FLASHFEED STUDY GUIDE

U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test

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U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test: study guide

A non-government study pack for the 2025 USCIS naturalization civics test, for Form N-400 filings on or after October 20, 2025. It teaches accepted oral responses, connected civic understanding, and safe interview-date lookups; it is not affiliated with or endorsed by USCIS.

Edition	November 2026 (2026-11-21)
Pack version	1.0.42
Contents	13 lessons · 366 cards in the app · 104 self-test questions · 46 pictures
In the app	flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

How to use this guide

Take one lesson at a time: read the study guide, then go over any key facts. Where a lesson has a self-test, try it from memory before you check the answer key at the back. Follow the Go deeper links when you want more.

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LESSON 1 OF 13

Principles and Founding Documents

Constitutional Government · Founding Principles · Rights and the Rule of Law

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify the form of government, what the Constitution does, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration's ideas, and the rule of law.

Constitutional Government

This pack covers the **2025 Naturalization Civics Test** in M-1778 **(09/25)**, retrieved 2026-08-22. It applies to Form N-400 filings **on or after October 20, 2025**. USCIS asks up to 20 oral questions from a list of 128; 12 correct passes, and the officer stops at 12 correct or 9 incorrect. Qualifying 65/20 applicants study 20 designated questions, receive 10, and pass with 6 correct. Filings before that date use the 2008 test, which this pack excludes.

The English portion is separate and is not taught here. USCIS assesses speaking through ordinary eligibility questions. For reading and writing, the applicant must successfully read one sentence out of three and write one dictated sentence out of three. Age-and-residence exceptions may remove the English requirement while leaving civics required; use current USCIS policy for personal eligibility.

Constitutional Government

The Constitution is both a written law and a plan for government. Its opening words place authority in the people, while its articles create institutions and assign powers. A republic uses elected representatives; a representative democracy also depends on people choosing those representatives. These descriptions are compatible accepted responses, not rival answers. Keep the document itself separate from the government it creates: the Constitution is the supreme law, while officials and branches act under it.

Prep for the oral test

What is the form of government of the United States?

Give one printed response:

- Republic
- Constitution-based federal republic
- Representative democracy

What is the supreme law of the land?

Give one printed response:

- (U.S.) Constitution

Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.

Give one printed response:

- Forms the government
- Defines powers of government
- Defines the parts of government
- Protects the rights of the people

The U.S. Constitution starts with the words "We the People." What does "We the People" mean?

Give one printed response:

- Self-government
- Popular sovereignty
- Consent of the governed
- People should govern themselves
- (Example of) social contract

How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?

Give one printed response:

- Amendments
- The amendment process

Distinctions to practice

- **What is the form of government of the United States?** asks what kind of government the country has, such as **Republic**. **What is the supreme law of the land?** asks which document is the highest law, so say **(U.S.) Constitution**.
- **Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.** asks for one job the Constitution does, such as **Forms the government**. **The U.S. Constitution starts with the words "We the People." What does "We the People" mean?** asks what those opening words mean, such as **Self-government**.
- **How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?** asks how the Constitution gets changed, such as **Amendments**, not the Constitution itself. **What is the supreme law of the land?** asks which document is the highest law, so say **(U.S.) Constitution**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- U.S. Constitution transcript — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Founding Principles

The founding documents connect freedom, equality, consent, and limits on power. The Declaration explains why the colonies separated from Britain and states ideals about equality and inherent rights.

The Constitution turns self-government into operating rules. The Bill of Rights adds protections against government interference. On the test, give the printed answer that fits the question, and notice how each document does a different job.

Prep for the oral test

What does the Bill of Rights protect?

Give one printed response:

- (The basic) rights of Americans
- (The basic) rights of people living in the United States

How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?

Give one printed response:

- Twenty-seven (27)

Why is the Declaration of Independence important?

Give one printed response:

- It says America is free from British control.
- It says all people are created equal.
- It identifies inherent rights.
- It identifies individual freedoms.

What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain?

Give one printed response:

- Declaration of Independence

Name two important ideas from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Give 2 printed responses:

- Equality
- Liberty
- Social contract
- Natural rights
- Limited government
- Self-government

Distinctions to practice

- **What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain?** asks for the name of the document, so say **Declaration of Independence**. **Why is the Declaration of Independence important?** asks why that document matters, so give a reason such as **It says America is free from British control.**

- **What does the Bill of Rights protect?** asks about the Bill of Rights alone, and one printed answer is **(The basic) rights of Americans**. **Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.** asks for any one job of the Constitution, such as **Protects the rights of the people**.
- **How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?** asks for a count, so say **Twenty-seven (27)**. **How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?** asks how the Constitution gets changed, such as **Amendments**, not a number.
- **Name two important ideas from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.** asks for two short ideas, such as **Liberty**. **Why is the Declaration of Independence important?** asks for one reason, and the printed answers are whole sentences, such as **It says all people are created equal.**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- Declaration of Independence transcript — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Rights and the Rule of Law

The rule of law means that people and government are accountable to law. It is not simply a slogan about obeying rules. The Constitution limits government, divides authority, and creates a process for change. Rights such as speech, religion, assembly, press, and petition are protected in the First Amendment, but different questions ask for different parts of that set. Reading the exact noun in the question helps prevent mixing a constitutional principle with a specific freedom.

Prep for the oral test

The words “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness” are in what founding document?

Give one printed response:

- Declaration of Independence

What is the economic system of the United States?

Give one printed response:

- Capitalism
- Free market economy

What is the rule of law?

Give one printed response:

- Everyone must follow the law.
- Leaders must obey the law.
- Government must obey the law.
- No one is above the law.

Many documents influenced the U.S. Constitution. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- Declaration of Independence
- Articles of Confederation
- Federalist Papers
- Anti-Federalist Papers
- Virginia Declaration of Rights
- Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- Mayflower Compact
- Iroquois Great Law of Peace

Distinctions to practice

- **What is the rule of law?** asks what the idea means, not for a document, and one printed answer is **No one is above the law. What is the supreme law of the land?** asks which document is the highest law, so say **(U.S.) Constitution**.
- **What is the economic system of the United States?** asks about the economy, and one printed answer is **Capitalism**. **What is the form of government of the United States?** begins the same way but asks about the government, and one printed answer is **Republic**.
- **The words "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" are in what founding document?** asks which document holds those words, so say **Declaration of Independence**. **The U.S. Constitution starts with the words "We the People." What does "We the People" mean?** asks what a different set of words means, such as **Self-government**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- Bill of Rights transcript — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key terms

Amendment
A formal change or addition to the Constitution.

Bill of Rights
The first ten amendments, which protect basic rights and liberties.

Rule of law
The principle that everyone, including government leaders, must follow the law.

Key concepts

Forms the government

- This is one accepted function of the Constitution.
- It describes creating the national framework, not protecting one named liberty.
- It answers what the Constitution does.

Self-government

- This is one accepted meaning of 'We the People.'
- It places public authority in the people.
- It is also described as popular sovereignty.

Protects the rights of the people

- This is one accepted response to: Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.
- It concerns liberties the government must respect, not a new institution it creates.
- It is distinct from forming the government or defining its powers.

Declaration of Independence

- This is the one accepted response to: What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain?
- It announced the colonies' independence from British rule.
- It is distinct from the Constitution, which creates the government's institutions.

Equality; natural rights

- These are two accepted ideas from the Declaration.
- One rejects inherited rank; the other includes life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Together they satisfy a prompt asking for two ideas.

Defines government powers

- This is one accepted function of the Constitution.
- It identifies what institutions may do.
- It is different from naming the branches themselves.

Key facts

> **Government Forms**
>
> **What is the form of government of the United States?**
>
> A republic uses elected representatives chosen by the people to exercise government power.
>
> **One accepted response:** Republic
>
> **Other printed responses:** Constitution-based federal republic; Representative democracy

Constitution's Jobs

Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.

The Constitution is both a written law and a plan for government, and its articles create institutions and assign powers.

One accepted response: Forms the government

Other printed responses: Defines powers of government; Defines the parts of government; Protects the rights of the people

Constitution's Opening Words

The U.S. Constitution starts with the words "We the People." What does "We the People" mean?

The Constitution's opening words place authority in the people.

One accepted response: Self-government

Other printed responses: Popular sovereignty; Consent of the governed; People should govern themselves; (Example of) social contract

Document of Separation

What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain?

Besides announcing separation from Britain, it stated ideals about equality and inherent rights. The Revolutionary War turned it into a struggle for political independence.

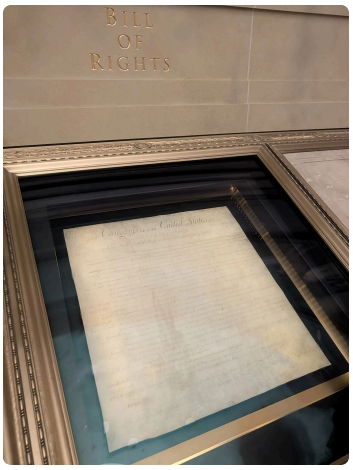
One accepted response: Declaration of Independence

Shared Founding Ideas

Name two important ideas from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

The founding documents connect freedom, equality, consent, and limits on power. The Declaration states ideals about equality and inherent rights, and the Constitution turns self-government into operating rules.

Say 2: Equality; Liberty; Social contract; Natural rights; Limited government; Self-government



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Protected Rights

What does the Bill of Rights protect?

The Bill of Rights adds protections against government interference with the people's basic liberties.

One accepted response: (The basic) rights of Americans

Other printed responses: (The basic) rights of people living in the United States

Constitutional Amendments

How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?

The Constitution can be changed only through the formal amendment process, and each change is called an amendment.

One accepted response: Twenty-seven (27)

Declaration's Importance

Why is the Declaration of Independence important?

The Declaration explains why the colonies separated from Britain and states ideals about equality and inherent rights.

One accepted response: It says America is free from British control.

Other printed responses: It says all people are created equal. It identifies inherent rights. It identifies individual freedoms.

Changing the Constitution

How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?

Along with limiting government and dividing authority, the Constitution itself creates a process for change.

One accepted response: Amendments

Other printed responses: The amendment process

Life and Liberty Document

The words "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" are in what founding document?

An early founding document announced independence from Britain and listed unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

One accepted response: Declaration of Independence

U.S. Economic System

What is the economic system of the United States?

The United States runs on private enterprise and free markets rather than a government-planned economy.

One accepted response: Capitalism

Other printed responses: Free market economy

Rule of Law

What is the rule of law?

The rule of law means that people and government are accountable to law — it is not simply a slogan about obeying rules.

One accepted response: Everyone must follow the law.

Other printed responses: Leaders must obey the law. Government must obey the law. No one is above the law.

Documents Behind the Constitution

Many documents influenced the U.S. Constitution. Name one.

They range from the Mayflower Compact of 1620 to the Federalist Papers, written to win the Constitution's ratification.

One accepted response: Declaration of Independence

Other printed responses: Articles of Confederation; Federalist Papers; Anti-Federalist Papers; Virginia Declaration of Rights; Fundamental Orders of Connecticut; Mayflower Compact; Iroquois Great Law of Peace

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

U.S. market economy → Capitalism

Step by step

Evaluate a path for proposing and ratifying a constitutional amendment

1. Identify which single proposal route the account uses: Congress or a proposing convention.
2. Verify proposal: two-thirds of both houses, or convention calls from two-thirds of state legislatures.
3. Identify which single ratification mode Congress selected: state legislatures or state conventions.
4. Verify approval by three-fourths of the states through that selected mode.
5. Reject any account that treats both proposal routes or both ratification modes as consecutive requirements.
6. Conclude that adoption requires one valid proposal route followed by one valid ratification mode.

This is a decision checklist for alternative branches, not a claim that four routes happen in sequence.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: “What is the form of government of the United States?”

- A Monarchy
- B Dictatorship
- C Republic
- D Confederation

2. What is the supreme law of the land?

- A U.S. Code
- B Declaration of Independence
- C Articles of Confederation
- D U.S. Constitution

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: “What does the Bill of Rights protect?”

- A The basic rights of Englishmen
- B The basic rights of Americans
- C The listed powers of Congress
- D The stated duties of Americans

4. How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?

- A Twenty-seven (27)
- B Twenty-five (25)
- C Twenty-one (21)
- D Thirty-three (33)

5. The words “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness” are in what founding document?

- A Declaration of Rights
- B Articles of Confederation
- C Constitution of Massachusetts
- D Declaration of Independence

6. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What does the Bill of Rights protect?"

- A The powers of state governments
- B The basic rights of Americans
- C The rights of foreign visitors
- D The duties of Congress

7. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?"

A Twenty-seven (27)
B Ten (10)
C Thirty-three (33)
D Nineteen (19)

8. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What is the rule of law?"

A The president is above the law
B Only citizens must follow the law
C Everyone must follow the law
D Congress may ignore the law

9. The words "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" are in what founding document?

A Federalist Papers
B U.S. Constitution
C Bill of Rights
D Declaration of Independence

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 1 episode 8:01 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Not Rival Answers 0:29 · YouTube
Republic, or democracy? On the civics test, each word is part of a printed answer.

WATCH Count or Change 0:28 · YouTube
Two civics questions both lead to amendments. One wants a number. The other wants no number at all.

WATCH Idea or Document 0:31 · YouTube
Rule of law. Supreme law. Two civics questions share the word law. They want different answers.

WATCH A Page From 1620 0:28
One printed answer on the civics test dates from 1620. It is the Mayflower Compact.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/principles-and-founding-documents

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LESSON 2 OF 13

Three Branches and the Congress

Separation of Powers · Congress and Lawmaking · Senators and Representatives

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Name the three branches and why power is separated, and recall Congress's powers, chambers, sizes, terms, and two senators per state.

Separation of Powers

Separation of Powers

The three branches divide public power by function. Congress writes federal laws, the executive branch enforces them, and courts interpret and review law in cases. This separation reduces the risk that one actor can make, enforce, and judge the same rule alone. Checks and balances add ways for one branch to limit another. The two ideas work together, but they are not identical: separation assigns work; checks create controls.

Prep for the oral test

There are three branches of government. Why?

Give one printed response:

- So one part does not become too powerful
- Checks and balances
- Separation of powers

Name the three branches of government.

Give one printed response:

- Legislative, executive, and judicial
- Congress, president, and the courts

The President of the United States is in charge of which branch of government?

Give one printed response:

- Executive branch

What part of the federal government writes laws?

Give one printed response:

- (U.S.) Congress
- (U.S. or national) legislature

- Legislative branch

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

Give one printed response:

- Senate and House (of Representatives)

Distinctions to practice

- **There are three branches of government. Why?** asks for the reason there are three, not their names, and one printed answer is **Checks and balances**. **Name the three branches of government.** asks for the names of all three, and one printed answer is **Legislative, executive, and judicial**.
- **Name the three branches of government.** asks for the three branches, and one printed answer is **Congress, president, and the courts**. **What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?** asks for the two parts inside Congress, so say **Senate and House (of Representatives)**.
- **The President of the United States is in charge of which branch of government?** asks which branch the President leads, so say **Executive branch**. **What part of the federal government writes laws?** asks which part writes the laws, such as **Legislative branch**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- U.S. House: Branches of Government — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Congress and Lawmaking

Congress is the legislative branch and has two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. A bill must pass both chambers in the same form before it goes to the president. Congress also declares war and makes the federal budget. Those powers belong to the national legislature, not to a state governor or a federal court. The two chambers have different sizes and election cycles, which makes comparison useful for oral recall.

