All bills must pass both the House and the Senate in identical form before being presented to the President.

↓ One house agrees to the other house's version.

or

↓ House and Senate members are appointed to a conference committee and agree to a compromise bill.

or

↓ House and Senate exchange amendments to the bill and reach agreement.

↘ Compromise approved in the House.

↙ Compromise approved in the Senate.

↘ ↙

Legislation presented to the President.

↓ President signs the bill into law.

or

↓ If Congress is in session, the bill becomes law without the President's signatue in ten days.

or

↓ If Congress is not in session, the bill fails to become law without the President's signature after ten days ("pocket veto").

or

↓ President vetos the bill.*

*Congress can override veto by a two-thirds vote in each house.

Unit Nine Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. Who makes federal laws?

_____

2. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

_____

3. How many U.S. Senators are there?

_____

4. Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?

_____

5. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

_____

6. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

_____

7. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

_____

8. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?

_____

9. Name your U.S. Representative.

_____

10. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What are the duties of the U.S. Congress?

_____

2. Who has the power to declare war?

_____

3. Why are there 100 Senators in the U.S. Senate?

_____

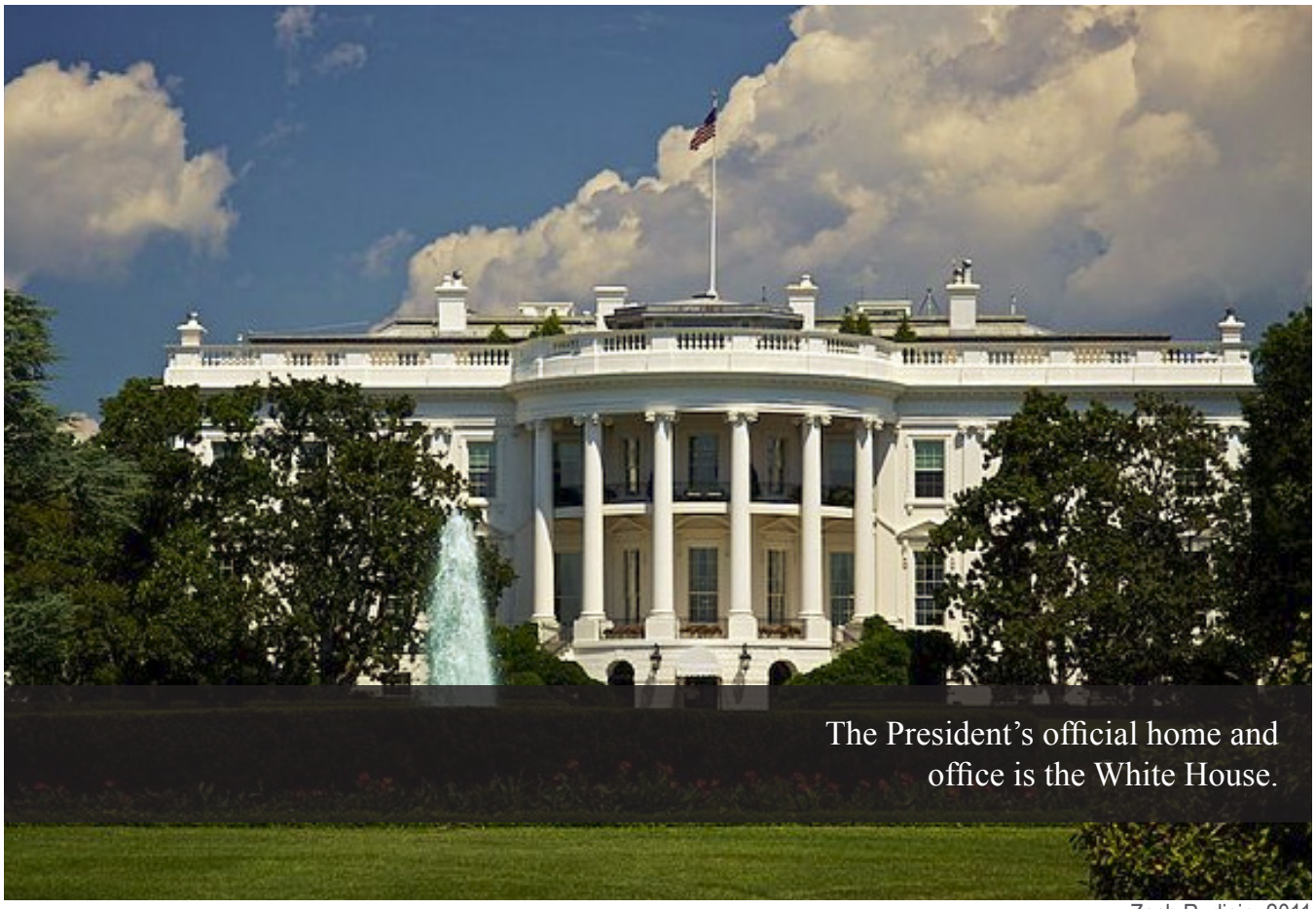
4. Where does the U.S. Congress meet?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. How do members of Congress decide what to vote for?

