TEST PREPARATION STUDY GUIDE

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A NOTE TO TEACHERS: As you use Chapter 5 to help students prepare for the citizenship test, please be aware that Chapter 11 provides background and activities that will reinforce the concepts that students are studying here. It is recommended that the two chapters be used together for maximum effectiveness. Also, please note that Chapter 5 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.
For many years, Europeans did not know North America existed.

The Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620.

The Pilgrims immigrated for freedom of religion.
European Exploration

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.

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.

explorer = A person who travels long distances to find new places.
trader = A trader makes a living by exchanging goods instead of buying and selling with money.
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, including:

- Apache (uh-patch-ee)
- Arawak (ar-uh-wak)
- Blackfeet
- Cherokee
- Cheyenne
- Chippewa
- Choctow
- Creek
- Crow
- Hopi
- Huron
- Inuit (in-yoo-it)
- Iroquois (ir-uh-kwoi)
- Lakota
- Mohegan
- Navajo
- Oneida (oh-nahy-duh)
- Pueblo
- Seminole
- Shawnee
- Sioux (soo)
- Teton

With the arrival of the 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.

* There are many other American Indian tribes, and USCIS officers will have a list of all federally recognized tribes.
The English Colonies in North America

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.

In 1732, England established the last of the 13 colonies in North America. 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.

**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.
USCIS Test Questions
Write the answer in the blank space.

1. What is one reason why 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 (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?
Testing Tip

Most of the test 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.
How many U.S. senators are there? 100

What usually refers to the name of a person, place or thing.
What is the economic system in the United States? Capitalist economy, market economy.

Who usually refers to a person.
Who is the “Father of Our Country”? George Washington.

Why asks you the reason for something.
Why does the flag have 13 stripes? Because there were 13 original colonies.

Name usually asks you to give the name of a person, group of people, place or event.
Name one American Indian tribe in the United States. Cherokee.
Citizenship for Us

Unit 2

American Revolution and Independence

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

King George ruled England and the 13 colonies.

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

George Washington became the first President of the United States.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.
Chapter Five, The Citizenship Test

The Revolutionary War

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

Many colonists thought that the English 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. England passed a tax on tea in 1773. A group of colonists in Boston got very angry. They secretly dumped 90,000 pounds of English tea into the ocean. This was called the Boston Tea Party.

Leading protesters from the colonies met. They wanted to solve their problems with England. 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 England 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 England. It also declared that America was independent from England.

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.

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

George Washington declared victory over England 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."

1500 1600 1700 1800 1900

1620 The Pilgrims arrive in Plymouth, Massachusetts
1776 The Declaration of Independence is signed
1775-1783 The Revolutionary War

adopted = Accepted or approved.
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.

When a long Train of Miseries shall have piled Up Such Oppressions as will make it unendurable, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such Form, as the Judgement of that people shall designate. But when a longcadena of abuses and usurpations, without anyarrisment by the People, shall have put an end to their Liberty, it is their Right to rebel, and, for this Reason, the People of this State, relying on the existence of Truth, and the support of the Supreme Power, are called to form a new Government for themselves and their Posterity.
USCIS 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 (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 U.S. 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?
Unit 3

The United States Constitution

Chapter Five, *The Citizenship Test*

The United States Constitution

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.”

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 United States 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 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.
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.”

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 suprême law of the land.”

---

**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.
**insure 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.
**suprême** = Most powerful or important.
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 single 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.

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.

USCIS 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?

______________________________________________________________

Additional Questions (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 the most important to you?

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.

Voting Booth
Unit 4

Americana and United States Geography
Chapter Five, The Citizenship Test

The Star Spangled Banner

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:

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 rocket’s 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?

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

- **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.
The United States Flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and National Holidays

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 purity, and blue justice.

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

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.

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 there 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!”

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 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.

**contiguous** = Connected to each other.  
**peninsula** = Land surrounded by water on three sides.  
**landmark** = A place of importance.
USCIS 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.
_____________________________________________________________

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 (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 there 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?
The American Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865.

Abraham Lincoln was President during the Civil War.

African American slaves worked on farms and plantations long hours for no pay.
During the Civil War (1861-1865), the northern states formed the Union and the southern states formed the Confederacy.
Chapter Five, The Citizenship Test

The Civil War and Slavery

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.

The northern and southern states had many disagreements over slavery, economics and states’ rights. Many 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.

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.

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.
USCIS 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 (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?
Unit 6

The United States Grows

[Map of the United States showing states and acquisitions]

Alaska bought from Russia 1867

Hawaii annexed to the United States 1898

Won from England 1818

Oregon Country 1846

Won from Mexico 1848

Texas Annexation 1845

Gadsden Purchase 1853

Louisiana Purchase 1803

United States in 1783

Atlantic Ocean

Mississippi River

Florida 1819

Missouri

Arkansas

Louisiana

Alabama

Florida

Georgia

South Carolina

Tennessee

Kentucky

North Carolina

Virginia

West Virginia

Ohio

Indiana

Michigan

Pennsylvania

New York

Washington, D.C.