Prep for the oral test

Name one power of the U.S. Congress.

Give one printed response:

- Writes laws
- Declares war
- Makes the federal budget

How many U.S. senators are there?

Give one printed response:

- One hundred (100)

How long is a term for a U.S. senator?

Give one printed response:

- Six (6) years

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

Use the printed residence/date instruction and the official lookup route; do not memorize a name from this pack.

Distinctions to practice

- **How many U.S. senators are there?** asks how many senators there are in all, so say **One hundred (100)**. **How long is a term for a U.S. senator?** asks how many years one term lasts, so say **Six (6) years**.
- **Name one power of the U.S. Congress.** asks for one thing Congress can do, such as **Writes laws**. **What part of the federal government writes laws?** turns that around and asks which part does it, such as **(U.S.) Congress**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **Name one power of the U.S. Congress.**
- **How many U.S. senators are there?**
- **How long is a term for a U.S. senator?**
- **Who is one of your state's U.S. senators now?**

Which senators you have depends on where you live and on the date, so look up the current answer before the interview, as the part above explains.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- U.S. House legislative process — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Senators and Representatives

The Senate gives every state equal representation, while House seats are apportioned by population. That design grew from the Great Compromise. A senator serves a state and has a six-year term. A representative serves a congressional district and has a two-year term. The shorter House term keeps representatives closer to changing public opinion. Do not say that the Constitution fixes the modern House at 435; federal statute governs that number.

Prep for the oral test

How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

Give one printed response:

- Four hundred thirty-five (435)

How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?

Give one printed response:

- Two (2) years

Why do U.S. representatives serve shorter terms than U.S. senators?

Give one printed response:

- To more closely follow public opinion

How many senators does each state have?

Give one printed response:

- Two (2)

Why does each state have two senators?

Give one printed response:

- Equal representation (for small states)
- The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)

Distinctions to practice

- **How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?** asks the length of a House member's term, so say **Two (2) years**. **How long is a term for a U.S. senator?** asks the length of a senator's term, so say **Six (6) years**.
- **How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?** asks how many voting members the House has, so say **Four hundred thirty-five (435)**. **How many U.S. senators are there?** asks how many senators there are in all, so say **One hundred (100)**.
- **How many senators does each state have?** asks about one state, so say **Two (2)**. **How many U.S. senators are there?** asks for all the senators in the country, so say **One hundred (100)**.
- **Why do U.S. representatives serve shorter terms than U.S. senators?** asks why House terms are shorter, so say **To more closely follow public opinion**. **Why does each state have two senators?** asks why every state gets the same number of senators, such as **Equal representation (for small states)**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- U.S. Senate and the Constitution — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key terms

Separation of powers

The division of government authority among legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

Congress

The national legislature made up of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Key facts



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Divided Government Power

There are three branches of government. Why?

Dividing public power among three branches lowers the risk that a single actor makes, enforces, and judges the same rule alone.

One accepted response: So one part does not become too powerful

Other printed responses: Checks and balances; Separation of powers



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Three Branches

Name the three branches of government.

The three branches divide public power by function.

One accepted response: Legislative, executive, and judicial

Other printed responses: Congress, president, and the courts



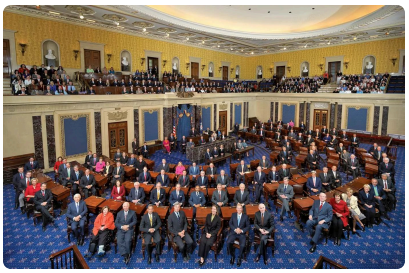
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Executive Branch

The President of the United States is in charge of which branch of government?

Congress writes federal laws, the executive branch enforces them, and courts interpret and review law in cases.

One accepted response: Executive branch



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Federal Lawmakers

What part of the federal government writes laws?

Congress is the legislative branch, the national legislature that writes federal laws.

One accepted response: (U.S.) Congress

Other printed responses: (U.S. or national) legislature; Legislative branch

Your Senator

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

A senator represents an entire state and is elected statewide. D.C. and U.S. territory residents use the printed no-senator response. **Do not memorize a name or place from this pack.** Follow the printed instruction: 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.]



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Congressional Powers

Name one power of the U.S. Congress.

Congress, the national legislature, writes federal laws; declaring war and making the federal budget are also its powers, not those of state governors or federal courts.

One accepted response: Writes laws

Other printed responses: Declares war; Makes the federal budget

Senate Term Length

How long is a term for a U.S. senator?

A senator serves a state and has a six-year term, while a representative serves a congressional district and has a two-year term.

One accepted response: Six (6) years

House Terms

How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?

A member of the House represents a congressional district and serves a two-year term, shorter than a senator's six years.

One accepted response: Two (2) years

Shorter House Terms

Why do U.S. representatives serve shorter terms than U.S. senators?

A representative serves a two-year term, set in Article I separately from the Great Compromise's apportionment rules, so representatives stay closer to changing public opinion than senators with six-year terms.

One accepted response: To more closely follow public opinion



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Senators Per State

How many senators does each state have?

In the Senate every state gets equal representation, a design that grew out of the Great Compromise, while House seats follow population.

One accepted response: Two (2)

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

President's branch → Executive branch

U.S. senator → Six (6) years

Short House terms → To more closely follow public opinion

Each state → Two (2) senators

Step by step

Move a federal bill toward law

1. Introduce the bill in the House or Senate.
2. Refer it to committee for study and possible revision.
3. Have the first chamber debate and pass its version.
4. In the second chamber, either pass that identical version or amend it and return it for reconciliation.
5. If the versions differ, resolve them and have both chambers approve the identical final text.
6. Only after both chambers approve identical text, send the enrolled bill to the president.
7. The president signs it, vetoes it, or allows the constitutional process to run.

The reconciliation step is conditional. A veto may be overridden by two-thirds of both houses.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

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

- A Governors and House of Delegates
- B Senate and House of Representatives
- C House of Representatives and the Cabinet
- D Senate and Supreme Court

2. Which choice gives one accepted response to: “Name the three branches of government.”

- A Congress, president, and the courts
- B Congress, president, and the states
- C Congress, president, and the Cabinet
- D Congress, governors, and the courts

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: “Name one power of the U.S. Congress.”

- A Nominates judges
- B Interprets laws
- C Signs bills
- D Writes laws

4. How many U.S. senators are there?

- A Four hundred thirty-five (435)
- B Fifty (50)
- C One hundred (100)
- D Two hundred (200)

5. How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

- A Five hundred thirty-five (535)
- B Four hundred thirty-five (435)
- C Four hundred forty-one (441)
- D Four hundred thirty-one (431)

6. How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

- A Four hundred thirty-five (435)
- B One hundred (100)
- C Five hundred thirty-five (535)
- D Fifty (50)

7. How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?

- A Ten (10) years
- B Six (6) years
- C Four (4) years
- D Two (2) years

8. How many senators does each state have?

- A One (1)
- B Three (3)
- C Two (2)
- D Depends on population

9. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Why does each state have two senators?"

- A A reward for the first states to join
- B Based on state population
- C Balance between the two political parties
- D Equal representation for small states

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 2 episode 7:26 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Why Three Branches 0:29 · YouTube
One civics question asks why there are three branches. It wants a reason, not their names.

WATCH The Same Fact, Turned Around 0:29 · YouTube
Two civics questions hold the same fact. The second one turns the first one around.

WATCH Two Years, Six Years 0:30 · YouTube
6 years in the Senate. 2 years in the House. The citizenship test asks why.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/three-branches-and-the-congress

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 3 OF 13

Representation Mechanics and Your Officials

Representation and Interview Lookups · Terms and Constituencies

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Distinguish whom senators and representatives represent and who elects them, and look up officeholder names before the interview.

Representation and Interview Lookups

Representation and Interview Lookups

Representation questions mix durable offices with answers that change. The office, electorate, term, and constituency can be learned permanently. A name cannot. Before the interview, use the USCIS Check for Test Updates page (uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates, the address printed on the test list) for the questions it covers, currently seven on the 2025 test. It does not cover the state capital, and USCIS names no lookup for it, so use your state's or territory's official website. Check again close to the interview because the correct name is the person serving then, not the person serving when this pack was written.

Prep for the oral test

Name your U.S. representative.

Use the printed residence/date instruction and the official lookup route; do not memorize a name from this pack.

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

Use the printed residence/date instruction and the official lookup route; do not memorize a name from this pack.

Who does a U.S. senator represent?

Give one printed response:

- Citizens of their state
- People of their state

Who elects U.S. senators?

Give one printed response:

- Citizens from their state

Distinctions to practice

- Both answers name the state, so listen for the verb. **Who does a U.S. senator represent?** asks which people a senator represents, such as **People of their state**; **Who elects U.S. senators?** asks which people choose senators, so say **Citizens from their state**.
- **Who does a U.S. senator represent?** asks which people a senator represents, such as **People of their state**. **Why does each state have two senators?** asks for the reason behind the number two, such as **Equal representation (for small states)**.

Two questions in the map above, one about your representative and one about the Speaker, have no answer to memorize. The right name depends on where you live or on the date, so look it up close to your interview and practice saying it aloud.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS Check for Test Updates — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Terms and Constituencies

A senator represents people throughout one state. A House member represents people in one congressional district. Voters from the relevant state or district elect them. Population affects how many House members a state has, but every state has two senators. These differences do not change, and they explain why a learner needs both a statewide answer and a district answer for the interview.

Prep for the oral test

Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?

Give one printed response:

- Citizens in their (congressional) district
- Citizens in their district
- People from their (congressional) district
- People in their district

Who elects members of the House of Representatives?

Give one printed response:

- Citizens from their (congressional) district

Some states have more representatives than other states. Why?

Give one printed response:

- (Because of) the state's population
- (Because) they have more people

- (Because) some states have more people

Distinctions to practice

- Both answers name the district, so listen for the verb. **Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?** asks which people a House member represents, such as **People in their district**; **Who elects members of the House of Representatives?** asks which voters choose House members, so say **Citizens from their (congressional) district**.
- These two questions differ only in the office. **Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?** wants a district, and one printed answer is **People in their district**; **Who does a U.S. senator represent?** wants a state, and one printed answer is **People of their state**.
- The same is true for voting. **Who elects members of the House of Representatives?** wants the voters of a district, so say **Citizens from their (congressional) district**; **Who elects U.S. senators?** wants the voters of a state, so say **Citizens from their state**.
- **Some states have more representatives than other states. Why?** asks why House seats differ from state to state, such as **(Because) they have more people**. **Why does each state have two senators?** asks why every state has the same number of senators, such as **Equal representation (for small states)**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- 2 U.S.C. § 2a: House reapportionment — retrieved 2026-10-19.

Key facts

> **Your Representative**
>
> **Name your U.S. representative.**
>
> A House member represents one congressional district. Some territories have a nonvoting Delegate or Resident Commissioner. **Do not memorize a name or place from this pack.** Follow the printed instruction: 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.]

> **House Speaker**
>
> **What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?**
>
> The House elects its Speaker, who presides over the chamber. The current name can change. **Do not memorize a name or place from this pack.** Follow the printed instruction: Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.



Wikimedia Commons · U.S. Senate, 111th Congress, Senate Photo Studio · Public domain

Senate Constituency

Who does a U.S. senator represent?

A U.S. senator represents people throughout an entire state, not just one part of it.

One accepted response: Citizens of their state

Other printed responses: People of their state

Design of the Senate

Why does each state have two senators?

Every state has equal representation in the Senate, while House seats are apportioned by population. That design grew from the Great Compromise.

One accepted response: Equal representation (for small states)

Other printed responses: The Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)

Senate Voters

Who elects U.S. senators?

A senator represents people throughout one state, and voters from that state elect the senator. A House member, by contrast, represents people in one congressional district.

One accepted response: Citizens from their state

House Constituency

Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?

Each member of the House represents the people of a single congressional district.

One accepted response: Citizens in their (congressional) district

Other printed responses: Citizens in their district; People from their (congressional) district; People in their district

House Voters

Who elects members of the House of Representatives?

Voters in a congressional district elect the House member who represents that district, just as voters across a state elect its senators.

One accepted response: Citizens from their (congressional) district

> **House Apportionment**
>
> **Some states have more representatives than other states. Why?**
>
> House seats are divided among the states by population, so states with more people get more representatives, while each state gets two senators.
>
> **One accepted response:** (Because of) the state's population
>
> **Other printed responses:** (Because) they have more people; (Because) some states have more people

Step by step

Find interview-date civic answers

1. Open uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates, the USCIS Check for Test Updates page named on the test list.
2. Use the 2025 section of the Check for Test Updates page for senators, representative, Speaker, president, vice president, Chief Justice and governor.
3. Follow the links the Check for Test Updates page gives for your senators, representative, and governor.
4. For a state capital, which that page does not cover, use your state's or territory's official website.
5. Apply the exact D.C. or territory carve-out printed for that question.
6. Recheck the answers close to the naturalization interview.
7. Answer with the official serving on the interview date.

On the 2025 test, that page currently covers seven questions whose answers change; the state capital is not one of them.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Who does a U.S. senator represent?"

- A Citizens of their country
- B People of their district
- C People of their state
- D Voters of their town

2. Who elects U.S. senators?

- A Citizens from their state
- B Mayors from their city
- C Landowners from their county
- D Legislators from their state

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Why does each state have two senators?"

- A Balanced representation for each party
- B Equal representation for small states
- C Equal population in every state
- D Proportional representation for large states

4. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?"

- A Citizens in their state
- B People in their party
- C Taxpayers in their county
- D People in their district

5. Who elects members of the House of Representatives?

- A Landowners from their county precinct
- B Legislators from their state assembly
- C Delegates from their national party convention
- D Citizens from their congressional district

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 3 episode 7:01 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Answers That Change 0:31 · YouTube
Some civics answers change. The office stays the same. The name can change.

WATCH Two Senators Each 0:29 · YouTube
Every state has 2 senators. But the number of House members differs from state to state. Two civics questions ask why.

WATCH Listen for the Verb 0:31
Two civics questions sound alike. Both answers name a district. One verb changes the answer.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/representation-mechanics-and-your-officials

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 4 OF 13

The President and the Executive Branch

Electing the President · Presidential Powers · Executive Leadership

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall the president's term and two-term limit, succession by the vice president, the president's powers, and what the Cabinet does.

Electing the President

Electing the President

The president and vice president are elected for four-year terms through the constitutional electoral process. The Twenty-second Amendment limits a person to two elected presidential terms. The succession rules keep executive authority continuous if a president can no longer serve. Current names are deliberately absent from this pack; the durable learning target is the office, the term, the limit, and the order of succession.

Prep for the oral test

The President of the United States is elected for how many years?

Give one printed response:

- Four (4) years

The President of the United States can serve only two terms. Why?

Give one printed response:

- (Because of) the 22nd Amendment
- To keep the president from becoming too powerful

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

Use the printed residence/date instruction and the official lookup route; do not memorize a name from this pack.

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

Use the printed residence/date instruction and the official lookup route; do not memorize a name from this pack.

If the president can no longer serve, who becomes president?