2. If you could ask your Senator and Representatives for one thing, what would it be?



Zach Rudisin, 2011

Unit Ten

The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch of the Federal Government

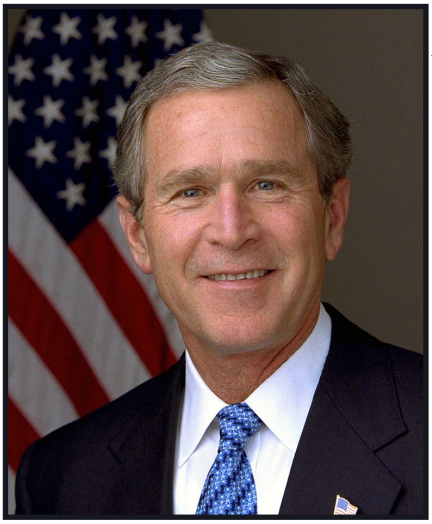
Section Glossary of Terms

Enforce
Makes sure laws are followed correctly

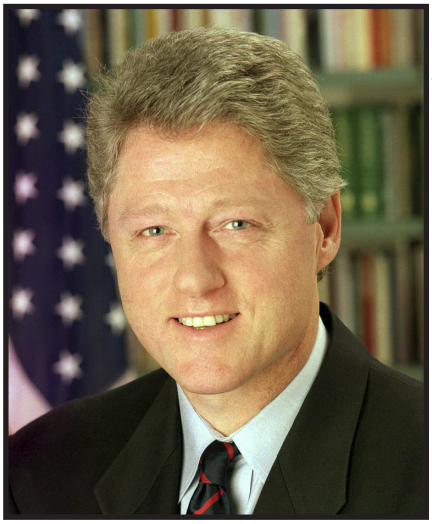
Veto
To reject


Pete Souza, 2012

Barack Obama
2009-Present


Eric Draper, 2003

George W. Bush
2001-2009


Bob McNeely, 1993

Bill Clinton
1993-2001

The executive branch enforces federal laws and puts new laws into effect. The legislative branch makes laws and then the executive branch puts them into effect through the appropriate department or independent agency.

The executive branch is made up of the President, the Vice President, and the Cabinet and their departments. It also has some independent agencies.

The President is in charge of the executive branch. The Presidency is the highest office in the United States. The President is the leader of the country and the Commander in Chief of the United States armed forces. The President nominates judges to the Supreme Court and signs bills into laws. The President can also veto laws.

According to the Constitution, the President can only serve for two full, consecutive terms. Each term is four years, so the President can serve a total of eight years.

The White House is the President's official home. The White House is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20500.

The President's Cabinet

The Cabinet is a special group of people who advise the President. They are appointed or nominated by the President. Each cabinet member is the head of an executive department. Except for the head of the Justice Department, who is called the Attorney General, the head of each executive department is called the Secretary. In the United States, Cabinet-level positions are:

- Attorney General
- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Commerce
- Secretary of Defense
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Energy
- Secretary of Health and Human Services
- Secretary of Homeland Security
- Secretary of the Interior
- Secretary of Labor
- Secretary of State
- Secretary of Transportation
- Secretary of the Treasury
- Secretary of Veteran's Affairs
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

The Vice President is the second highest position in the country. He or she leads the Senate and votes in case of a tie. The Vice President serves as the acting President if the President is unable to serve.

If the President should die or leave office, the Vice President would become the President. If both the President and the Vice President cannot serve, the leader of the House of Representatives, called the Speaker of the House, becomes President.

The President and the Vice President must have the same qualifications according to the Constitution. The President must be born a U.S. citizen, be at least 35 years old, and have lived in the United States at least 14 years.

Unit Ten Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

_____

2. What is the name of the President of the United States now?

_____

3. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

_____

4. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

_____

5. If the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

_____

6. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

_____

7. We elect a President for how many years?

_____

8. Who is the Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?

_____

9. Who signs bills to become laws?

_____

10. Who vetoes bills?

_____

11. What does the President's Cabinet do?

_____

12. What are two Cabinet-level positions?

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What is the executive branch of our government?

_____

2. What is one of the requirements a person must meet in order to be President?

_____

3. What is the White House?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. In your birth country, what is the leader called? How does this person become the leader?

2. Who else has political power in your birth country?

Presidential Elections



Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo, U.S. Air Force, 2009

On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama, a Democrat, was sworn in as President at his inauguration.

The President is elected every four years in November. The general election is always held in November. People can vote for the candidate of their choice.

The President is not directly elected by the people, but rather by the electoral college. The electoral college meets after the election votes are counted. Representatives from the electoral colleges from each state vote for the candidate who won the majority vote in their state.

The people vote for a candidate from the Democratic or Republican party or from an independent party. A party is a group of people with similar ideas about government. The Democratic and Republican parties are the largest in the United States.

The presidential candidates are chosen by their party. The candidates first run in primary elections in different states. Then, each party has a convention at which they choose their candidate for President. Usually the person who won the most votes in the primary is picked. Then the presidential candidate picks a vice presidential candidate. The party candidates for President and Vice President campaign together.

The candidate who is elected President in November is inaugurated in January. The winner must wait until January to be sworn in as President of the United States.

Unit Ten Review Questions, Cont.

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. In what month do we vote for President?

_____

2. We elect a President for how many years?

_____

3. What is the political party of the President now?

_____

4. What are the two major political parties in the United States?

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. Who elects the President of the United States?

_____

2. In what month is the new President inaugurated?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. If you met the President of the United States, what would you say or ask?

2. What political parties do you have in your birth country? What are the differences between them?



The Supreme Court meets in Washington, D.C. at the Supreme Court Building.

Zach Rudisin, 2011

Unit Eleven

The Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch of the Federal Government



Steve Petteway, 2010 | Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States