Maryland

New Jersey

Connecticut

Rhode Island

Massachusetts

New Hampshire

Maine

Vermont

New Hampshire

Massachusetts

Rhode Island

New Jersey

Connecticut

New York

Washington, D.C.

Maryland

Vermont

Maine

New Hampshire

New Hampshire

Massachusetts

Rhode Island

New Jersey

Connecticut

New York

Washington, D.C.
The United States Grows

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 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.

hemisphere = Half of the earth.
USCIS 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 (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.

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

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

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

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.
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 resolve world problems peacefully. They formed a new international organization called the United Nations (U.N.). The U.N. also helps many countries with economic assistance and provides education and health programs.

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 that 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.

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.

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

In some parts of the country, African Americans were separated from white people. This man is drinking from a separate, “colored” water cooler.
The Civil Rights Movement

The civil rights movement tried to end discrimination against African Americans and other minorities during the 1950s and 1960s. 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.

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 established, constitutional 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.

In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a famous speech at the March on Washington, a large protest in the nation’s capital. The speech was called “I Have a Dream.” Here is part of that speech.

“\nI 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...”

discrimination = An act or behavior against someone due to color of skin, accent, or some other difference.
USCIS 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 (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?

On August 28, 1963 more than 100,000 people marched in Washington, D.C. to demand civil rights. Here the people listened to speeches, including Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech.
The Senate and the House of Representatives meet to make laws inside the Congress building in Washington, D.C.

Laws are debated by the Representatives in the House Chamber.
The Legislative Branch of the Federal Government

The legislative branch of government is called Congress. Congress makes the federal laws for 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 a 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.
How Congress Makes Laws

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

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

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

The House debates and can amend 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 recommendations to the full Senate.

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

The Senate debates and can amend 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.

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

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.

If Congress is in session, the bill becomes law without the President’s signature in 10 days.

If Congress is not in session, the bill fails to become law without the President’s signature after 10 days ("pocket veto").

President signs bill into law.

President vetoes the bill.

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

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration & Naturalization Service
USCIS 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?

_______________________________________________________________


_______________________________________________________________

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

_______________________________________________________________

Additional Questions (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 Representative for one thing, what would it be?

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), a naturalized U.S. citizen from Cuba.
Unit 10
The Executive Branch

These are recent Presidents of the United States.

Bill Clinton (1993-2001)
George W. Bush (2001-2009)
Who will become President in January 2009?

The President’s official home and office is the White House.
The Executive Branch of the Federal Government

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 this is 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 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 temporarily 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 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.
### The President’s Cabinet
The President’s 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 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
- Vice President

### USCIS 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 both 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 (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?
Chapter Five, The Citizenship Test

Presidential Elections

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.

On January 20, 2005, Republican George Walker Bush was sworn in for a second term as President at his inauguration.
USCIS 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 (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?
Unit 11

The Judicial Branch

The Supreme Court of the United States

Seated, left to right: Associate Justices Anthony M. Kennedy and John Paul Stevens, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., Associate Justices Antonin Scalia and David H. Souter.

Standing, left to right: Associate Justices Stephen G. Breyer, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Samuel A. Alito, Jr.
The Judicial Branch of the Federal Government

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 Supreme Court meets in Washington, D.C. at the Supreme Court Building.
THE SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES

The Legislative Branch

Makes Laws
Vetoes or Signs Laws
Explains Laws

The Executive Branch

Appoints Judges

The Judicial Branch

Explains Laws

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration & Naturalization Service
Miranda Rights

The 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 that 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] for you.
Chapter Five, *The Citizenship Test*

**USCIS 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 (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 Question**
1. What qualifications should a good judge have?
Unit 12

State and Local Government

State driver’s license

Local public school

Local police department
State Government

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.

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 or local laws. There is also a state supreme court.

A judge and a 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.

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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.
USCIS 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?

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?

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<tr>
<th>HOW THE ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT IN CITIES, STATES AND THE NATION ARE SIMILAR</th>
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<td>The Federal Government:</td>
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<td>The State Government:</td>
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<td>The City Government:</td>
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Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service
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.

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.

Additional Questions (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. How can you influence your local government?
2. What do you like about living in your city or town?
Citizens have many rights and responsibilities.

Citizens can vote in all local, state, and national elections.

Tax Day is April 15.
Rights and Responsibilities of All

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.