Give one printed response:

- The Vice President (of the United States)

Distinctions to practice

- **The President of the United States is elected for how many years?** asks for the length of one term: **Four (4) years**. **The President of the United States can serve only two terms. Why?** asks for a reason, not a number, and one printed answer is **(Because of) the 22nd Amendment**.
- **What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?** asks for a person's name, so look it up before your interview. **If the president can no longer serve, who becomes president?** asks for the office, not the name: **The Vice President (of the United States)**.
- **The President of the United States is elected for how many years?** and **How long is a term for a U.S. senator?** both ask for the length of a term: the president's is **Four (4) years** and a senator's is **Six (6) years**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- U.S. Constitution transcript — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Presidential Powers

The president carries out executive responsibilities: signing or vetoing bills, enforcing laws, serving as Commander in Chief, acting as chief diplomat, and appointing federal judges. These powers do not let the president write federal statutes alone. A veto rejects a bill; a signature turns a passed bill into law. Appointment also differs from final confirmation when the Constitution gives the Senate a role.

Prep for the oral test

Name one power of the president.

Give one printed response:

- Signs bills into law
- Vetoes bills
- Enforces laws
- Commander in Chief (of the military)
- Chief diplomat
- Appoints federal judges

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

Give one printed response:

- The President (of the United States)

Who signs bills to become laws?

Give one printed response:

- The President (of the United States)

Who vetoes bills?

Give one printed response:

- The President (of the United States)

Who appoints federal judges?

Give one printed response:

- The President (of the United States)

Distinctions to practice

- **Name one power of the president.** asks for something the president can do, such as **Vetoes bills**. **Who vetoes bills?** asks who does it: **The President (of the United States)**.
- **Name one power of the president.** asks for something the president can do, and **Name one power of the U.S. Congress.** asks for something Congress can do. **Commander in Chief (of the military)** is a printed answer for the first, and **Declares war** is a printed answer for the second.
- **Who signs bills to become laws?** asks who signs a bill that has passed: **The President (of the United States)**. **What part of the federal government writes laws?** asks who writes them, and one printed answer is **(U.S.) Congress**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **Name one power of the president.**
- **Who is Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?**
- **Who signs bills to become laws?**
- **Who vetoes bills?**
- **Who appoints federal judges?**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- U.S. Constitution transcript — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Executive Leadership

The executive branch includes the president, vice president, Cabinet, departments, and agencies. The Cabinet advises the president. The 2025 list prints a set of accepted Cabinet-level positions, and that list decides the answer even though the executive branch's organization can change. Recheck it whenever USCIS issues a new M-1778 revision rather than assuming an older list remains accepted.

Prep for the oral test

The executive branch has many parts. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- President (of the United States)
- Cabinet
- Federal departments and agencies

What does the President's Cabinet do?

Give one printed response:

- Advises the President (of the United States)

What are two Cabinet-level positions?

Give 2 printed responses:

- Attorney General
- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Commerce
- 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
- Secretary of War (Defense)
- Vice-President
- Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
- Administrator of the Small Business Administration
- Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
- Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- Director of National Intelligence
- United States Trade Representative

Why is the Electoral College important?

Give one printed response:

- It decides who is elected president.
- It provides a compromise between the popular election of the president and congressional selection.

Distinctions to practice

- **What does the President's Cabinet do?** asks for the Cabinet's job: **Advises the President (of the United States)**. **What are two Cabinet-level positions?** asks for two positions, and **Attorney General** is one of them.
- **The executive branch has many parts. Name one.** asks for one part inside a single branch, such as **Cabinet**. **Name the three branches of government.** asks for the branches themselves, and one printed answer is **Congress, president, and the courts**.
- **Why is the Electoral College important?** asks why it matters, and one printed answer is **It decides who is elected president. Who elects U.S. senators?** asks which voters elect senators: **Citizens from their state**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key terms

Veto
The president's rejection of a bill passed by Congress.

Cabinet
The group of senior executive officials who advise the president.

Secretary of War
A Cabinet-level official who leads the department responsible for the U.S. armed forces and advises the president on national defense; the 2025 USCIS list prints 'Defense' in parentheses after this title, where the 2020 list printed 'Secretary of Defense.'

Key facts

> **Current President**
>
> **What is the name of the President of the United States now?**
>
> The president leads the executive branch and serves a four-year term. The current name can change. **Do not memorize a name or place from this pack.** Follow the printed instruction: Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the President of the United States.

Current Vice President

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

The vice president is next in presidential succession and presides over the Senate. The current name can change. **Do not memorize a name or place from this pack.** Follow the printed instruction: Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Vice President of the United States.



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Presidential Term

The President of the United States is elected for how many years?

The president and the vice president are each elected to a four-year term through a process the Constitution lays out.

One accepted response: Four (4) years

Presidential Term Limit

The President of the United States can serve only two terms. Why?

The Twenty-second Amendment caps a person at two elected terms as president, a limit meant to keep the office from growing too powerful.

One accepted response: (Because of) the 22nd Amendment

Other printed responses: To keep the president from becoming too powerful

Presidential Succession

If the president can no longer serve, who becomes president?

Succession rules keep executive authority continuous if a president can no longer serve.

One accepted response: The Vice President (of the United States)

The Veto Power

Who vetoes bills?

A veto rejects a bill. It is one of the president's executive responsibilities, but these powers do not let the president write federal statutes alone.

One accepted response: The President (of the United States)



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Presidential Powers

Name one power of the president.

The president's powers use different verbs: sign, veto, enforce, command, appoint, and negotiate.

One accepted response: Signs bills into law

Other printed responses: Vetoes bills; Enforces laws; Commander in Chief (of the military); Chief diplomat; Appoints federal judges

Judicial Appointments

Who appoints federal judges?

Appointing federal judges is one of the president's executive responsibilities.

One accepted response: The President (of the United States)



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Executive Branch Parts

The executive branch has many parts. Name one.

The executive branch includes the president, vice president, Cabinet, departments, and agencies.

One accepted response: President (of the United States)

Other printed responses: Cabinet; Federal departments and agencies

Cabinet's Role

What does the President's Cabinet do?

The Cabinet advises the president.

One accepted response: Advises the President (of the United States)



Wikimedia Commons · White House (Pete Souza) · Public domain

Cabinet-Level Positions

What are two Cabinet-level positions?

The Cabinet advises the president. **Give two printed responses.** Examples include **Attorney General; Secretary of State; Secretary of War (Defense); Vice-President; Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency**. The current USCIS list, M-1778 (09/25), prints 22 accepted positions.

Electoral College Role

Why is the Electoral College important?

One accepted response: It decides who is elected president.

Other printed responses: It provides a compromise between the popular election of the president and congressional selection.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Vacant presidency → The Vice President (of the United States)

Step by step

Follow presidential succession

1. The vice president becomes president if the presidency is vacant.
2. If both offices are vacant, the Speaker of the House is next under federal law.
3. The president pro tempore of the Senate follows the Speaker.
4. Eligible Cabinet officers follow in the statutory order.
5. Apply the constitutional eligibility rules to every successor.

This card tests the durable order, not the current name of any officeholder.

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. The President of the United States is elected for how many years?

A Two (2) years
B Eight (8) years
C Six (6) years
D Four (4) years

2. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "The President of the United States can serve only two terms. Why?"

A Because of the 22nd Amendment
B Because of the 20th Amendment
C Because of the 23rd Amendment
D Because of the 2nd Amendment

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Name one power of the president."

A Writes laws
B Vetoes bills
C Confirms nominees
D Interprets laws

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

- A The Chief Justice of the United States
- B The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs
- C The President of the United States
- D The Secretary of the Navy

5. Which choice gives one accepted response to: “The executive branch has many parts. Name one.”

- A Cabinet
- B Governor
- C Senate
- D Judiciary

6. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Who signs bills to become laws?"

- A The Speaker of the House
- B The Senate Majority Leader
- C The President of the United States
- D The Chief Justice of the United States

7. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Who appoints federal judges?"

- A The Senate
- B The Chief Justice
- C The Attorney General
- D The President of the United States

8. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What does the President's Cabinet do?"

- A Commands the armed forces
- B Advises the President of the United States
- C Confirms Supreme Court nominees
- D Writes federal legislation

9. The executive branch has many parts. Which choice names one?

- A Supreme Court
- B Senate
- C House of Representatives
- D Cabinet

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 4 episode 7:29 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Four Years, Two Terms 0:28 · YouTube
Two questions about the president are easy to mix up. One wants a number. The other wants a reason.

WATCH Signs, Not Writes 0:28 · YouTube
The president does not write federal laws alone. Two civics questions show who signs and who writes.

WATCH The Cabinet Advises 0:29 · YouTube
On the civics test, the Vice President is one of the printed Cabinet-level positions.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/the-president-and-the-executive-branch

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 5 OF 13

The Courts

The Judicial Branch · The Supreme Court

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Describe what the judicial branch does and recall the Supreme Court's nine seats, five-justice decisions, and life tenure.

The Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch

Federal courts decide cases under the Constitution and federal law. Judicial review is the power to determine whether governmental action is consistent with the Constitution. Courts do not write statutes or command the armed forces. This branch is intentionally separated from election cycles in important ways so judges can decide legal questions rather than campaign for legislative programs.

Prep for the oral test

What is one part of the judicial branch?

Give one printed response:

- Supreme Court
- Federal Courts

What does the judicial branch do?

Give one printed response:

- Reviews laws
- Explains laws
- Resolves disputes (disagreements) about the law
- Decides if a law goes against the (U.S.) Constitution

What is the highest court in the United States?

Give one printed response:

- Supreme Court

How many seats are on the Supreme Court?

Give one printed response:

- Nine (9)

Distinctions to practice

- **What is one part of the judicial branch?** asks you to name a part of the branch, and **Federal Courts** is one printed answer. **What is the highest court in the United States?** asks for just one court, the top one: **Supreme Court**.
- **What does the judicial branch do?** asks what courts do with laws, and one printed answer is **Reviews laws**. **What part of the federal government writes laws?** asks who writes them, and one printed answer is **(U.S.) Congress**.
- **What is one part of the judicial branch?** asks for a part of the courts' branch, such as **Supreme Court**. **The executive branch has many parts. Name one.** asks for a part of the president's branch, such as **Cabinet**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **What is one part of the judicial branch?**
- **What does the judicial branch do?**
- **What is the highest court in the United States?**
- **How many seats are on the Supreme Court?**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- Supreme Court: Constitutional Interpretation — retrieved 2026-08-22.

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the federal system. Congress, not the Constitution, has set the Court at one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices in current law. Six justices make a statutory quorum, while a case is ordinarily decided by a majority of the participating justices. The 2025 question says 'usually'; keep that word, because recusals and vacancies can change how many justices take part.

Prep for the oral test

How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?

Give one printed response:

- Five (5)

How long do Supreme Court justices serve?

Give one printed response:

- (For) life
- Lifetime appointment
- (Until) retirement

Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why?

Give one printed response:

- To be independent (of politics)
- To limit outside (political) influence

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

Use the printed residence/date instruction and the official lookup route; do not memorize a name from this pack.

Distinctions to practice

- **How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?** asks for the usual number who decide a case: **Five (5)**. **How many seats are on the Supreme Court?** asks for the full size of the Court: **Nine (9)**.
- **How long do Supreme Court justices serve?** asks how long a justice stays on the Court, and one printed answer is **(For) life**. **Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why?** already says "for life", so answer with the reason, such as **To be independent (of politics)**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- 28 U.S.C. § 1: Justices and quorum — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key terms

Judicial review

Court review of whether government action is consistent with the Constitution.

Key facts



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Judicial Branch Parts

What is one part of the judicial branch?

The federal courts, headed by the Supreme Court, make up the judicial branch and decide cases under federal law and the Constitution.

One accepted response: Supreme Court

Other printed responses: Federal Courts



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Judicial Branch Work

What does the judicial branch do?

Courts do not write statutes or command the armed forces.

One accepted response: Reviews laws

Other printed responses: Explains laws; Resolves disputes (disagreements) about the law; Decides if a law goes against the (U.S.) Constitution



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Highest Federal Court

What is the highest court in the United States?

The Supreme Court sits at the top of the federal court system and, under current law, has a Chief Justice plus eight Associate Justices.

One accepted response: Supreme Court

Supreme Court Seats

How many seats are on the Supreme Court?

Congress, not the Constitution, has set the Court at one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices in current law.

One accepted response: Nine (9)

Current Chief Justice

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

The Chief Justice leads the Supreme Court, while federal justices generally serve during good behavior. The current name can change. **Do not memorize a name or place from this pack.** Follow the printed instruction: Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Chief Justice of the United States.



Wikimedia Commons · Joe Ravi · CC BY-SA 3.0

Justice Tenure

How long do Supreme Court justices serve?

Article III lets federal judges serve during good behavior, which in practice means a lifetime appointment.

One accepted response: (For) life

Other printed responses: Lifetime appointment; (Until) retirement



Library of Congress · The Supreme Court of the United States, 1894 · No known restrictions (verify at source)

Lifetime Service

Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why?

Life tenure shields justices from electoral and political pressure so they can rule on the law rather than public opinion.

One accepted response: To be independent (of politics)

Other printed responses: To limit outside (political) influence

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What is one part of the judicial branch?"

- A Electoral College
- B State Senate
- C Justice Department
- D Supreme Court

2. How many seats are on the Supreme Court?

- A Nine (9)
- B Six (6)
- C Seven (7)
- D Ten (10)

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What does the judicial branch do?"

- A Collects taxes
- B Enforces laws
- C Reviews laws
- D Vetoes bills

4. How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?

- A Six (6)
- B Five (5)
- C Nine (9)
- D Four (4)

5. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "How long do Supreme Court justices serve?"

- A Six years
- B Until impeachment
- C For life
- D One term

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 5 episode 6:29 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Courts Review Laws 0:31 · YouTube
Federal courts do not write laws. They do not command the armed forces. They decide cases under the Constitution and federal law.

WATCH Nine Seats, Usually Five 0:30 · YouTube
The Supreme Court has 9 seats. But a second question has the printed answer 5.

WATCH For Life, On Purpose 0:29
The courts are kept apart from election cycles in important ways. That is on purpose.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/the-courts

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 6 OF 13

Federalism and the States

Federal and State Powers · State Government and Place

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Sort federal-only and state-only powers, explain the 10th Amendment, and say what a governor and a state capital are.

Federal and State Powers

Federal and State Powers

Federalism divides authority between the national government and state governments. The Constitution gives certain powers to the United States and reserves others to states or the people. Printing money, declaring war, and making treaties are federal examples. Providing schooling, police protection, fire protection, driver licensing, and local land-use rules are state or local examples. The division explains why national and state officials answer different questions.

Prep for the oral test

Name one power that is only for the federal government.

Give one printed response:

- Print paper money
- Mint coins
- Declare war
- Create an army
- Make treaties
- Set foreign policy

Name one power that is only for the states.

Give one printed response:

- Provide schooling and education
- Provide protection (police)
- Provide safety (fire departments)
- Give a driver's license
- Approve zoning and land use

What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

Give one printed response:

- (It states that the) powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people.

Distinctions to practice

- **Name one power that is only for the federal government.** asks for a power that only the national government has, such as **Create an army**. **Name one power that is only for the states.** asks for a power that only the states have, such as **Provide protection (police)**.
- **Name one power that is only for the states.** asks for one example of a state power, such as **Give a driver's license**. **What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?** asks for the general rule, not an example: **(It states that the) powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people.**
- **Name one power that is only for the federal government.** asks about the whole national government, such as **Print paper money**. **Name one power of the U.S. Congress.** asks about Congress alone, such as **Writes laws**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **Name one power that is only for the federal government.**
- **Name one power that is only for the states.**
- **What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- U.S. Constitution transcript — retrieved 2026-08-22.

State Government and Place

A governor leads a state executive branch, and a state capital is the seat of that state's government. Both answers depend on where the learner lives, so this pack does not supply a universal name or city. District of Columbia and territorial carve-outs differ across the official questions. Read each bracket exactly; do not copy one exception onto another question. Use the lookup procedure in the representation lesson before the interview.