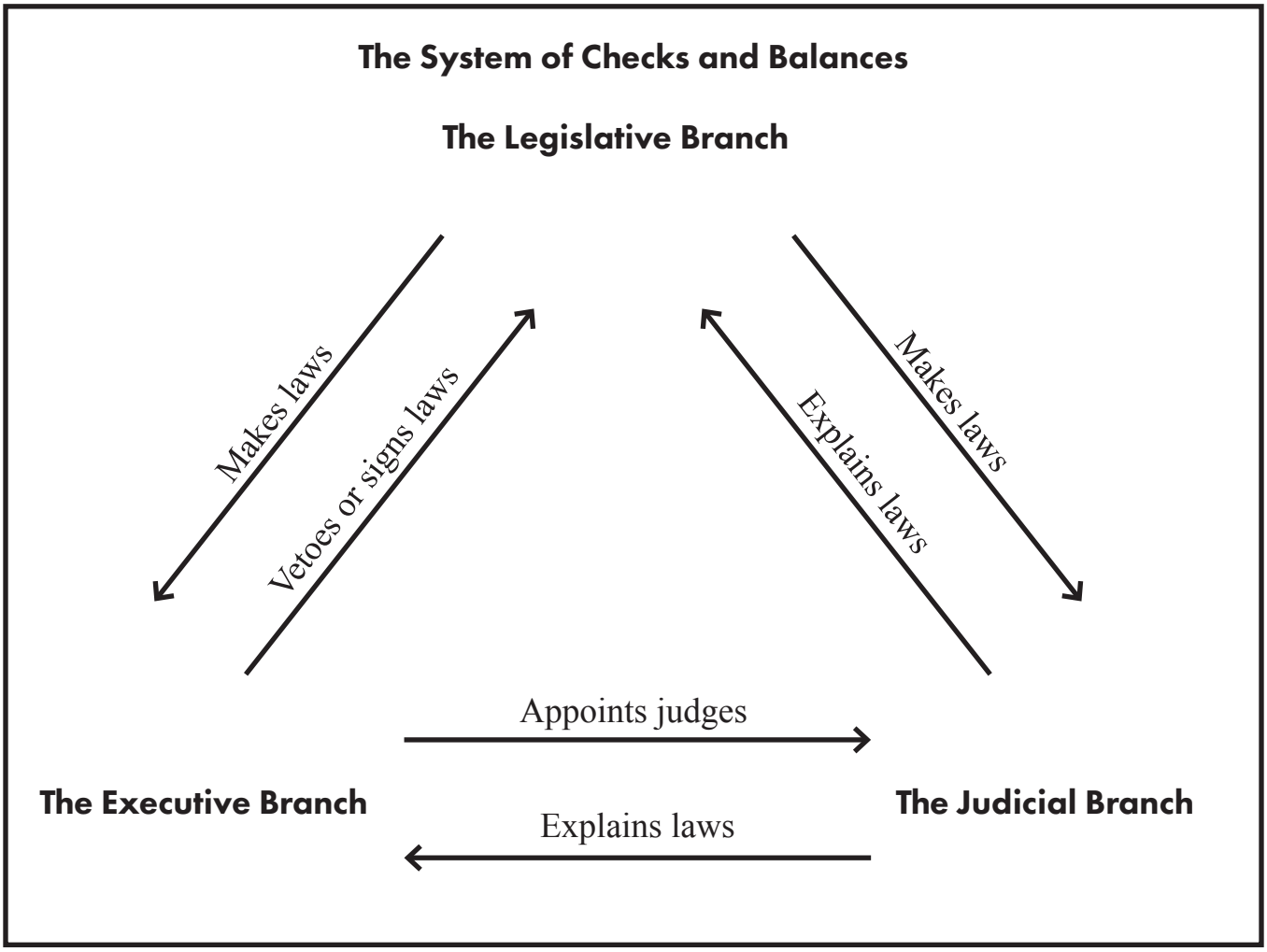
Back row: Sonia Sotomayor, Stephen G. Breyer, Samuel A. Alito, and Elena Kagan. Front row: Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia, Chief Justice John Roberts, Anthony Kennedy, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The judicial branch of government reviews, explains, or interprets the law. It decides if a law goes against the Constitution. The judicial branch also resolves disputes.

The judicial branch is made up of federal, state, and local courts. Local courts decide if a person has broken a local law and state courts interpret state laws. Only the federal courts can interpret federal law.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. It is a federal court. The nine judges on the Supreme Court are called justices. The Chief Justice is the leader of the Supreme Court. Currently the Chief Justice is John G. Roberts, Jr.

The President nominates or appoints the Supreme Court justices. Then Congress must approve the nomination. A justice can serve a term for life.


The System of Checks and Balances
The Legislative Branch
Makes laws
Vetoes or signs laws
Explains laws
Makes laws
Appoints judges
The Executive Branch
The Judicial Branch
Explains laws

Unit Eleven Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What does the judicial branch do?

_____

2. What is the highest court in the United States?

_____

3. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?

_____

4. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What are judges on the Supreme Court called?