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.

expression = A thought or idea.
assembly = A gathering of people.
bear arms = To carry weapons.
USCIS 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?

Additional Questions (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?

Discussion Questions
1. How can non-citizens influence the United States government?
2. Why can American citizens more effectively influence the United States government?
Responsibilities, Rights, and Participation of U.S. Citizens

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 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 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.
Citizenship for Us

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. For more information, see Chapter 11.

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.

persuade = To convince someone to do something.
instrumental = Of great importance.
Chapter Five, *The Citizenship Test*

**USCIS Test Questions**
Write the answer in the blank space.

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

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

3. Name one right only for United States citizens.
   _________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

7. What did Susan B. Anthony do?
   _________________________________________________________________

**Additional Question (Not on the Test)**
Write the answer in the blank space.

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

**Discussion Questions**
1. What are elections like in your birth country?
2. Why do you want to vote in United States elections?
3. Who is an active citizen in your community, and why?
## Reading Vocabulary for the Redesigned (New) Naturalization Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE</th>
<th>CIVICS</th>
<th>PLACES</th>
<th>HOLIDAYS</th>
<th>QUESTION WORDS</th>
<th>VERBS</th>
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<td>city</td>
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<td>Columbus Day</td>
<td>Why</td>
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<td>Congress</td>
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Writing Vocabulary for the Redesigned (New) Naturalization Test

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<th>PEOPLE</th>
<th>CIVICS</th>
<th>PLACES</th>
<th>MONTHS</th>
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<td>during</td>
<td>dollar bill</td>
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<td>for</td>
<td>fifty/50</td>
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<td>Delaware</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>have/has</td>
<td>here</td>
<td>first</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>is/was/be</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>largest</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Father of Our Country</td>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>October</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>meets</td>
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<td>freedom of speech</td>
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**U.S. NATURALIZATION TEST**  
**SCORING GUIDELINES FOR THE ENGLISH 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). This document provides a general description of how the English portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test is evaluated and scored by Officers of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). These evaluation and scoring guidelines will not change with the implementation of the redesigned naturalization test.\(^1\)

**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. 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

**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 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

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).

---

\(^1\) 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.

\(^2\) See [www.uscis.gov/newtest](http://www.uscis.gov/newtest) for information regarding the redesigned naturalization test.
Civics (History and Government) Questions for the Redesigned (New) Naturalization Test

The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the redesigned (new) naturalization test are listed below. Applicants who filed the Application for Naturalization, Form N-400, on or after October 1, 2008, should study this list. 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.

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 one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*
   • speech
   • religion
   • assembly
   • press
   • petition the government

* 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.
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?  
   • twenty-seven (27)

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 two 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 one branch or part of the government.*  
    • Congress  
    • legislative  
    • President  
    • executive  
    • the courts  
    • judicial

14. What stops one 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 two parts of the U.S. Congress?*  
    • the Senate and House (of Representatives)

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

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

20. Who is one 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?*
   • George W. Bush
   • George Bush
   • Bush

29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
   • Richard Cheney
   • Dick Cheney
   • Cheney

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

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

34. Who vetoes bills?
   • the President

35. What does the President’s Cabinet do?
   • advises the President

36. What are two 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 one power of the federal government?
   • to print money
   • to declare war
   • to create an army
   • to make treaties

* 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.
42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one 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

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 two major political parties in the United States?*
   • Democratic and Republican

46. What is the political party of the President now?
   • Republican (Party)

47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
   • (Nancy) Pelosi

C: Rights and Responsibilities

48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one 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 one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?*
   • serve on a jury
   • vote in a federal election

50. Name one right only for United States citizens.
   • vote in a federal election
   • run for federal office

51. What are two 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

* 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.
53. What is one 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

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

55. What are two 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 one 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

* 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.
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

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

64. There were 13 original states. Name three.
   • 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 one of the writers.
   • (James) Madison
   • (Alexander) Hamilton
   • (John) Jay
   • Publius

68. What is one 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

* 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.

-7- www.uscis.gov
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

72. Name one 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 one problem that led to the Civil War.
   • slavery
   • economic reasons
   • states’ rights

75. What was one 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 one war fought by the United States in the 1900s. *
   • World War I
   • World War II
   • Korean War
   • Vietnam War
   • (Persian) Gulf War

* 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.
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

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 one 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
   • Chocotaw
   • Pueblo
   • Apache
   • Iroquois
   • Creek
   • Blackfeet
   • Seminole
   • Cheyenne
   • Arawak
   • Shawnee
   • Mohegan
   • Huron
   • Oneida
   • Lakota
   • Crow
   • Ieton
   • Hopi
   • Inuit

* 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.
A: Geography

88. **Name one** 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)

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

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

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

93. **Name one 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).]

* 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.