Prep for the oral test

Who is the governor of your state now?

Use the printed residence/date instruction and the official lookup route; do not memorize a name from this pack.

What is the capital of your state?

Use the printed residence/date instruction and the official lookup route; do not memorize a name from this pack.

Distinctions to practice

- **Who is the governor of your state now?** asks for the person who leads your state's executive branch, while **Who is one of your state's U.S. senators now?** asks for a person who serves your state in the U.S. Senate. Neither has a printed answer, so look up each one before your interview.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS Check for Test Updates — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key facts

> **Federal Powers**
> **Name one power that is only for the federal government.**
>
> Printing money, declaring war, and making treaties are federal examples.
>
> **One accepted response:** Print paper money
>
> **Other printed responses:** Mint coins; Declare war; Create an army; Make treaties; Set foreign policy

> **Powers Only States Hold**
> **Name one power that is only for the states.**
>
> Schooling, police and fire protection, driver licensing, and local land-use rules are state or local examples. Printing money, declaring war, and making treaties are federal examples.
>
> **One accepted response:** Provide schooling and education
>
> **Other printed responses:** Provide protection (police); Provide safety (fire departments); Give a driver's license; Approve zoning and land use

> **Your Governor**
> **Who is the governor of your state now?**
>
> A governor leads a state executive branch. D.C. has no governor, and the current state answer can change. **Do not memorize a name or place from this pack.** Follow the printed instruction: Answers will vary. [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a governor.]

> **Your State Capital**
> **What is the capital of your state?**
>
> A state capital is the seat of state government. D.C. is not a state; territory residents name their territory's capital. **Do not memorize a name or place from this pack.** Follow the printed instruction: 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.]

Reserved Powers

What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

Under federalism, the Constitution gives some powers to the national government and leaves the others to the states or the people.

One accepted response: (It states that the) powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people.

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Federal coin power → Mint coins

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Name one power that is only for the states."

A Give a driver's license
B Grant an inventor's patent
C Issue a citizen's passport
D Coin a nation's money

2. What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

A Powers claimed by states yield to federal law or treaties
B Powers not given federally belong to states or the people
C Powers of the president end after two full elected terms
D Powers held by Congress divide evenly between House and Senate

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Name one power that is only for the federal government."

A Issue licenses
B Levy taxes
C Mint coins
D Run schools

4. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Name one power that is only for the states."

A Approve postage and mail routes
B Mint coins and paper money
C Issue passports and foreign visas
D Approve zoning and land use

5. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Name one power that is only for the federal government."

A Punish crime
B Declare war
C Maintain order
D Tax income

6. What does a governor lead in state government?

- A The state executive branch
- B The state legislative branch
- C The state judicial branch
- D The state's county governments

7. What is a state capital?

- A The seat of a county government
- B The largest city in a state
- C The seat of the federal government
- D The seat of a state's government

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 6 episode 6:35 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Only for the States 0:29 · YouTube
Driver licensing is a state or local power, not a federal one.

WATCH Depends Where You Live 0:29 · YouTube
Some civics answers depend on where you live.

WATCH No Governor in D.C. 0:27
The District of Columbia has no governor. Some answers differ for D.C.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/federalism-and-the-states

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 7 OF 13

Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Rights and Amendments · Citizenship and Civic Duty

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify the voting amendments, rights reserved to citizens, ways to become a citizen, and civic duties such as taxes and Selective Service.

Rights and Amendments

Rights and Amendments

The Reconstruction and voting amendments changed constitutional rules about slavery, citizenship, and voting discrimination. The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in law. The Fourteenth defines national citizenship and protects due process and equal protection. The Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-fourth, and Twenty-sixth Amendments bar specified forms of voting discrimination. They did not make every barrier disappear at once; that history is background, not a different answer.

Prep for the oral test

There are four amendments to the U.S. Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

Give one printed response:

- 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).

Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury in the United States?

Give one printed response:

- Citizens
- Citizens of the United States
- U.S. citizens

What are three rights of everyone living in the United States?

Give 3 printed responses:

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of speech

- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom to petition the government
- Freedom of religion
- The right to bear arms

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

Give one printed response:

- The United States
- The flag

Name two promises that new citizens make in the Oath of Allegiance.

Give 2 printed responses:

- Give up loyalty to other countries
- Defend the (U.S.) Constitution
- Obey the laws of the United States
- Serve in the military (if needed)
- Serve (help, do important work for) the nation (if needed)
- Be loyal to the United States

Distinctions to practice

- Both of these questions are about who can vote, but **Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury in the United States?** asks which people can do all three, and one printed answer is **Citizens**. **There are four amendments to the U.S. Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.** asks you to describe one voting amendment, for example **You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.**
- **What are three rights of everyone living in the United States?** asks for rights that everyone living here has, such as **Freedom of speech**, and the right to vote is not on its printed list. **Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury in the United States?** asks which people can do those three things, and one printed answer is **Citizens**.
- Both of these questions mention allegiance, but they ask for different things. **What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?** asks what we are loyal to, such as **The flag**, while **Name two promises that new citizens make in the Oath of Allegiance.** asks for promises, such as **Obey the laws of the United States**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- Bill of Rights transcript — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Citizenship and Civic Duty

Citizenship may arise by birth under constitutional and statutory rules, by naturalization, or by derivation under conditions Congress sets. Citizens have rights, such as voting in federal elections, and responsibilities, such as serving on a jury when summoned. Civic participation also includes voting, contacting officials, joining groups, and helping a campaign. Rights and responsibilities overlap in public life, but the test may ask for one category at a time.

Prep for the oral test

How can people become United States citizens?

Give one printed response:

- Be born in the United States, under the conditions set by the 14th Amendment
- Naturalize
- Derive citizenship (under conditions set by Congress)

What are two examples of civic participation in the United States?

Give 2 printed responses:

- Vote
- Run for office
- 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)
- Contact elected officials
- Support or oppose an issue or policy
- Write to a newspaper

What is one way Americans can serve their country?

Give one printed response:

- Vote
- Pay taxes
- Obey the law
- Serve in the military
- Run for office
- Work for local, state, or federal government

Why is it important to pay federal taxes?

Give one printed response:

- Required by law
- All people pay to fund the federal government
- Required by the (U.S.) Constitution (16th Amendment)
- Civic duty

It is important for all men age 18 through 25 to register for the Selective Service. Name one reason why.

Give one printed response:

- Required by law
- Civic duty
- Makes the draft fair, if needed

Distinctions to practice

- Only voting and running for office are printed for both of these questions. **What are two examples of civic participation in the United States?** asks for two ways to take part in public life, such as **Join a civic group**, and **What is one way Americans can serve their country?** asks for one way to serve, such as **Serve in the military**.
- Paying taxes comes up in both of these questions, once as an answer and once in the question. **What is one way Americans can serve their country?** asks for something you can do, such as **Pay taxes**, but **Why is it important to pay federal taxes?** asks for a reason, such as **Civic duty**.
- Both of these questions ask for a reason, and they share two printed answers. Each also has an answer of its own: **Why is it important to pay federal taxes?** has **All people pay to fund the federal government**, and **It is important for all men age 18 through 25 to register for the Selective Service. Name one reason why.** has **Makes the draft fair, if needed**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 12, Part E, Chapter 2 — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key terms

Naturalization

The legal process through which an eligible noncitizen becomes a U.S. citizen.

Key facts

Voting Amendments

There are four amendments to the U.S. Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

The voting amendments address age, sex, race, and poll taxes as separate constitutional protections.

One accepted response: Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).

Other printed responses: 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).

Citizen-Only Roles

Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury in the United States?

Voting in federal elections, running for federal office, and serving on a jury are rights and responsibilities of citizens.

One accepted response: Citizens

Other printed responses: Citizens of the United States; U.S. citizens

Everyone's Rights

What are three rights of everyone living in the United States?

These rights belong to everyone living in the United States, not just citizens.

Say 3: Freedom of expression; Freedom of speech; Freedom of assembly; Freedom to petition the government; Freedom of religion; The right to bear arms

Pledge Loyalty

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

The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise of loyalty said while facing the flag.

One accepted response: The United States

Other printed responses: The flag

Oath of Allegiance Promises

Name two promises that new citizens make in the Oath of Allegiance.

Say 2: Give up loyalty to other countries; Defend the (U.S.) Constitution; Obey the laws of the United States; Serve in the military (if needed); Serve (help, do important work for) the nation (if needed); Be loyal to the United States



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Paths to Citizenship

How can people become United States citizens?

Citizenship may come through birth, naturalization, or derivation under the governing rules.

One accepted response: Be born in the United States, under the conditions set by the 14th Amendment

Other printed responses: Naturalize; Derive citizenship (under conditions set by Congress)

Civic Participation

What are two examples of civic participation in the United States?

Civic participation also includes voting, contacting officials, joining groups, and helping a campaign.

Say 2: Vote; Run for office; 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); Contact elected officials; Support or oppose an issue or policy; Write to a newspaper



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Serving the Country

What is one way Americans can serve their country?

Citizens have rights, such as voting in federal elections, and responsibilities, such as serving on a jury when summoned.

One accepted response: Vote

Other printed responses: Pay taxes; Obey the law; Serve in the military; Run for office; Work for local, state, or federal government

Paying Federal Taxes

Why is it important to pay federal taxes?

One accepted response: Required by law

Other printed responses: All people pay to fund the federal government; Required by the (U.S.) Constitution (16th Amendment); Civic duty

> **Selective Service Reasons**
>
> **It is important for all men age 18 through 25 to register for the Selective Service. Name one reason why.**
>
> **One accepted response:** Required by law
>
> **Other printed responses:** Civic duty; Makes the draft fair, if needed

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Federal taxes → Required by law

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "There are four amendments to the U.S. Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them."

- A A male citizen of any age can vote
- B A legal resident of any state can vote
- C A male citizen of any race can vote
- D A married woman of any age can vote

2. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury in the United States?"

- A Residents
- B Citizens
- C Taxpayers
- D Adults

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "How can people become United States citizens?"

- A Naturalize
- B Repatriate
- C Immigrate
- D Nationalize

4. Which choice supplies 2 accepted responses to: "What are two examples of civic participation in the United States?"

- A Salute; Fly the flag
- B Enlist; Obey the law
- C Serve; Pay income taxes
- D Vote; Run for office

5. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What is one way Americans can serve their country?"

- A Pray
- B Donate
- C Lobby
- D Vote

6. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "How can people become United States citizens?"

- A Immigrate
- B Repatriate
- C Naturalize
- D Nationalize

7. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What are two examples of civic participation in the United States?"

- A Register for the Selective Service
- B Vote
- C Serve on a jury
- D Pay federal taxes

8. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Why is it important to pay federal taxes?"

- A Civic duty
- B State law requirement
- C Voluntary donation
- D Refundable fee

9. It is important for all men age 18 through 25 to register for the Selective Service. Which choice gives one reason why?

- A Required for jury duty
- B Makes the draft fair, if needed
- C Qualifies for a passport
- D Grants voting rights

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 7 episode 7:28 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Rights of Everyone 0:29 · YouTube
One civics question asks for the rights of everyone living in the U.S. The right to vote is not on its printed list.

WATCH Three Printed Ways 0:31 · YouTube
Naturalizing is not the only way to become a U.S. citizen. One civics question has 3 printed answers.

WATCH Four Voting Amendments 0:31
A tax just to vote? One voting amendment says you don't have to pay one.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/rights-and-responsibilities-of-citizenship

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 8 OF 13

Colonists, Revolution, and Independence

Colonies and Conflict · Revolution and Independence

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall why colonists came, who lived here first and who was enslaved, and the Revolution's grievances, events, commander, and Declaration (author, 1776).

Colonies and Conflict

Colonies and Conflict

English colonies developed along the Atlantic coast under British rule. Settlers came for different reasons, including religious freedom, political liberty, economic opportunity, and escape from persecution. Indigenous peoples already lived throughout the Americas; USCIS prints two broad names for them: American Indians and Native Americans. Conflict grew as Britain taxed and governed the colonies without colonial representation in Parliament.

Prep for the oral test

The colonists came to America for many reasons. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- Freedom
- Political liberty
- Religious freedom
- Economic opportunity
- Escape persecution

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

Give one printed response:

- American Indians
- Native Americans

What group of people was taken and sold as slaves?

Give one printed response:

- Africans
- People from Africa

What war did the Americans fight to win independence from Britain?

Give one printed response:

- American Revolution
- The (American) Revolutionary War
- War for (American) Independence

Name one reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.

Give one printed response:

- High taxes
- Taxation without representation
- British soldiers stayed in Americans' houses (boarding, quartering)
- They did not have self-government
- Boston Massacre
- Boston Tea Party (Tea Act)
- Stamp Act
- Sugar Act
- Townshend Acts
- Intolerable (Coercive) Acts

Distinctions to practice

- Both of these questions ask for a reason, so it is easy to give an answer from the wrong list. **The colonists came to America for many reasons. Name one.** asks why the colonists came, such as **Religious freedom**, while **Name one reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.** asks why they later broke away from Britain, such as **Taxation without representation**.
- Both of these questions ask about people, but not the same people. **Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?** asks who was already here, such as **American Indians**, while **What group of people was taken and sold as slaves?** asks who was taken and sold, such as **Africans**.
- Both of these questions are about becoming free from Britain, but one asks for a war and the other for a document. **What war did the Americans fight to win independence from Britain?** goes with a printed answer such as **American Revolution**, and **What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain?** goes with **Declaration of Independence**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Revolution and Independence

The Declaration of Independence announced separation from Britain and stated ideals about equality and inherent rights. The Revolutionary War turned that declaration into a struggle for political independence. George Washington led the Continental Army. France supported the American

cause. The Fourth of July marks adoption of the Declaration, not the later writing or ratification of the Constitution.

Prep for the oral test

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

Give one printed response:

- (Thomas) Jefferson

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

Give one printed response:

- July 4, 1776

The American Revolution had many important events. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- (Battle of) Bunker Hill
- Declaration of Independence
- Washington Crossing the Delaware (Battle of Trenton)
- (Battle of) Saratoga
- Valley Forge (Encampment)
- (Battle of) Yorktown (British surrender at Yorktown)

There were 13 original states. Name five.

Give 5 printed responses:

- New Hampshire
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut
- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Virginia
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia

What founding document was written in 1787?

Give one printed response:

- (U.S.) Constitution

Distinctions to practice

- One question names the document and asks for the date, while the other gives the year and asks for the document. **When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?** goes with **July 4, 1776**, and **What founding document was written in 1787?** goes with **(U.S.) Constitution**.
- **The American Revolution had many important events. Name one.** asks for something that happened during the Revolution, such as **(Battle of) Saratoga**. **Name one reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.** asks what led the Americans to declare independence, such as **Boston Tea Party (Tea Act)**, which is not printed for the first question.

Learn the facts as one short sequence instead of as separate names. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. It was adopted on July 4, 1776. George Washington led the Continental Army. Questions about the reasons for independence, the important events and the people involved all come from the same years, but each asks for something different. Listen for the question word first: who, when, why, or which event. Then give the answer the oral answer map prints for that question.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- Declaration of Independence transcript — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key facts

> **Colonists' Reasons**
> **The colonists came to America for many reasons. Name one.**
>
> Colonists came to America for many reasons, including religious freedom, political liberty, economic opportunity, and escape from persecution.
>
> **One accepted response:** Freedom
>
> **Other printed responses:** Political liberty; Religious freedom; Economic opportunity; Escape persecution

> **First Peoples**
> **Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?**
>
> Indigenous peoples lived throughout the Americas long before Europeans arrived; USCIS prints two broad names for them.
>
> **One accepted response:** American Indians
>
> **Other printed responses:** Native Americans

Enslaved Africans

What group of people was taken and sold as slaves?