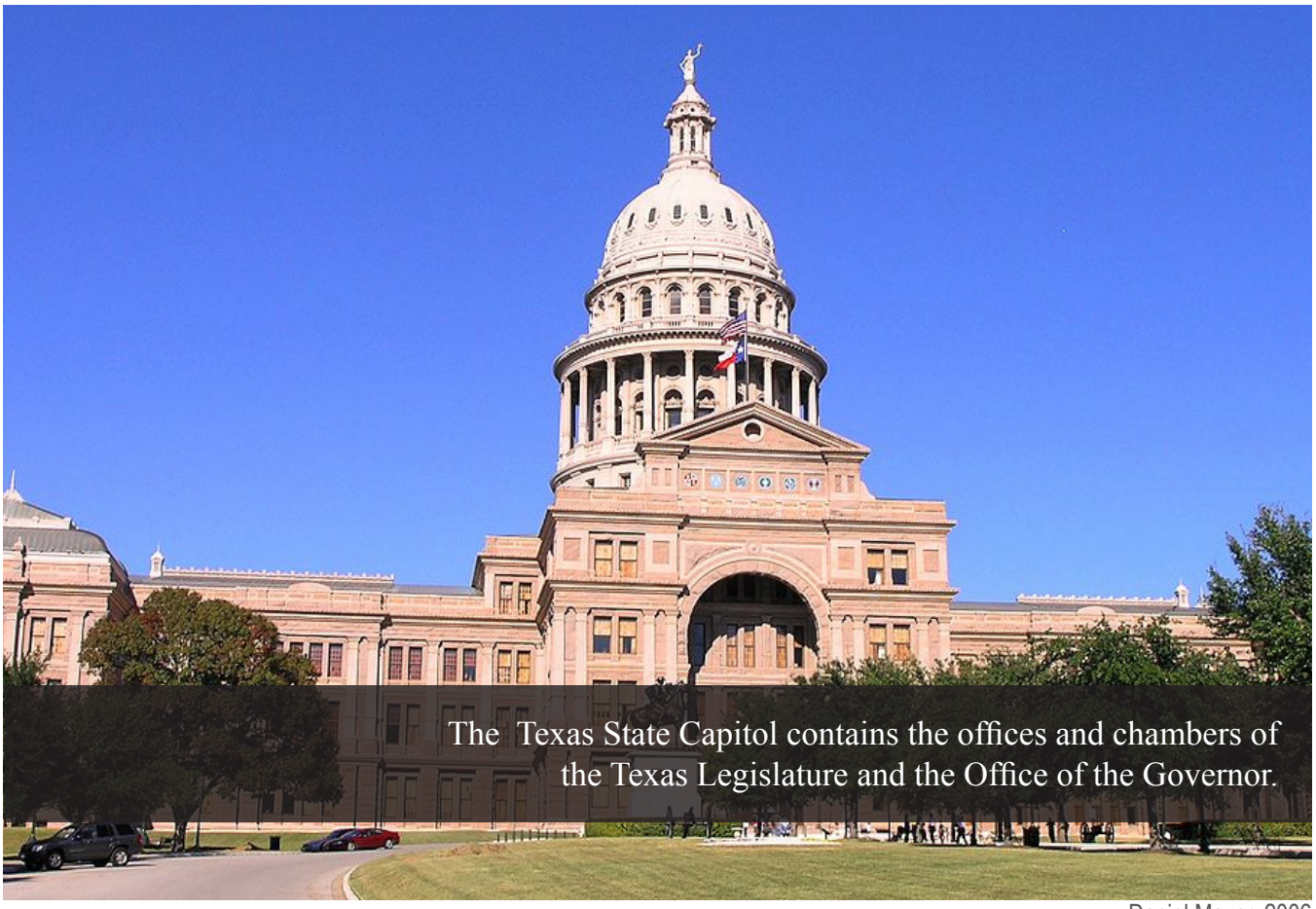
_____

2. Who nominates justices to the Supreme Court?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. What qualifications should a good judge have?



The Texas State Capitol contains the offices and chambers of the Texas Legislature and the Office of the Governor.

Daniel Mayer, 2006

Unit Twelve

State and Local Government

State Government

Section Glossary of Terms

National Guard
Volunteer members of the army, navy, air force, and marines who train part-time; in time of war or disaster, they may be called upon to become full-time military professionals

Each state has its own government. State governments have three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. State law is based on the state constitution.

A governor is the head of the executive branch of state government. The governor's office is in the state capital. The governor gives the state senators and representatives ideas about what laws are needed. The governor can also veto or reject bills he or she does not like. The governor appoints judges to state courts and is the leader of the state's National Guard.

The executive branch also has independent agencies. For example, one agency can regulate driver's licenses and another can provide public assistance to low-income people.

The state legislative branch is made up of the state senate and house of representatives. It is often called either the state legislature or the state assembly. It makes state laws, decides how much state tax to charge, and decides what to do with the taxes collected. The state legislature passes laws on issues such as state highways and state support for public education.



State governments are responsible for issuing driver's licenses.

Each state decides how many senators and representatives to have and how to elect them. The state has senate districts from which senators are elected and assembly districts from which representatives are elected. They all meet together in the state capital.

The judicial branch of state government is made up of the state courts. The state courts hear cases about state laws. There is also a state supreme court.

A judge and jury hear most cases in the court system. The jury decides by vote if the person is guilty as accused. The jury may also recommend to the judge what sentence to give. Only U.S. citizens can serve on a jury.

Local Government

Counties, cities, towns, and villages have a local government. The state constitution gives procedures on how to establish a local government.

Each state is divided into counties. Counties usually have an elected board of commissioners or supervisors. Some counties also have a county manager.



Bill McChesney, 2012 | http://www.flickr.com/photos/bsabarnow/6899583232

Public schools are often administered by local governments.

City, town and village governments can charge and collect taxes, try people accused of breaking local laws, and provide government services. Services may include police and fire protection; garbage collection; marriage, birth and death certificates; and school and public library administration.

The head executive of city government is usually an elected mayor. Many cities also have an elected city council which acts like the legislative branch.

Miranda Rights



Dave Conner, 2007 | http://www.flickr.com/photos/conner395/795926368

Police officers have to warn you of your constitutional rights if they arrest you.

Miranda Rights are the result of two important Supreme Court cases. In the first case, a poor man named Clarence Gideon was arrested and charged with a crime. He asked the court to give him a lawyer for free because he could not afford one. The court said no because the crime was not punishable by death. Gideon asked the Supreme Court to hear his case. The Supreme Court decided that anyone accused of a crime for which he or she could receive a sentence of one year or more in jail should have a lawyer. If the person cannot afford one, he or she must be given one for free by the government.

In the second case, a man named Ernesto Miranda was arrested for rape. The police officer asked many questions to Miranda while he was alone without a lawyer. He signed a paper from the police officer that said he was guilty. Miranda thought the Constitution guaranteed him the right to be told he could have a lawyer when the police asked him questions. Miranda also asked the Supreme Court to hear his case. The Supreme Court agreed with Miranda. The evidence taken before he was told of his rights could not be used in his trial.

Today, police officers have to warn you of your constitutional rights if they arrest you. However, it is important to remember that anything you say or write either before or after you are arrested can be used against you in court.

The Miranda Warning

You have the right to remain silent and not say anything which might incriminate [hurt] yourself. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.