Colonists and traders forced enslaved Africans to the colonies and sold them into slavery.

One accepted response: Africans

Other printed responses: People from Africa

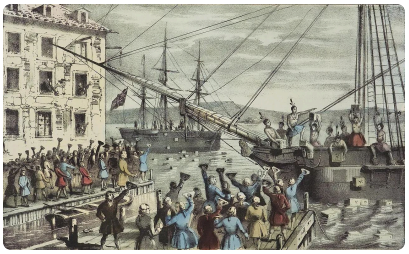
The Fight Against Britain

What war did the Americans fight to win independence from Britain?

The Revolutionary War turned the Declaration of Independence into a struggle for political independence. George Washington led the Continental Army, and France supported the American cause.

One accepted response: American Revolution

Other printed responses: The (American) Revolutionary War; War for (American) Independence



Nathaniel Currier · Public domain

Reasons for Independence

Name one reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.

Conflict grew as Britain taxed and governed the colonies without colonial representation in Parliament.

One accepted response: High taxes

Other printed responses: Taxation without representation; British soldiers stayed in Americans' houses (boarding, quartering); They did not have self-government; Boston Massacre; Boston Tea Party (Tea Act); Stamp Act; Sugar Act; Townshend Acts; Intolerable (Coercive) Acts

Declaration's Writer

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

Thomas Jefferson was the principal writer of the Declaration of Independence, which announced the colonies' separation from Britain.

One accepted response: (Thomas) Jefferson



Library of Congress · The Declaration of Independence, displayed in a dimly lit ha · No known restrictions (verify at source)

Revolutionary Events

The American Revolution had many important events. Name one.

The American Revolution included many important events, from early battles through the British surrender at Yorktown.

One accepted response: (Battle of) Bunker Hill

Other printed responses: Declaration of Independence; Washington Crossing the Delaware (Battle of Trenton); (Battle of) Saratoga; Valley Forge (Encampment); (Battle of) Yorktown (British surrender at Yorktown)

The Original Thirteen

There were 13 original states. Name five.

Say 5: New Hampshire; Massachusetts; Rhode Island; Connecticut; New York; New Jersey; Pennsylvania; Delaware; Maryland; Virginia; North Carolina; South Carolina; Georgia

Replacing the Articles

What founding document was written in 1787?

The Articles of Confederation created the first national framework but left the central government weak, and the Constitution replaced it with a stronger federal system.

One accepted response: (U.S.) Constitution

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Independence from Britain → American Revolution

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: “The colonists came to America for many reasons. Name one.”

A Statehood
B Taxation
C Empire
D Freedom

2. Which choice gives one accepted response to: “Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?”

A African Americans
B American Indians
C Pacific Islanders
D English Puritans

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What group of people was taken and sold as slaves?"

A Africans
B Europeans
C Mexicans
D Asians

4. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

A Alexander Hamilton
B James Madison
C Thomas Jefferson
D Benjamin Franklin

5. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

A August 2, 1776
B July 4, 1776
C March 4, 1789
D May 10, 1775

6. Which of these was a major event of the American Revolution?

A Sherman's March
B Gettysburg
C Fort Sumter
D Valley Forge

7. Who commanded the Continental Army during the American Revolution?

A George Washington
B Benjamin Franklin
C Thomas Jefferson
D Alexander Hamilton

8. What document announced the colonies' separation from Britain in 1776?

A Bill of Rights
B Articles of Confederation
C Declaration of Independence
D Constitution of the United States

9. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "The American Revolution had many important events. Name one."

A Battle of Shiloh
B Battle of Tippecanoe
C Battle of Saratoga
D Battle of Antietam

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 8 episode 6:40 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Why They Came, Why They Broke Away 0:29 · YouTube
Religious freedom. Taxation without representation. Two reasons, for two different civics questions.

WATCH 1776 or 1787 0:29 · YouTube
The Fourth of July does not mark the Constitution. It marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

WATCH Event or Reason 0:30
Boston Tea Party. It is printed for one civics question and not for another.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/colonists-revolution-and-independence

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 9 OF 13

The Framers and the Constitution

The Founding Documents · Framers and Federalists

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify the Federalist Papers' writers and aim, the Articles of Confederation, and what Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Hamilton are known for.

The Founding Documents

The Founding Documents

The nation's founding era produced several documents with different jobs. The Declaration announces independence and ideals. The Articles of Confederation created the first national framework but left the central government weak. The Constitution replaced that framework with a stronger federal system. The Bill of Rights added the first ten amendments. The Federalist Papers argued for ratification. Each document had a different job, and knowing the job keeps them apart. This part also holds two questions about people rather than documents: what Benjamin Franklin is famous for and what George Washington is famous for.

Prep for the oral test

The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

Give one printed response:

- (James) Madison
- (Alexander) Hamilton
- (John) Jay
- Publius

Publius is the name under which Madison, Hamilton, and John Jay wrote the Federalist Papers.

Why were the Federalist Papers important?

Give one printed response:

- They helped people understand the (U.S.) Constitution.
- They supported passing the (U.S.) Constitution.

Benjamin Franklin is famous for many things. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- Founded the first free public libraries
- First Postmaster General of the United States

- Helped write the Declaration of Independence
- Inventor
- U.S. diplomat

George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- "Father of Our Country"
- First president of the United States
- General of the Continental Army
- President of the Constitutional Convention

Distinctions to practice

- These two questions are worded the same except for the name, so it is easy to give one man's answer for the other. **Benjamin Franklin is famous for many things. Name one.** asks for one thing Franklin is known for, such as **Helped write the Declaration of Independence**, and **George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.** asks the same about Washington, such as **President of the Constitutional Convention**.
- Both of these questions ask who wrote something. **The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.** asks for one of the Federalist writers, such as **(James) Madison**, while **Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?** asks for a different writer, **(Thomas) Jefferson**.
- **Why is the Declaration of Independence important?** asks why that document matters, for example **It says all people are created equal.** But **Why were the Federalist Papers important?** asks about a different document, so give a different reason, such as **They supported passing the (U.S.) Constitution.**

Think of the founding documents as a timeline, each with its own job. The Declaration of Independence belongs to 1776 and explains why the colonies separated from Britain. The Articles of Confederation were the first national framework. The Constitution was written in 1787 and set up the present federal system. The Federalist Papers argued for approving that Constitution. Questions about a date, a purpose, or support for the Constitution can point to different documents from the same years.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- U.S. Constitution transcript — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Framers and Federalists

The Constitutional Convention brought delegates with different plans and interests together in Philadelphia. George Washington presided. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate. James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, and William Paterson each participated, but in different ways. The Federalist Papers were written under the name Publius by Madison, Hamilton, and John Jay to

support ratification. Do not attribute the Constitution to one sole author; it was debated and assembled through committees and convention votes.

Prep for the oral test

Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- Writer of the Declaration of Independence
- Third president of the United States
- Doubled the size of the United States (Louisiana Purchase)
- First Secretary of State
- Founded the University of Virginia
- Writer of the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom

James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- "Father of the Constitution"
- Fourth president of the United States
- President during the War of 1812
- One of the writers of the Federalist Papers

Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- First Secretary of the Treasury
- One of the writers of the Federalist Papers
- Helped establish the First Bank of the United States
- Aide to General George Washington
- Member of the Continental Congress

Distinctions to practice

- Jefferson and Madison each have an answer that says which number president he was, and the two numbers are one apart. **Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.** asks for one thing Jefferson is known for, such as **Third president of the United States**, and **James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.** asks the same about Madison, such as **Fourth president of the United States**.
- Jefferson and Hamilton each have an answer about being the first Secretary of something, so it is easy to swap them. **Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.** asks for one thing Jefferson is known for, such as **First Secretary of State**, and **Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one.** asks the same about Hamilton, such as **First Secretary of the Treasury**.

- Madison and Washington each have an answer that starts with the words "Father of." **James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.** asks for one thing Madison is known for, such as **"Father of the Constitution"**, and **George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.** asks the same about Washington, such as **"Father of Our Country"**.
- Jefferson and Franklin each have an answer about the Declaration of Independence, and the two answers are worded almost the same. **Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.** asks for one thing Jefferson is known for, such as **Writer of the Declaration of Independence**, and **Benjamin Franklin is famous for many things. Name one.** asks the same about Franklin, such as **Helped write the Declaration of Independence**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.**
- **James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.**
- **Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one.**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- National Archives: Meet the Framers — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key terms

Federalist Papers

Essays that explained the Constitution and supported its ratification.

Key concepts

Madison; Hamilton; Jay

- These three surnames are printed writers of the Federalist Papers.
- Their essays supported ratification of the Constitution.
- The shared pen name Publius is another accepted response.

Supported the Constitution

- This is one accepted reason the Federalist Papers mattered.
- The essays argued for ratification.
- They did not declare independence or create the first national government.

Inventor

- This is one printed achievement for Benjamin Franklin.
- Other accepted achievements include diplomacy, libraries, and postal service.
- It answers what Franklin is famous for, not who he was.

Father of Our Country

- This is one printed title for George Washington.
- His other accepted roles include general, convention president, and first U.S. president.
- It answers what Washington is famous for.

Father of the Constitution

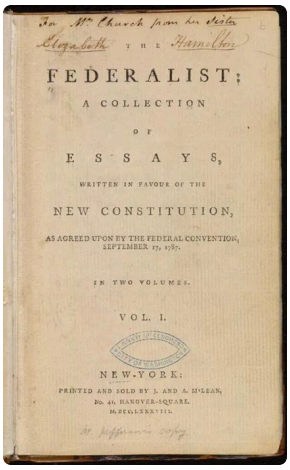
- This is one printed achievement for James Madison.
- His accepted record also includes the Federalist Papers and serving as a U.S. president.
- It is an achievement, not a document title.

First Treasury Secretary

- This is one printed achievement for Alexander Hamilton.
- His other printed answers include writing the Federalist Papers and helping establish the First Bank of the United States.
- It identifies an office held by Hamilton.

Key facts

> **Federalist Writers**
>
> **The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.**
>
> The Federalist Papers argued for ratification.
>
> **One accepted response:** (James) Madison
>
> **Other printed responses:** (Alexander) Hamilton; (John) Jay; Publius



Wikimedia Commons · Publius (Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison) · Public domain

Federalist Papers' Purpose

Why were the Federalist Papers important?

The Federalist Papers argued for approving, or ratifying, the Constitution, the stronger framework that replaced the Articles of Confederation.

One accepted response: They helped people understand the (U.S.) Constitution.

Other printed responses: They supported passing the (U.S.) Constitution.



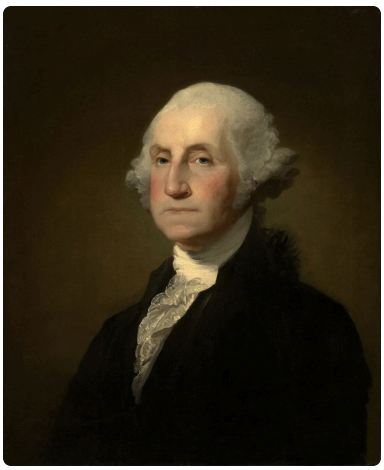
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Franklin's Achievements

Benjamin Franklin is famous for many things. Name one.

One accepted response: Founded the first free public libraries

Other printed responses: First Postmaster General of the United States; Helped write the Declaration of Independence; Inventor; U.S. diplomat



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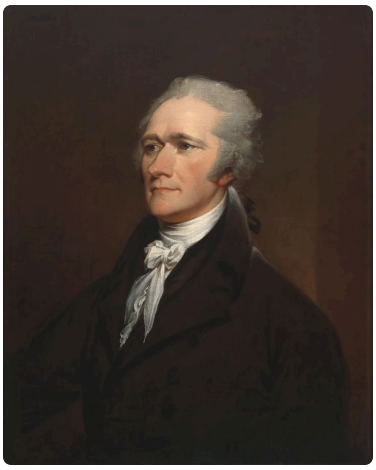
Washington's Achievements

George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.

Washington presided over the Constitutional Convention, which brought delegates with different plans and interests together in Philadelphia.

One accepted response: “Father of Our Country”

Other printed responses: First president of the United States; General of the Continental Army; President of the Constitutional Convention



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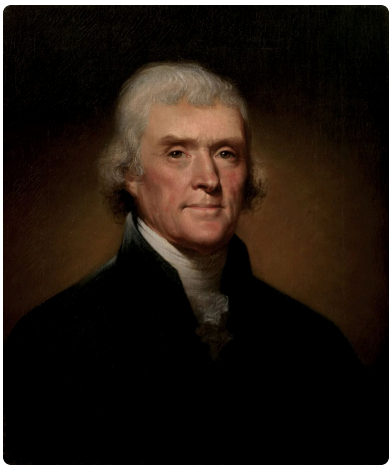
Hamilton's Achievements

Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one.

Hamilton, with Madison and John Jay, wrote the Federalist Papers under the name Publius to support ratification.

One accepted response: First Secretary of the Treasury

Other printed responses: One of the writers of the Federalist Papers; Helped establish the First Bank of the United States; Aide to General George Washington; Member of the Continental Congress



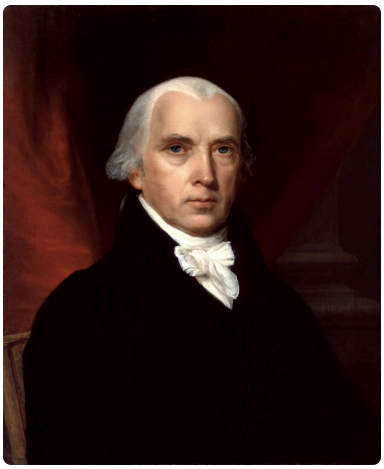
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Jefferson's Achievements

Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.

One accepted response: Writer of the Declaration of Independence

Other printed responses: Third president of the United States; Doubled the size of the United States (Louisiana Purchase); First Secretary of State; Founded the University of Virginia; Writer of the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom



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Madison's Achievements

James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.

One accepted response: “Father of the Constitution”

Other printed responses: Fourth president of the United States; President during the War of 1812; One of the writers of the Federalist Papers

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Declaration authorship → Writer of the Declaration of Independence

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers."

A Publius
B Agrippa
C Brutus
D Centinel

2. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Why were the Federalist Papers important?"

A They finished drafting the U.S. Constitution
B They opposed ratifying the U.S. Constitution
C They supported passing the U.S. Constitution
D They demanded amending the U.S. Constitution

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "James Madison is famous for many things. Name one."

A "Father of the Country"
B "Father of the Constitution"
C "Author of the Declaration"
D "Financier of the Revolution"

4. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one."

A First Postmaster of the Colonies
B First Secretary of the Navy
C First Secretary of the Interior
D First Secretary of the Treasury

5. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one."

A Founded the College of Philadelphia
B Founded the University of Virginia
C Led the Battle of Yorktown
D Signed the Treaty of Ghent

6. Thomas Jefferson is known for which achievement?

A Father of the Constitution
B President during the War of 1812
C Writer of the Declaration of Independence
D Helped establish the First Bank of the United States

7. James Madison is best known by which title?

- (A) General of the Continental Army
- (B) Third president of the United States
- (C) First Secretary of the Treasury
- (D) "Father of the Constitution"

8. Which document served as the first national governing framework before the Constitution?

- (A) Articles of Confederation
- (B) Declaration of Independence
- (C) Federalist Papers
- (D) Bill of Rights

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 9 episode 7:14 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Who Wrote It 0:28 · YouTube
Two civics questions ask who wrote something. They want different writers.

WATCH Two Fathers 0:30 · YouTube
Father of the Constitution. Father of Our Country. They belong to different men.

WATCH Franklin's Many Things 0:29
Libraries, the postal service, inventions. One man's printed test answers cover all three.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/the-framers-and-the-constitution

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 10 OF 13

The 1800s: Expansion, Civil War, and Reconstruction

Expansion and Civil War · Emancipation and Reconstruction

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall the Louisiana Purchase, 1800s wars, the Civil War and Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the 14th and 15th Amendments.

Expansion and Civil War

Expansion and Civil War

During the 1800s the United States expanded westward, fought wars, and confronted the crisis of slavery. The Louisiana Purchase doubled the nation's territory under President Thomas Jefferson. The Civil War followed secession and conflict over slavery, federal union, and political power. Abraham Lincoln led the nation during that war. For each question, decide whether it asks for a territory, a war, an event of the Civil War, or what Lincoln is known for.

Prep for the oral test

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

Give one printed response:

- Louisiana Territory
- Louisiana

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

Give one printed response:

- War of 1812
- Mexican-American War
- Civil War
- Spanish-American War

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

Give one printed response:

- The Civil War

The Civil War had many important events. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- (Battle of) Fort Sumter
- Emancipation Proclamation
- (Battle of) Vicksburg
- (Battle of) Gettysburg
- Sherman's March
- (Surrender at) Appomattox
- (Battle of) Antietam/Sharpsburg
- Lincoln was assassinated.

Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
- Saved (or preserved) the Union
- Led the United States during the Civil War
- 16th president of the United States
- Delivered the Gettysburg Address

Distinctions to practice

- **What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?** asks for the territory itself, and one printed answer is **Louisiana Territory**. **Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.** asks what Jefferson is known for, and one printed answer is **Doubled the size of the United States (Louisiana Purchase)**.
- **Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.** asks for any one war of that century, such as **Mexican-American War**. **Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.** asks for one particular war: **The Civil War**.
- **The Civil War had many important events. Name one.** asks for something that happened during the war, such as **(Battle of) Gettysburg**. **Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.** asks what Lincoln is known for, such as **Delivered the Gettysburg Address**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Emancipation and Reconstruction

The Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom for enslaved people in areas in rebellion against the United States; it did not immediately free every enslaved person everywhere. The Thirteenth Amendment later abolished slavery in law, except as punishment for crime after conviction. The Fourteenth Amendment established national citizenship rules, and the Fifteenth barred denial of voting

rights on account of race, color, or previous servitude. Say the printed USCIS answer, then keep this legal sequence clear.

Prep for the oral test

What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Give one printed response:

- Freed the slaves
- Freed slaves in the Confederacy
- Freed slaves in the Confederate states
- Freed slaves in most Southern states

What U.S. war ended slavery?

Give one printed response:

- The Civil War

What amendment says all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are U.S. citizens?

Give one printed response:

- 14th Amendment

When did all men get the right to vote?

Give one printed response:

- After the Civil War
- During Reconstruction
- (With the) 15th Amendment
- 1870

Name one leader of the women's rights movement in the 1800s.

Give one printed response:

- Susan B. Anthony
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Sojourner Truth
- Harriet Tubman
- Lucretia Mott
- Lucy Stone

Distinctions to practice

- **What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?** asks about one proclamation that reached only the areas in rebellion, and one printed answer is **Freed slaves in the Confederacy**. **What U.S. war ended**

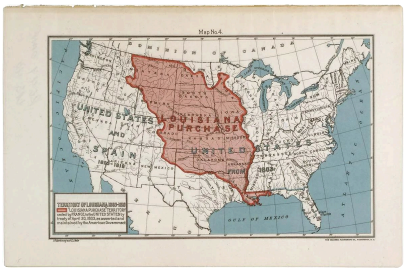
slavery? asks which war it was: **The Civil War**.

- **What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?** already names the proclamation, so say what it did, such as **Freed the slaves**. **The Civil War had many important events. Name one.** can be answered with the proclamation's name, and one printed answer is **Emancipation Proclamation**.
- **What amendment says all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are U.S. citizens?** asks for the amendment about citizenship: **14th Amendment**. **When did all men get the right to vote?** asks when men got the vote, and one printed answer is **(With the) 15th Amendment**.

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- Emancipation Proclamation — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key facts



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Louisiana Purchase

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

The Louisiana Purchase doubled the nation's territory under President Thomas Jefferson.

One accepted response: Louisiana Territory

Other printed responses: Louisiana

Nineteenth-Century Wars

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

During the 1800s the United States expanded westward, fought wars, and confronted the crisis of slavery.

One accepted response: War of 1812

Other printed responses: Mexican-American War; Civil War; Spanish-American War

Civil War

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

The Civil War followed secession and conflict over slavery, federal union, and political power. Abraham Lincoln led the nation during that war.

One accepted response: The Civil War

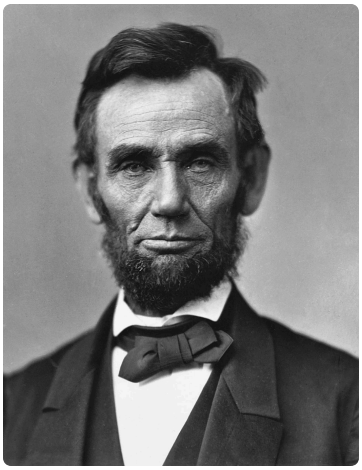
Civil War Events

The Civil War had many important events. Name one.

One of those events, the Emancipation Proclamation, declared freedom for enslaved people in areas in rebellion against the United States, but it did not immediately free every enslaved person everywhere.

One accepted response: (Battle of) Fort Sumter

Other printed responses: Emancipation Proclamation; (Battle of) Vicksburg; (Battle of) Gettysburg; Sherman's March; (Surrender at) Appomattox; (Battle of) Antietam/Sharpsburg; Lincoln was assassinated.



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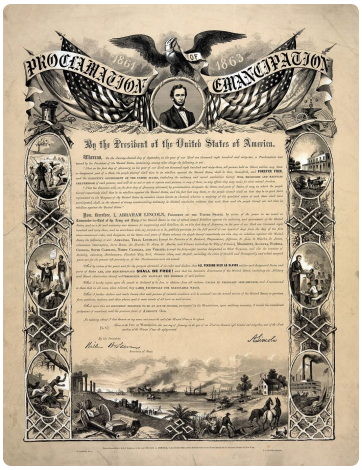
Lincoln's Achievements

Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.

Abraham Lincoln led the nation during the Civil War, which followed secession and conflict over slavery, federal union, and political power.

One accepted response: Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)

Other printed responses: Saved (or preserved) the Union; Led the United States during the Civil War; 16th president of the United States; Delivered the Gettysburg Address



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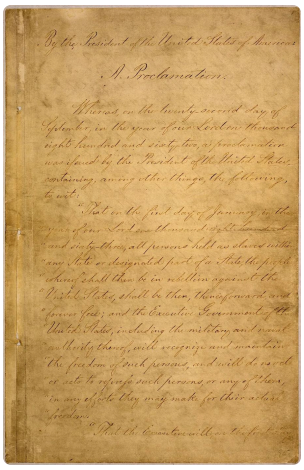
Emancipation Proclamation

What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

The proclamation applied to enslaved people in designated places in rebellion; the Thirteenth Amendment later abolished slavery in law.

One accepted response: Freed the slaves

Other printed responses: Freed slaves in the Confederacy; Freed slaves in the Confederate states; Freed slaves in most Southern states



Wikimedia Commons · Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 · Public domain

War Ending Slavery

What U.S. war ended slavery?

Slavery was one of the issues behind the Civil War, and the Thirteenth Amendment later abolished it in law.

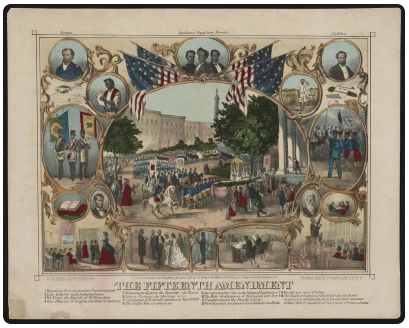
One accepted response: The Civil War

Fourteenth Amendment

What amendment says all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are U.S. citizens?

The Fourteenth Amendment connects national citizenship to birth or naturalization under its jurisdiction clause.

One accepted response: 14th Amendment



Library of Congress · The Fifteenth amendment · No known restrictions (verify at source)

Men's Voting Milestone

When did all men get the right to vote?

After the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in law and the Fourteenth established national citizenship rules, the Fifteenth barred denial of voting rights on account of race, color, or previous servitude.

One accepted response: After the Civil War

Other printed responses: During Reconstruction; (With the) 15th Amendment; 1870

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Civil War event in Pennsylvania → (Battle of) Gettysburg

France, 1803 → Louisiana

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?"

- A Alaska
- B California
- C Florida
- D Louisiana

2. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s."

- A Gulf War
- B Civil War
- C Korean War
- D Great War

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

- A The Civil War
- B The Cold War
- C The Korean War
- D The Mexican War

4. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?"

- A Freed slaves in border states
- B Ended the slave trade with Africa
- C Freed slaves in the Confederacy
- D Gave freed slaves voting rights

5. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "When did all men get the right to vote?"

- A 1870
- B 1865
- C 1920
- D 1868

6. What amendment guarantees that all persons born or naturalized in the U.S. are citizens?

- A 10th Amendment
- B 14th Amendment
- C 13th Amendment
- D 15th Amendment

7. Which amendment barred denying the vote based on race, color, or previous servitude?

- A 13th Amendment
- B 14th Amendment
- C 19th Amendment
- D 15th Amendment

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 10 episode 7:00 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Doubled in 1803 0:31 · YouTube
One purchase doubled the nation's territory. Thomas Jefferson was president at the time.

WATCH Not Everywhere at Once 0:30 · YouTube
The Emancipation Proclamation did not immediately free every enslaved person everywhere. It reached only the areas in rebellion.

WATCH Two Gettysburgs 0:30
Gettysburg turns up in answers to two test questions. The trick is hearing which one is asked.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/the-1800s-expansion-civil-war-and-reconstruction

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 11 OF 13

The 1900s: World Wars, Depression, and Cold War

World War I and Women's Suffrage · Depression and World War II · Cold War and Communism

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall why the U.S. entered the World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam, the Great Depression and its president, women's 1920 vote, and the Cold War rival.

World War I and Women's Suffrage

World War I and Women's Suffrage

World War I is one of several wars the United States fought in the 1900s. The 2025 list accepts several reasons for U.S. entry, including attacks on U.S. civilian ships and support for the Allied Powers. After the war, the Nineteenth Amendment barred voting discrimination on account of sex. That constitutional milestone did not by itself remove every practical voting barrier.

Prep for the oral test

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

Give one printed response:

- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- (Persian) Gulf War

Why did the United States enter World War I?

Give one printed response:

- Because Germany attacked U.S. (civilian) ships
- To support the Allied Powers (England, France, Italy, and Russia)
- To oppose the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria)

When did all women get the right to vote?

Give one printed response:

- 1920
- After World War I

- (With the) 19th Amendment

Distinctions to practice

- **Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.** and **Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.** differ only in the century. For the 1900s, one printed answer is **World War I**; for the 1800s, one printed answer is **Civil War**.
- **When did all women get the right to vote?** asks about women, and one printed answer is **1920**. **When did all men get the right to vote?** asks about men, and one printed answer is **1870**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.**
- **Why did the United States enter World War I?**
- **When did all women get the right to vote?**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- Nineteenth Amendment — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Depression and World War II

The Great Depression was a severe, long-lasting economic downturn that began in 1929. Franklin Roosevelt was president during most of the Depression and World War II. The United States entered World War II after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and fought with the Allied Powers against the Axis Powers. Dwight Eisenhower's wartime military leadership belongs here; keep the Depression, the event that brought the United States into the war, and a leader's role apart. Eisenhower's printed answer list accepts several achievements, so an oral response should use one exact supported example.

Prep for the oral test

What was the Great Depression?

Give one printed response:

- Longest economic recession in modern history

When did the Great Depression start?

Give one printed response:

- The Great Crash (1929)
- Stock market crash of 1929

Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?

Give one printed response:

- (Franklin) Roosevelt

Why did the United States enter World War II?

Give one printed response:

- (Bombing of) Pearl Harbor
- Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor
- To support the Allied Powers (England, France, and Russia)
- To oppose the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan)

Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- General during World War II
- President at the end of (during) the Korean War
- 34th president of the United States
- Signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 (Created the Interstate System)

Distinctions to practice

- **What was the Great Depression?** asks what it was: **Longest economic recession in modern history**. **When did the Great Depression start?** asks when it began, and one printed answer is **Stock market crash of 1929**.
- **Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?** asks for one president: **(Franklin) Roosevelt**. **Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.** asks about a different man, who was a general in World War II and president later. One printed answer is **General during World War II**.
- **Why did the United States enter World War II?** and **Why did the United States enter World War I?** ask the same thing about two different wars. For World War II, one printed answer is **(Bombing of) Pearl Harbor**; for World War I, one printed answer is **Because Germany attacked U.S. (civilian) ships**.
- **Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.** and **Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.** use the same words for two different men. One printed answer for Eisenhower is **34th president of the United States**, and one printed answer for Lincoln is **16th president of the United States**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **What was the Great Depression?**
- **When did the Great Depression start?**
- **Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?**
- **Why did the United States enter World War II?**
- **Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Cold War and Communism

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became rivals in the Cold War. The conflict involved military alliances, nuclear deterrence, political competition, and wars in Korea and Vietnam. Communism was a central ideological issue in this rivalry.

Prep for the oral test

Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?

Give one printed response:

- Soviet Union
- USSR
- Russia

During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?

Give one printed response:

- Communism
- Nuclear war

Why did the United States enter the Korean War?

Give one printed response:

- To stop the spread of communism

Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?

Give one printed response:

- To stop the spread of communism

Distinctions to practice

- **Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?** asks for a country, and one printed answer is **Soviet Union**. **During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?** asks for a worry, not a country, and one printed answer is **Communism**.
- **During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?** asks for a worry, and one printed answer is **Communism**. **Why did the United States enter the Korean War?** asks for the reason the United States entered the war: **To stop the spread of communism**.
- **Why did the United States enter the Korean War?** and **Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?** ask about two different wars, but the printed answer is the same. For the Korean

War, say **To stop the spread of communism**; for the Vietnam War, say **To stop the spread of communism** too.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?**
- **During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?**
- **Why did the United States enter the Korean War?**
- **Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key facts



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Twentieth-Century Wars

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

The United States fought in several wars in the 1900s, including the world wars and the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

One accepted response: World War I

Other printed responses: World War II; Korean War; Vietnam War; (Persian) Gulf War

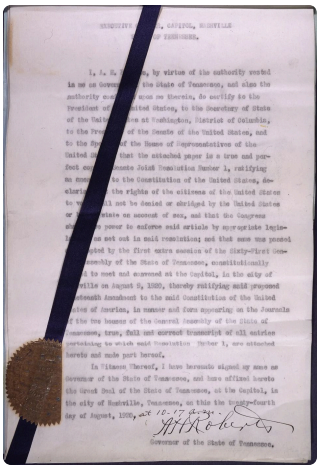
Entering World War I

Why did the United States enter World War I?