You can stop answering questions asked you at anytime.

You have the right to have a lawyer with you during questioning or when you go to court. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed [given] to you.

Unit Twelve Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What is the capital of your state?

_____

2. Who is the Governor of your state now?

_____

3. Under our Constitution, what is one power of the states?

_____

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What county do you live in?

_____

2. Who is the head of your local government?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. Have you lived in another state? What are some of the political differences between that state and the state you live in now?

2. How do the laws in your state affect your life?

3. How can you influence your local government?

4. What do you like about living in your city or town?



Citizens of the United States have the right to vote in all local, state, and national elections.

Erik Hersman, 2008 | http://www.flickr.com/photos/whiteafrican/3004595893

Unit Thirteen

Rights and Responsibilities

Rights and Responsibilities of All

Section Glossary of Terms

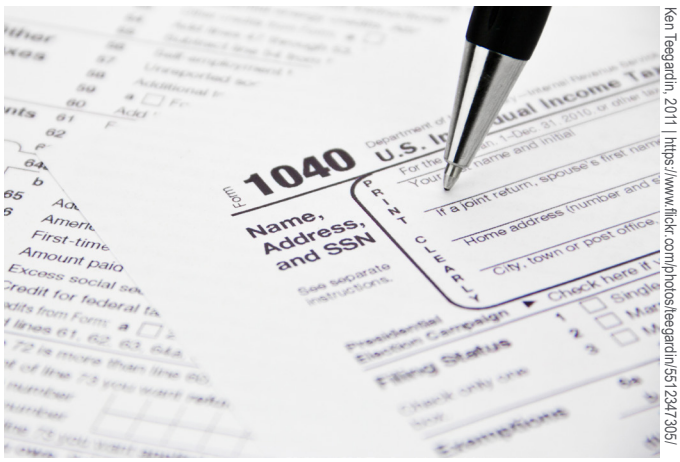
Expression
A thought or idea

Assembly
A gathering of people

Bear Arms
To carry weapons

Everyone who lives in the United States has certain rights. They include freedom of expression, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom to petition the government, freedom of worship, and the right to bear arms. The economic system in the United States, called a capitalist economy or market economy, provides all people who live in the United States the opportunity to pursue their economic goals.

All people who live in the United States are subject to the "rule of law." This means that everyone must obey the law, including leaders and the government.



Ken Teegardin, 2011 | https://www.flickr.com/photos/teegardin/5512347305/

Tax Day is April 15.

Most people living in the United States have certain responsibilities even if they are not U.S. citizens. These responsibilities include paying income taxes and filing tax returns with the government. By law, employers must take federal income taxes out of employees' paychecks. In some states, employers are also required to take state income taxes out of employees' paychecks. The last day to send in federal income tax forms is April 15.

All men between the ages of 18 and 26 who live in the United States must register for Selective Service (the draft) when they turn 18. Failure to pay taxes and register with the Selective Service may delay or prevent a person from becoming a U.S. citizen.

Rights and Responsibilities of U.S. Citizens

Section Glossary of Terms

Persuade To convince someone to do something	Instrumental Of great importance

When you become a U.S. citizen you will make certain promises. You will promise to:

- Give up loyalty to other countries
- Defend the Constitution and laws of the United States
- Obey the laws of the United States
- Serve in the United States military (if needed)
- Do important work for the nation (if needed)
- Be loyal to the United States

Citizens of the United States have certain rights as a result of their citizenship. These include the right to vote, carry a United States passport, run for office and apply for certain federal jobs. It is much easier for U.S. citizens to help family members immigrate to the United States.

The right to vote is the most important right granted to a U.S. citizen. When the Constitution was written, not all U.S. citizens had the right to vote. Women, minorities, and people who could not afford to pay a poll tax were not allowed to vote. Voting rights were expanded by four amendments to the Constitution. These amendments say that:

- A male citizen of any race can vote (15th Amendment)
- Any citizen can vote (both men and women) (19th Amendment)
- You do not have to pay a poll tax to vote (24th Amendment)
- Citizens age 18 and older can vote (26th Amendment)

The Voting Rights Act

The four voting rights amendments to the Constitution did not prevent discrimination in voting. Many people, especially African-Americans, were not able to vote, even though they had the legal right to vote. Under some state laws, they had to take reading and writing tests and pay poll taxes in order to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 tried to end these practices by saying any law that denies a person the right to vote is illegal.

Citizens of the United States also have responsibilities. They are expected to vote and they are expected to serve on a jury if called to do so. These responsibilities are part of participating in a democracy. Other ways U.S. citizens can participate in a democracy include:

- Joining a civic or community group
- Giving an elected official their opinion on an issue
- Writing to a newspaper about an issue or policy
- Publicly supporting or opposing an issue or policy
- Joining a political party
- Helping with a political campaign
- Running for public office

There are many ways you can participate in the civic life of your community and live out the promises you make when you become a citizen.

An Active Citizen

Susan B. Anthony was a committed participant in American democracy. She fought for civil rights and women's rights. Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Anthony gave speeches around the country to try to persuade the government to treat men and women equally. Although she died before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed, she was instrumental in helping women get the right to vote.

Unit Thirteen Review Questions

Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What is the economic system in the United States?

_____

2. What is the "rule of law?"

_____

3. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

_____

4. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

_____

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

_____

6. Describe one of the amendments to the Constitution about who can vote.

_____

7. What is one responsibility that is only for U.S. citizens?

_____

8. Name one right only for United States citizens.

_____

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

_____

10. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

_____

11. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

_____

12. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

_____

Unit Thirteen Review Questions

Additional Questions (These questions are not on the test.)
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. Do non-citizens have rights and responsibilities?