The United States entered World War I for several reasons, including attacks on U.S. civilian ships and support for the Allied Powers.

One accepted response: Because Germany attacked U.S. (civilian) ships

Other printed responses: To support the Allied Powers (England, France, Italy, and Russia); To oppose the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria)



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Women's Voting Milestone

When did all women get the right to vote?

In 1920, after World War I, the Nineteenth Amendment barred voting discrimination on account of sex, though not every practical barrier disappeared then.

One accepted response: 1920

Other printed responses: After World War I; (With the) 19th Amendment



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Depression's Start

When did the Great Depression start?

The Great Depression is commonly dated to the Wall Street stock market crash of October 1929, which triggered the broader economic collapse that followed.

One accepted response: The Great Crash (1929)

Other printed responses: Stock market crash of 1929

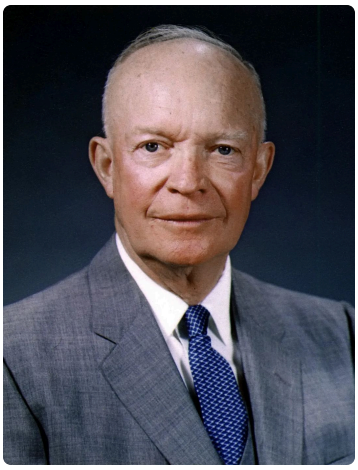
Entering World War II

Why did the United States enter World War II?

The United States entered World War II after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, and it fought with the Allied Powers against the Axis Powers.

One accepted response: (Bombing of) Pearl Harbor

Other printed responses: Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor; To support the Allied Powers (England, France, and Russia); To oppose the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan)



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Eisenhower's Achievements

Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.

One accepted response: General during World War II

Other printed responses: President at the end of (during) the Korean War; 34th president of the United States; Signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 (Created the Interstate System)



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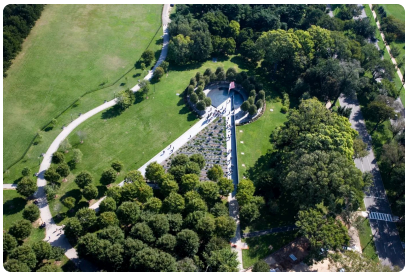
Cold War Rival

Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became rivals in the Cold War.

One accepted response: Soviet Union

Other printed responses: USSR; Russia



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Cold War Concern

During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?

Communism was a central ideological issue in the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union.

One accepted response: Communism

Other printed responses: Nuclear war



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Vietnam War Purpose

Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?

The Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union involved wars in Korea and Vietnam, and communism was a central ideological issue in it.

One accepted response: To stop the spread of communism

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

First World War → World War I

USCIS Depression phrase → Longest economic recession in modern history

Vietnam War → Stop the spread of communism

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s."

- A War of 1812
- B Civil War
- C Spanish American War
- D World War I

2. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Why did the United States enter World War I?"

- A Because Japan attacked U.S. naval bases
- B Because Germany attacked U.S. civilian ships
- C Because Britain blockaded U.S. merchant ships
- D Because Mexico invaded U.S. border towns

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "When did the Great Depression start?"

- A The Long Depression of 1873
- B The Great Panic of 1907
- C The Great Crash of 1929
- D The Dust Bowl of 1935

4. Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?

- A Franklin Roosevelt
- B Woodrow Wilson
- C Dwight Eisenhower
- D Herbert Hoover

5. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?"

- A DPRK
- B PRC
- C USSR
- D UAR

6. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?"

- A People's Republic of China
- B Imperial Japan
- C Nazi Germany
- D Soviet Union

7. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?"

- A Fascism
- B Communism
- C Isolationism
- D Terrorism

8. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Why did the United States enter the Korean War?"

- A To stop the spread of communism
- B To support imperial expansion
- C To defend oil supplies
- D To enforce a trade agreement

9. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?"

- A To stop the spread of communism
- B To protect oil shipping lanes
- C To depose a monarchy
- D To secure colonial trade routes

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 11 episode 8:08 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH One Word, Two Years 0:29 · YouTube
One word in a civics question changes the printed year. Women, or men?

WATCH What, When, Who 0:29 · YouTube
The Great Depression has 3 civics questions. What was it? When did it start? Who was president?

WATCH Two Wars, One Answer 0:30 · YouTube
The Korean War and the Vietnam War. Two different wars, one printed answer.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/the-1900s-world-wars-depression-and-cold-war

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

LESSON 12 OF 13

Modern America: Civil Rights, 9/11, and Innovation

Civil Rights · Modern Conflicts, 9/11, and Innovation

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- State what the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King Jr. did, what happened on 9/11 and the wars after it, and American innovations.

Civil Rights

Civil Rights

The civil rights movement challenged racial segregation and unequal treatment through court cases, organizing, protest, and federal law. Martin Luther King, Jr. is associated with nonviolent action for civil rights and with work for equality. The movement belongs in a longer constitutional story that includes Reconstruction amendments and later enforcement. One question asks what the movement did; the other asks what King did, so don't give an outcome where a leader's contribution is asked for, or the other way round.

Prep for the oral test

What did the civil rights movement do?

Give one printed response:

- Fought to end racial discrimination

Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one.

Give one printed response:

- Fought for civil rights
- Worked for equality for all Americans
- Worked to ensure that people would "not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character"

Distinctions to practice

- **What did the civil rights movement do?** asks about the whole movement: **Fought to end racial discrimination**. **Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one.** asks about one man, and one printed answer is **Fought for civil rights**.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one.** and **Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.** use the same words for two different men. For King, one printed answer is

Worked for equality for all Americans; for Lincoln, one printed answer is **Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **What did the civil rights movement do?**
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one.**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Modern Conflicts, 9/11, and Innovation

This part covers the Persian Gulf War, the September 11 attacks, the conflicts that followed, American Indian nations and tribes, and U.S. innovations. They are separate subjects, not one story. For each question, decide whether it asks for a reason for a war, an event, a later conflict, a tribe, or an invention. USCIS points to bia.gov for a complete list of tribes, and says that other correct answers may exist while encouraging the printed ones.

Prep for the oral test

Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?

Give one printed response:

- To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait

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

Give one printed response:

- Terrorists attacked the United States
- Terrorists took over two planes and crashed them into the World Trade Center in New York City
- Terrorists took over a plane and crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia
- Terrorists took over a plane originally aimed at Washington, D.C., and crashed in a field in Pennsylvania

Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Give one printed response:

- (Global) War on Terror
- War in Afghanistan
- War in Iraq

Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

Give one printed response:

- Apache
- Blackfeet
- Cayuga
- Cherokee
- Cheyenne
- Chippewa
- Choctaw
- Creek
- Crow
- Hopi
- Huron
- Inupiat
- Lakota
- Mohawk
- Mohegan
- Navajo
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Pueblo
- Seminole
- Seneca
- Shawnee
- Sioux
- Teton
- Tuscarora

USCIS adds: “For a complete list of tribes, please visit bia.gov.”

Name one example of an American innovation.

Give one printed response:

- Light bulb
- Automobile (cars, internal combustion engine)
- Skyscrapers
- Airplane
- Assembly line
- Landing on the moon
- Integrated circuit (IC)

USCIS encourages the printed answers.

Distinctions to practice

- **Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?** and **Why did the United States enter the Korean War?** ask the same thing about two different wars. For the Persian Gulf War, say **To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait**; for the Korean War, say **To stop the spread of communism**.
- **What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?** asks what happened that day, and one printed answer is **Terrorists attacked the United States**. **Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.** asks for a war that came later, such as **War in Afghanistan**.
- **Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.** and **Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.** ask for wars from different times. For a war after the attacks, one printed answer is **War in Iraq**; for a war in the 1900s, one printed answer is **(Persian) Gulf War**.
- **Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.** asks for one tribe by name, such as **Cherokee**. **Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?** asks for the whole group, not one tribe, and one printed answer is **American Indians**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?**
- **What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?**
- **Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.**
- **Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.**
- **Name one example of an American innovation.**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key terms

Civil rights

Rights to equal treatment and participation protected by law.

Key facts



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King's Work

Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one.

Martin Luther King, Jr. is associated with nonviolent action for civil rights and with work for equality.

One accepted response: Fought for civil rights

Other printed responses: Worked for equality for all Americans; Worked to ensure that people would "not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character"



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Persian Gulf War

Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?

The Persian Gulf War (1990–1991) was a U.S.-led military campaign that expelled Iraqi forces after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

One accepted response: To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait



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September 11 Attacks

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

One accepted response: Terrorists attacked the United States

Other printed responses: Terrorists took over two planes and crashed them into the World Trade Center in New York City; Terrorists took over a plane and crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia; Terrorists took over a plane originally aimed at Washington, D.C., and crashed in a field in Pennsylvania

Post-9/11 Conflicts

Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

One accepted response: (Global) War on Terror

Other printed responses: War in Afghanistan; War in Iraq

American Indian Tribes

Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

The names USCIS prints are not a complete list of tribes: it points to bia.gov for that, and says other correct answers may exist.

One accepted response: Apache

Other printed responses: Blackfeet; Cayuga; Cherokee; Cheyenne; Chippewa; Choctaw; Creek; Crow; Hopi; Huron; Inupiat; Lakota; Mohawk; Mohegan; Navajo; Oneida; Onondaga; Pueblo; Seminole; Seneca; Shawnee; Sioux; Teton; Tuscarora



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American Innovations

Name one example of an American innovation.

One accepted response: Light bulb

Other printed responses: Automobile (cars, internal combustion engine); Skyscrapers; Airplane; Assembly line; Landing on the moon; Integrated circuit (IC)

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Civil rights movement → Fought racial discrimination

Persian Gulf War → Remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait

Cherokee → American Indian tribe

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which choice gives one accepted response to: “Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one.”

A Fought for the Union
B Fought in World War II
C Fought for civil rights
D Freed the enslaved people

2. What did the civil rights movement do?

A Fought to end racial discrimination
B Fought to end child labor
C Worked to protect public lands
D Organized to improve factory conditions

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one."

- A Worked for temperance for all Americans
- B Led troops in war for independence
- C Freed enslaved people in Confederate states
- D Worked for equality for all Americans

4. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks."

- A War in Cuba
- B War in Iraq
- C War in Korea
- D War in Kuwait

5. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?"

- A Terrorists attacked the United States
- B Hurricanes battered the Florida Keys
- C The Supreme Court settled a presidential election
- D A major earthquake struck California

6. What happened in the United States on September 11, 2001?

- A The Persian Gulf War began
- B The Louisiana Purchase was signed
- C Terrorists attacked the United States
- D The Civil War ended

7. Name a U.S. military conflict that followed the September 11, 2001 attacks.

- A Spanish-American War
- B War in Afghanistan
- C War of 1812
- D Persian Gulf War

8. Which of these is a printed example of an American innovation?

- A The pendulum clock
- B The telescope
- C The printing press
- D Skyscrapers

9. Which of these is a listed example of an American innovation?

- A Gunpowder
- B The compass
- C The assembly line
- D The steam locomotive

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 12 episode 7:04 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH The Movement and the Man 0:31 · YouTube
A whole movement, or one man? Two civics questions keep them apart.

WATCH One Date, Two Questions 0:29 · YouTube
One date. Two civics questions. They ask for different things.

WATCH The Moon Landing Counts 0:30
Light bulb. Skyscrapers. Landing on the moon. On the civics test, all three answer the same question.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/modern-america-civil-rights-9-11-and-innovation

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LESSON 13 OF 13

Symbols and Holidays

National Symbols · Mottos and Holidays

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall the national capital, the Statue of Liberty's location, the flag's stripes and stars, the anthem, the first motto, and holiday meanings.

National Symbols

National Symbols

National symbols compress history into objects, places, and songs. The flag's thirteen stripes refer to the original colonies, while its fifty stars refer to the states. The Statue of Liberty is in New York Harbor. The national anthem is 'The Star-Spangled Banner.' Symbols are easy to confuse because their numbers and meanings sit close together, so attach each number to the right feature before practicing aloud.

Prep for the oral test

What is the capital of the United States?

Give one printed response:

- Washington, D.C.

Where is the Statue of Liberty?

Give one printed response:

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

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

Give one printed response:

- (Because there were) 13 original colonies
- (Because the stripes) represent the original colonies

Why does the flag have 50 stars?

Give one printed response:

- (Because there is) one star for each state
- (Because) each star represents a state
- (Because there are) 50 states

What is the name of the national anthem?

Give one printed response:

- The Star-Spangled Banner

Distinctions to practice

- **Where is the Statue of Liberty?** asks where the statue stands, and one printed answer is **New York (Harbor)**. **What is the capital of the United States?** asks for the nation's capital: **Washington, D.C.**
- **Why does the flag have 13 stripes?** asks about the stripes, and one printed answer is **(Because there were) 13 original colonies**. **Why does the flag have 50 stars?** asks about the stars, and one printed answer is **(Because there are) 50 states**.
- **Why does the flag have 13 stripes?** has a printed answer that says colonies: **(Because there were) 13 original colonies**. **There were 13 original states. Name five.** says states and asks you to name five of them, such as **Virginia**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **What is the capital of the United States?**
- **Where is the Statue of Liberty?**
- **Why does the flag have 13 stripes?**
- **Why does the flag have 50 stars?**
- **What is the name of the national anthem?**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Mottos and Holidays

E Pluribus Unum means 'Out of many, one' or 'We all become one.' Independence Day commemorates adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Federal law lists named holidays, and the 2025 list, M-1778 (09/25), prints eleven national holidays, including Juneteenth. Memorial Day honors soldiers who died in military service; Veterans Day honors people who served. Those two purposes are related but not interchangeable.

Prep for the oral test

The Nation's first motto was "E Pluribus Unum." What does that mean?

Give one printed response:

- Out of many, one
- We all become one

What is Independence Day?

Give one printed response:

- A holiday to celebrate U.S. independence (from Britain)
- The country's birthday

Name three national U.S. holidays.

Give 3 printed responses:

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

What is Memorial Day?

Give one printed response:

- A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service

What is Veterans Day?

Give one printed response:

- A holiday to honor people in the (U.S.) military
- A holiday to honor people who have served (in the U.S. military)

Distinctions to practice

- **The Nation's first motto was "E Pluribus Unum." What does that mean?** asks what a motto means, and one printed answer is **Out of many, one**. **The U.S. Constitution starts with the words "We the People." What does "We the People" mean?** asks what the Constitution's opening words mean, and one printed answer is **Self-government**.
- **What is Independence Day?** asks what the holiday is, and one printed answer is **The country's birthday**. **When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?** asks for a date: **July 4, 1776**.
- **What is Memorial Day?** is about soldiers who died: **A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service**. **What is Veterans Day?** is about people who served, and one printed answer is **A holiday to honor people who have served (in the U.S. military)**.

Practice aloud

Cover the answers and say each one aloud:

- **The Nation's first motto was "E Pluribus Unum." What does that mean?**
- **What is Independence Day?**
- **Name three national U.S. holidays.**
- **What is Memorial Day?**
- **What is Veterans Day?**

Sources

- USCIS M-1778 (09/25) question bank — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- USCIS 2025 Civics Test Study Guide — retrieved 2026-08-22.
- 5 U.S.C. § 6103: Federal holidays — retrieved 2026-08-22.

Key terms

Federal holiday

A holiday named in federal law for federal offices and employees.