_____

2. What is the Selective Service?

_____

3. What is the most important right given to U.S. citizens?

_____

Discussion Questions

1. How can non-citizens influence the United States government?

2. Why can American citizens more effectively influence the United States government?

3. What are elections like in your birth country?

4. Why do you want to vote in United Sates elections?

5. Who is an active citizen in your community and why?

(rev. 08/08)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Reading Vocabulary for the Naturalization Test

PEOPLE	CIVICS	PLACES	HOLIDAYS	QUESTION WORDS	VERBS	OTHER (FUNCTION)	OTHER (CONTENT)
Abraham Lincoln	American flag	America	Presidents' Day	How	can	a	colors
George Washington	Bill of Rights	United States	Memorial Day	What	come	for	dollar bill
	capital	U.S.	Flag Day	When	do/does	here	first
	citizen		Independence Day	Where	elects	in	largest
	city		Labor Day	Who	have/has	of	many
	Congress		Columbus Day	Why	is/are/was/be	on	most
	country		Thanksgiving		lives/lived	the	north
	Father of Our Country				meet	to	one
	government				name	we	people
	President				pay		second
	right				vote		south
	Senators				want		
	state/states						
	White House						

Missing sections? Visit cliniclegal.org/citizenshiptest.

(rev. 08/08)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Writing Vocabulary for the Naturalization Test

PEOPLE	CIVICS	PLACES	MONTHS	HOLIDAYS	VERBS	OTHER (FUNCTION)	OTHER (CONTENT)
Adams	American Indians	Alaska	February	Presidents' Day	can	and	blue
Lincoln	capital	California	May	Memorial Day	come	during	dollar bill
Washington	citizens	Canada	June	Flag Day	elect	for	fifty/50
	Civil War	Delaware	July	Independence Day	have/has	here	first
	Congress	Mexico	September	Labor Day	is/was/be	in	largest
	Father of Our Country	New York City	October	Columbus Day	lives/lived	of	most
	flag	United States	November	Thanksgiving	meets	on	north
	free	Washington			pay	the	one
	freedom of speech	Washington, D.C.			vote	to	one hundred/100
	President				want	we	people
	right						red
	Senators						second
	state/states						south
	White House						taxes
							white

Attachment C

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

SCORING GUIDELINES FOR THE U.S. NATURALIZATION TEST

Section 312 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides that most applicants for naturalization demonstrate an understanding of the English language, including an ability to read, write, and speak words in ordinary usage in the English language, as well as a knowledge of U.S. government and history (civics)[1]. This document provides a general description of how the U.S. Naturalization Test is evaluated and scored by Officers of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

SPEAKING: An applicant's verbal skills are determined by the applicant's answers to questions normally asked by USCIS Officers during the naturalization eligibility interview. USCIS Officers are required to repeat and rephrase questions until the Officer is satisfied that the applicant either fully understands the question or does not understand English. If the applicant generally understands and can respond meaningfully to questions relevant to the determination of eligibility, the applicant has demonstrated the ability to speak English.

READING: To sufficiently demonstrate the ability to read in English, applicants must read one sentence, out of three sentences, in a manner suggesting to the USCIS Officer that the applicant appears to understand the meaning of the sentence. Once the applicant reads one of three sentences correctly, USCIS procedures require that the USCIS Officer will stop administering the reading test. Applicants shall not be failed because of their accent when speaking English. A general description of how the reading test is scored follows:

Pass:

- Reads one sentence without extended pauses
- Reads all content words but may omit short words that do not interfere with meaning
- May make pronunciation or intonation errors that do not interfere with meaning

Fail:

- Does not read the sentence
- Omits a content word or substitutes another word for a content word
- Pauses for extended periods of time while reading the sentence
- Makes pronunciation or intonation errors that interfere with meaning

1 The English language requirement may be waived for an applicant, who on the date of filing the Application for Naturalization, Form N-400, was over 50 years old and has been a permanent resident for at least 20 years, or was over 55 years old and has been a permanent resident for at least 15 years. If either exemption applies, the applicant is not tested in English and may take the civics examination in the applicant's language of choice. An applicant, who on the date of filing the application, was over 65 years old and has been a permanent resident for 20 years, is not tested in English and qualifies to take a simpler version of the civics test in the applicant's language of choice. Also, both the English language and civics requirements for naturalization are waived for applicants who are unable to comply with these requirements because of a medical or physical impairment. To achieve a passing score on the civics test, applicants are required to answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly.

WRITING: To sufficiently demonstrate the ability to write in English, the applicant must write one sentence, out of three sentences, in a manner that would be understandable as written to the USCIS Officer. An applicant must not abbreviate any dictated word in the written sentence. Once the applicant writes one of three sentences correctly, USCIS procedures require that the USCIS Officer will stop administering the writing test. An applicant shall not be failed because of spelling, capitalization, or punctuation errors unless the errors would prevent understanding the meaning of the sentence. A general description of how the writing portion is scored follows:

Pass:

- Has the same general meaning as the dictated sentence
- May contain some grammatical, spelling, punctuation, or capitalization errors that do not interfere with meaning
- May omit short words that do not interfere with meaning
- Numbers may be spelled out or written as digits

Fail:

- Writes nothing or only one or two isolated words
- Is completely illegible
- Writes a different sentence or words
- Written sentence does not communicate the meaning of the dictated sentence
- Writes an abbreviation for a dictated word

CIVICS: To sufficiently demonstrate knowledge of U.S. government and history (civics), the applicant must answer six of ten questions correctly. The civics test will be an oral examination. Once the applicant answers six questions correctly, USCIS procedures require that the USCIS Officer will stop administering the civics test. A general description of how the civics portion is scored follows:

Pass:

- Provides a correct answer
- Provides an alternative phrasing of the correct answer

Fail:

- Provides an incorrect answer
- Fails to respond

According to regulation, applicants who fail the English literacy and/or civics test during their first examination will be rescheduled to appear for a second opportunity to take the test (8 CFR 312.5).

(rev. 03/11)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Civics (History and Government) Questions for the Naturalization Test

The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test are listed below. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. As you study for the test, make sure that you know the most current answers to these questions. Answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of your eligibility interview with USCIS. The USCIS Officer will not accept an incorrect answer.

Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided below.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. **What is the supreme law of the land?**
   - *the Constitution*
2. **What does the Constitution do?**
   - *sets up the government*
   - *defines the government*
   - *protects basic rights of Americans*
3. **The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?**
   - *We the People*
4. **What is an amendment?**
   - *a change (to the Constitution)*
   - *an addition (to the Constitution)*
5. **What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?**
   - *the Bill of Rights*
6. **What is <u>one</u> right or freedom from the First Amendment?***
   - *speech*
   - *religion*
   - *assembly*
   - *press*
   - *petition the government*
7. **How many amendments does the Constitution have?**
   - *twenty-seven (27)*

* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

8. **What did the Declaration of Independence do?**
   - *announced our independence (from Great Britain)*
   - *declared our independence (from Great Britain)*
   - *said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)*

9. **What are <u>two</u> rights in the Declaration of Independence?**
   - *life*
   - *liberty*
   - *pursuit of happiness*

10. **What is freedom of religion?**
   - *You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.*

11. **What is the economic system in the United States?***
   - *capitalist economy*
   - *market economy*

12. **What is the "rule of law"?**
   - *Everyone must follow the law.*
   - *Leaders must obey the law.*
   - *Government must obey the law.*
   - *No one is above the law.*

B: System of Government

13. **Name <u>one</u> branch or part of the government.***
   - *Congress*
   - *legislative*
   - *President*
   - *executive*
   - *the courts*
   - *judicial*

14. **What stops <u>one</u> branch of government from becoming too powerful?**
   - *checks and balances*
   - *separation of powers*

15. **Who is in charge of the executive branch?**
   - *the President*

16. **Who makes federal laws?**
   - *Congress*
   - *Senate and House (of Representatives)*
   - *(U.S. or national) legislature*

17. **What are the <u>two</u> parts of the U.S. Congress?***
   - *the Senate and House (of Representatives)*

18. **How many U.S. Senators are there?**
   - *one hundred (100)*

* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?
- *six (6)*

20. Who is <u>one</u> of your state's U.S. Senators now?*
- *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]*

21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
- *four hundred thirty-five (435)*

22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
- *two (2)*

23. Name your U.S. Representative.
- *Answers will vary. [Residents of territories with nonvoting Delegates or Resident Commissioners may provide the name of that Delegate or Commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]*

24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
- *all people of the state*

25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?
- *(because of) the state's population*
- *(because) they have more people*
- *(because) some states have more people*

26. We elect a President for how many years?
- *four (4)*

27. In what month do we vote for President?*
- *November*

28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?*
- *Barack Obama*
- *Obama*

29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
- *Joseph R. Biden, Jr.*
- *Joe Biden*
- *Biden*

30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
- *the Vice President*

31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
- *the Speaker of the House*

32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
- *the President*

33. Who signs bills to become laws?
- *the President*

34. Who vetoes bills?
- *the President*

* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

35. What does the President's Cabinet do?
- *advises the President*

36. What are <u>two</u> Cabinet-level positions?
- *Secretary of Agriculture*
- *Secretary of Commerce*
- *Secretary of Defense*
- *Secretary of Education*
- *Secretary of Energy*
- *Secretary of Health and Human Services*
- *Secretary of Homeland Security*
- *Secretary of Housing and Urban Development*
- *Secretary of the Interior*
- *Secretary of Labor*
- *Secretary of State*
- *Secretary of Transportation*
- *Secretary of the Treasury*
- *Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
- *Attorney General*
- *Vice President*

37. What does the judicial branch do?
- *reviews laws*
- *explains laws*
- *resolves disputes (disagreements)*
- *decides if a law goes against the Constitution*

38. What is the highest court in the United States?
- *the Supreme Court*

39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
- *nine (9)*

40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
- *John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)*

41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is <u>one</u> power of the federal government?
- *to print money*
- *to declare war*
- *to create an army*
- *to make treaties*

42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is <u>one</u> power of the states?
- *provide schooling and education*
- *provide protection (police)*
- *provide safety (fire departments)*
- *give a driver's license*
- *approve zoning and land use*

* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

43. Who is the Governor of your state now?
- *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]*

44. What is the capital of your state?*
- *Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of U.S. territories should name the capital of the territory.]*

45. What are the <u>two</u> major political parties in the United States?*
- *Democratic and Republican*

46. What is the political party of the President now?
- *Democratic (Party)*

47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
- *(John) Boehner*

C: Rights and Responsibilities

48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe <u>one</u> of them.
- *Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).*
- *You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.*
- *Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)*
- *A male citizen of any race (can vote).*

49. What is <u>one</u> responsibility that is only for United States citizens?*
- *serve on a jury*
- *vote in a federal election*

50. Name <u>one</u> right only for United States citizens.
- *vote in a federal election*
- *run for federal office*

51. What are <u>two</u> rights of everyone living in the United States?
- *freedom of expression*
- *freedom of speech*
- *freedom of assembly*
- *freedom to petition the government*
- *freedom of worship*
- *the right to bear arms*

52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
- *the United States*
- *the flag*

53. What is <u>one</u> promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
- *give up loyalty to other countries*
- *defend the Constitution and laws of the United States*
- *obey the laws of the United States*
- *serve in the U.S. military (if needed)*
- *serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)*
- *be loyal to the United States*

* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?*
- *eighteen (18) and older*

55. What are <u>two</u> ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
- *vote*
- *join a political party*
- *help with a campaign*
- *join a civic group*
- *join a community group*
- *give an elected official your opinion on an issue*
- *call Senators and Representatives*
- *publicly support or oppose an issue or policy*
- *run for office*
- *write to a newspaper*

56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?*
- *April 15*

57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?
- *at age eighteen (18)*
- *between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)*

AMERICAN HISTORY

A: Colonial Period and Independence

58. What is <u>one</u> reason colonists came to America?
- *freedom*
- *political liberty*
- *religious freedom*
- *economic opportunity*
- *practice their religion*
- *escape persecution*

59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
- *American Indians*
- *Native Americans*

60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
- *Africans*
- *people from Africa*

61. Why did the colonists fight the British?
- *because of high taxes (taxation without representation)*
- *because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)*
- *because they didn't have self-government*

62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
- *(Thomas) Jefferson*

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63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
- *July 4, 1776*

64. There were 13 original states. Name <u>three</u>.
- *New Hampshire*
- *Massachusetts*
- *Rhode Island*
- *Connecticut*
- *New York*
- *New Jersey*
- *Pennsylvania*
- *Delaware*
- *Maryland*
- *Virginia*
- *North Carolina*
- *South Carolina*
- *Georgia*

65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
- *The Constitution was written.*
- *The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.*

66. When was the Constitution written?
- *1787*

67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name <u>one</u> of the writers.
- *(James) Madison*
- *(Alexander) Hamilton*
- *(John) Jay*
- *Publius*

68. What is <u>one</u> thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
- *U.S. diplomat*
- *oldest member of the Constitutional Convention*
- *first Postmaster General of the United States*
- *writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"*
- *started the first free libraries*

69. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?
- *(George) Washington*

70. Who was the first President?*
- *(George) Washington*

B: 1800s

71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
- *the Louisiana Territory*
- *Louisiana*

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72. Name <u>one</u> war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
- *War of 1812*
- *Mexican-American War*
- *Civil War*
- *Spanish-American War*

73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
- *the Civil War*
- *the War between the States*

74. Name <u>one</u> problem that led to the Civil War.
- *slavery*
- *economic reasons*
- *states' rights*

75. What was <u>one</u> important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?*
- *freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)*
- *saved (or preserved) the Union*
- *led the United States during the Civil War*

76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
- *freed the slaves*
- *freed slaves in the Confederacy*
- *freed slaves in the Confederate states*
- *freed slaves in most Southern states*

77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?
- *fought for women's rights*
- *fought for civil rights*

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

78. Name <u>one</u> war fought by the United States in the 1900s.*
- *World War I*
- *World War II*
- *Korean War*
- *Vietnam War*
- *(Persian) Gulf War*

79. Who was President during World War I?
- *(Woodrow) Wilson*

80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
- *(Franklin) Roosevelt*

81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?
- *Japan, Germany, and Italy*

82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
- *World War II*

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83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?
- *Communism*

84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
- *civil rights (movement)*

85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?*
- *fought for civil rights*
- *worked for equality for all Americans*

86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?
- *Terrorists attacked the United States.*

87. Name <u>one</u> American Indian tribe in the United States.
[USCIS Officers will be supplied with a list of federally recognized American Indian tribes.]
- *Cherokee*
- *Navajo*
- *Sioux*
- *Chippewa*
- *Choctaw*
- *Pueblo*
- *Apache*
- *Iroquois*
- *Creek*
- *Blackfeet*
- *Seminole*
- *Cheyenne*
- *Arawak*
- *Shawnee*
- *Mohegan*
- *Huron*
- *Oneida*
- *Lakota*
- *Crow*
- *Teton*
- *Hopi*
- *Inuit*

INTEGRATED CIVICS

A: Geography

88. Name <u>one</u> of the two longest rivers in the United States.
- *Missouri (River)*
- *Mississippi (River)*

89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
- *Pacific (Ocean)*

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90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?
- *Atlantic (Ocean)*

91. Name <u>one</u> U.S. territory.
- *Puerto Rico*
- *U.S. Virgin Islands*
- *American Samoa*
- *Northern Mariana Islands*
- *Guam*

92. Name <u>one</u> state that borders Canada.
- *Maine*
- *New Hampshire*
- *Vermont*
- *New York*
- *Pennsylvania*
- *Ohio*
- *Michigan*
- *Minnesota*
- *North Dakota*
- *Montana*
- *Idaho*
- *Washington*
- *Alaska*

93. Name <u>one</u> state that borders Mexico.
- *California*
- *Arizona*
- *New Mexico*
- *Texas*

94. What is the capital of the United States?*
- *Washington, D.C.*

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?*
- *New York (Harbor)*
- *Liberty Island*

[Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]

B: Symbols

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
- *because there were 13 original colonies*
- *because the stripes represent the original colonies*

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?*
- *because there is one star for each state*
- *because each star represents a state*
- *because there are 50 states*

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98. What is the name of the national anthem?

- *The Star-Spangled Banner*

C: Holidays

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?*

- *July 4*

100. Name <u>two</u> national U.S. holidays.

- *New Year's Day*
- *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- *Presidents' Day*
- *Memorial Day*
- *Independence Day*
- *Labor Day*
- *Columbus Day*
- *Veterans Day*
- *Thanksgiving*
- *Christmas*

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Test Question Translations

CLINIC collects translations of the 100 civics (history and government) questions for the naturalization test on its website. They are available at:

cliniclegal.org/resources/translations-citizenship-test

Translations are available in the following languages:

Translations by USCIS	*Translations by community organizations*
Arabic	Albanian
Chinese	Amharic
Korean	Bosnian
Spanish	Cambodian/Khmer
Tagalog	Farsi
Vietnamese	French
	Gujarati
	Hindi
	Hmong
	Lao
	Oromo
	Portugese/Brazilian
	Russian
	Somali
	Thai
	Tigrigna
	Urdu

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Postcards

These postcards can be printed on Avery templates 5889, 8386, and 8389. Grayscale and color versions are provided.

Flyers

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