Key facts

> **Statue of Liberty**
>
> **Where is the Statue of Liberty?**
>
> **One accepted response:** New York (Harbor)
>
> **Other printed responses:** Liberty Island [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]



Library of Congress · [United States flag waving in the wind] · No known restrictions (verify at source)

Thirteen Stripes

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

On the flag, the thirteen stripes stand for the original colonies, while the stars stand for the states.

One accepted response: (Because there were) 13 original colonies

Other printed responses: (Because the stripes) represent the original colonies

Fifty Stars

Why does the flag have 50 stars?

The flag's thirteen stripes refer to the original colonies, while its fifty stars refer to the states.

One accepted response: (Because there is) one star for each state

Other printed responses: (Because) each star represents a state; (Because there are) 50 states

National Anthem

What is the name of the national anthem?

One accepted response: The Star-Spangled Banner

Independence Day

What is Independence Day?

Independence Day commemorates adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

One accepted response: A holiday to celebrate U.S. independence (from Britain)

Other printed responses: The country's birthday

National Holidays

Name three national U.S. holidays.

Federal holidays mark different events and communities. Juneteenth is on the 2025 list, M-1778 (09/25); the 2020 list did not include it.

Say 3: New Year's Day; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Presidents Day (Washington's Birthday); Memorial Day; Juneteenth; Independence Day; Labor Day; Columbus Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving Day; Christmas Day



Library of Congress · Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia · No known restrictions (verify at source)

Memorial Day's Purpose

What is Memorial Day?

Memorial Day honors soldiers who died in military service, while Veterans Day honors people who served. The two purposes are related but not interchangeable.

One accepted response: A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service



Wikimedia Commons · Arlington National Cemetery · Public domain

Veterans Day's Purpose

What is Veterans Day?

Veterans Day honors people who served, while Memorial Day honors soldiers who died in military service. The two purposes are related but not interchangeable.

One accepted response: A holiday to honor people in the (U.S.) military

Other printed responses: A holiday to honor people who have served (in the U.S. military)

Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

Fifty flag stars → Fifty states

Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. What is the capital of the United States?

- A Philadelphia, PA
- B Richmond, VA
- C San Juan, PR
- D Washington, DC

2. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Where is the Statue of Liberty?"

- A Baltimore Inner Harbor
- B Boston Harbor
- C New York Harbor
- D San Francisco Bay

3. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "Why does the flag have 13 stripes?"

- A Because there were 13 original colonies
- B Because there were 13 colonial governors
- C Because there were 13 original amendments
- D Because there were 13 founding fathers

4. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "The Nation's first motto was "E Pluribus Unum." What does that mean?"

- A Out of many, strength
- B Out of many, one
- C Out of one, many
- D Out of one, all

5. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What is Independence Day?"

- A The worker's holiday
- B The flag's birthday
- C The soldier's remembrance
- D The country's birthday

6. The Nation's first motto was "E Pluribus Unum." Which choice gives its meaning?

- A Out of many, one
- B One nation, indivisible
- C United we stand
- D Liberty and justice for all

7. Which choice names a national U.S. holiday?

- A Groundhog Day
- B Labor Day
- C Election Day
- D Tax Day

8. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What is Memorial Day?"

- A A holiday to honor active-duty troops
- B A holiday to honor workers
- C A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service
- D A holiday to celebrate independence

9. Which choice gives one accepted response to: "What is Veterans Day?"

- A A holiday to honor soldiers who died in service
- B A holiday to celebrate independence
- C A holiday to honor workers
- D A holiday to honor people who have served in the military

Go deeper

LISTEN Lesson 13 episode 6:28 · FlashFeed Study Notes podcast

WATCH Stripes and Stars 0:29 · YouTube
13 stripes. 50 stars. Each number has its own civics question.

WATCH Died, or Served 0:28 · YouTube
Died, or served? Memorial Day and Veterans Day are related holidays. But their printed answers are not the same.

WATCH New York or New Jersey 0:28
Say the Statue of Liberty is in New Jersey, and the civics test still accepts that answer.

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/us-citizenship-civics/symbols-and-holidays

STUDY U.S. Citizenship Civics — 2025 Test in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/us-citizenship-civics

Answer key

Lesson 1: Principles and Founding Documents

1. C Republic

Republic. It means government through elected representatives, so “representative democracy” also fits as a description.

2. D U.S. Constitution

U.S. Constitution. It is the supreme law; officials and branches of government act under it.

3. B The basic rights of Americans

The basic rights of Americans. The Bill of Rights shields them from government interference.

4. A Twenty-seven (27)

Twenty-seven (27). The Constitution creates a process for change, and each amendment is a change made through it.

5. D Declaration of Independence

Declaration of Independence. It announces independence and sets out ideals, while the Constitution builds the national framework.

6. B The basic rights of Americans

Key: The basic rights of Americans. The Bill of Rights protects the basic rights of Americans, not government powers or duties.

7. A Twenty-seven (27)

Key: Twenty-seven (27). The Constitution has been amended 27 times; ten of those form the Bill of Rights.

8. C Everyone must follow the law

Key: Everyone must follow the law. The rule of law means no one, including leaders, is above the law.

9. D Declaration of Independence

Key: Declaration of Independence. That phrase appears in the Declaration, not the Constitution or the Bill of Rights.

Lesson 2: Three Branches and the Congress

1. B Senate and House of Representatives

Senate and House of Representatives. Congress, the legislative branch, is made up of these two chambers.

2. A Congress, president, and the courts

Congress, president, and the courts. Each has a different job: Congress writes laws, the president’s executive branch enforces them, and the courts interpret them.

3. D Writes laws

Writes laws. That is Congress’s job as the legislative branch; interpreting laws is left to the courts.

4. C One hundred (100)

One hundred (100). Don’t confuse it with Four hundred thirty-five (435), the number of voting members in the House of Representatives.

5. B Four hundred thirty-five (435)
Four hundred thirty-five (435). That House size is set by federal statute, not by the Constitution.

6. A Four hundred thirty-five (435)
Key: Four hundred thirty-five (435). That is the current House size set by federal statute.

7. D Two (2) years
Key: Two (2) years. House members serve shorter terms than senators to stay closer to public opinion.

8. C Two (2)
Key: Two (2). Every state gets two senators regardless of population, unlike House seats.

9. D Equal representation for small states
Key: Equal representation for small states. This reflects the Great Compromise, unlike population-based House seats.

Lesson 3: Representation Mechanics and Your Officials

1. C People of their state
People of their state. A senator represents the whole state, while a House member represents one district.

2. A Citizens from their state
Citizens from their state. Voters in the state a senator represents are the ones who elect that senator.

3. B Equal representation for small states
Equal representation for small states. Every state gets two senators whatever its population, a design that grew from the Great Compromise.

4. D People in their district
People in their district. A House member represents one congressional district, while a senator represents a whole state.

5. D Citizens from their congressional district
Citizens from their congressional district. Voters in the district a House member represents are the ones who elect that member.

Lesson 4: The President and the Executive Branch

1. D Four (4) years
Four (4) years. That is one presidential term; the 22nd Amendment caps a person at two elected terms.

2. A Because of the 22nd Amendment
Because of the 22nd Amendment, which caps a person at two elected presidential terms to keep the office from growing too powerful.

3. B Vetoes bills
Vetoes bills. The president can reject a bill with a veto, but cannot write federal statutes alone; that is Congress's job.

4. C The President of the United States
The President of the United States. Serving as Commander in Chief is one of the president's executive responsibilities, tying the office to the military.

5. A Cabinet

Cabinet. It advises the president and is part of the executive branch, along with departments and agencies.

6. C The President of the United States

Key: The President of the United States. The president signs a passed bill into law; the other offices play no role in signing.

7. D The President of the United States

Key: The President of the United States. The president appoints federal judges; the Senate's role is confirmation, not appointment.

8. B Advises the President of the United States

Key: Advises the President of the United States. The Cabinet's role is advisory, not lawmaking or command authority.

9. D Cabinet

Key: Cabinet. The Senate, Supreme Court, and House belong to the legislative and judicial branches, not the executive.

Lesson 5: The Courts

1. D Supreme Court

Supreme Court. It is the highest federal court; the Electoral College belongs to presidential elections, not the judicial branch.

2. A Nine (9)

Nine (9): one Chief Justice plus eight Associate Justices, a size Congress has set by law.

3. C Reviews laws

Reviews laws. Judicial review is the courts' power to decide whether government action fits the Constitution.

4. B Five (5)

Five (5): a case is ordinarily settled by a majority of the justices taking part, and five is a majority of nine.

5. C For life

For life. A lifetime appointment helps keep justices independent of politics.

Lesson 6: Federalism and the States

1. A Give a driver's license

Give a driver's license. Driver licensing is a state responsibility, while making the nation's money is a federal one.

2. B Powers not given federally belong to states or the people

Powers not given federally belong to states or the people. The Constitution gives some powers to the national government and reserves the rest.

3. C Mint coins

Mint coins. Making the nation's money is a federal power, while running schools is a state or local one.

4. D Approve zoning and land use

Approve zoning and land use. Land-use rules are a state or local matter, while making money is a federal power.

5. B Declare war

Declare war. This power belongs to the national government: the Constitution gives it to Congress, not to the states.

6. A The state executive branch

A governor leads a state's executive branch, distinct from the legislative or judicial branches.

7. D The seat of a state's government

A state capital is the seat of that state's government, not necessarily its largest city or the federal seat.

Lesson 7: Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

1. C A male citizen of any race can vote

A male citizen of any race can vote. That rule comes from one of the four amendments that bar certain kinds of voting discrimination.

2. B Citizens

Citizens. Voting in federal elections and serving on a jury are among the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

3. A Naturalize

Naturalize. It is one of three ways to become a citizen, along with birth in the United States and derivation under conditions Congress sets.

4. D Vote; Run for office

Vote; Run for office. Both are civic participation, as are joining groups and helping a campaign.

5. D Vote

Vote. Voting is both a right of citizens and one of the ways Americans serve their country.

6. C Naturalize

Key: Naturalize. Naturalization is the printed process; the other terms are not the accepted civics-test response.

7. B Vote

Key: Vote. It is one of the printed examples for this question; paying taxes, jury service and Selective Service registration are not on that list.

8. A Civic duty

Key: Civic duty. Paying federal taxes is a civic duty required by law, not a voluntary or optional act.

9. B Makes the draft fair, if needed

Key: Makes the draft fair, if needed. Selective Service registration keeps a potential draft fair; it is unrelated to passports or voting.

Lesson 8: Colonists, Revolution, and Independence

1. D Freedom

Freedom. Many settlers came for religious freedom or political liberty, among other reasons.

2. B American Indians

American Indians, also called Native Americans, already lived throughout the Americas before the Europeans arrived.

3. A Africans

Africans. People from Africa were taken and sold as slaves; slavery was later abolished in law by the Thirteenth Amendment.

4. C Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson. He wrote the Declaration of Independence, which announced separation from Britain.

5. B July 4, 1776

July 4, 1776. The Fourth of July marks the Declaration's adoption, not the Constitution's writing or ratification.

6. D Valley Forge

Valley Forge (Encampment) is one printed response for an important event of the American Revolution; the other options are not on that list.

7. A George Washington

George Washington led the Continental Army; Jefferson, Hamilton, and Franklin held other founding roles.

8. C Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence announced separation from Britain in 1776; the others came later.

9. C Battle of Saratoga

Battle of Saratoga. It is one of the important events of the American Revolution, the struggle for political independence.

Lesson 9: The Framers and the Constitution

1. A Publius

Publius. Madison, Hamilton, and John Jay wrote the Federalist Papers under that name.

2. C They supported passing the U.S. Constitution

They supported passing the U.S. Constitution. The Federalist Papers argued for ratification, while the Convention itself debated and assembled the document.

3. B "Father of the Constitution"

"Father of the Constitution" is Madison's title; the similar "Father of Our Country" belongs to George Washington.

4. D First Secretary of the Treasury

First Secretary of the Treasury. This fits Hamilton's work helping set up the First Bank of the United States.

5. B Founded the University of Virginia

Founded the University of Virginia. Jefferson is also known for writing the Declaration of Independence.

6. C Writer of the Declaration of Independence

Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence; the other achievements belong to Hamilton and Madison.

7. D "Father of the Constitution"

Madison is called "Father of the Constitution"; the other titles belong to Hamilton, Washington, and Jefferson.

8. A Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation were the first national framework, later replaced by the Constitution.

Lesson 10: The 1800s: Expansion, Civil War, and Reconstruction

1. D Louisiana

Louisiana. The Louisiana Purchase doubled the country's size, and Thomas Jefferson was president at the time.

2. B Civil War

Civil War. It followed secession and conflict over slavery, and it was fought in the 1800s.

3. A The Civil War

The Civil War. Abraham Lincoln led the nation through it, and it is the war that ended slavery.

4. C Freed slaves in the Confederacy

Freed slaves in the Confederacy. The proclamation reached only areas in rebellion, not every enslaved person everywhere.

5. A 1870

1870, USCIS's printed answer. The 15th Amendment, ratified that year during Reconstruction, barred denying the vote on account of race, color, or previous servitude.

6. B 14th Amendment

The 14th Amendment defines citizenship for those born or naturalized in the U.S.; the others cover different rights.

7. D 15th Amendment

The 15th Amendment barred denying voting rights based on race, color, or previous servitude.

Lesson 11: The 1900s: World Wars, Depression, and Cold War

1. D World War I

World War I. The United States fought it in the 1900s, while wars such as the Civil War belong to the 1800s.

2. B Because Germany attacked U.S. civilian ships

Because Germany attacked U.S. civilian ships. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor drew the country into World War II instead.

3. C The Great Crash of 1929

The Great Crash of 1929. The Great Depression, a severe and long-lasting economic downturn, began that year.

4. A Franklin Roosevelt

Franklin Roosevelt. He was president for most of the Depression and the war, while Eisenhower is known as a World War II general.

5. C USSR

USSR, also called the Soviet Union. After World War II, it and the United States became rivals in the Cold War.

6. D Soviet Union

Key: Soviet Union (also accepted as USSR or Russia). Germany, Japan, and China were not the Cold War rival.

7. B Communism

Key: Communism. Isolationism, terrorism, and fascism were not the printed Cold War concern.

8. A To stop the spread of communism

Key: To stop the spread of communism. The other options are not the printed reason for entering the Korean War.

9. A To stop the spread of communism

Key: To stop the spread of communism. The other options are not the printed reason for entering the Vietnam War.

Lesson 12: Modern America: Civil Rights, 9/11, and Innovation

1. C Fought for civil rights

Fought for civil rights. King is linked to nonviolent action for civil rights; the Emancipation Proclamation belongs to Abraham Lincoln.

2. A Fought to end racial discrimination

Fought to end racial discrimination. It used court cases, protest, organizing, and federal law to challenge segregation and unequal treatment.

3. D Worked for equality for all Americans

Worked for equality for all Americans. King is associated with that work; George Washington, by contrast, led the Continental Army.

4. B War in Iraq

War in Iraq. It followed the September 11 attacks; the Persian Gulf War, fought earlier, was about forcing the Iraqi military from Kuwait.

5. A Terrorists attacked the United States

Terrorists attacked the United States. They took over planes and struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; another plane crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

6. C Terrorists attacked the United States

On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the United States; the other events belong to different eras.

7. B War in Afghanistan

The War in Afghanistan followed the 9/11 attacks; the other wars occurred in earlier eras.

8. D Skyscrapers

Skyscrapers are a printed example of American innovation. The printing press, pendulum clock, and telescope were all invented outside the United States, so they don't fit the 'American innovation' category this question tests.

9. C The assembly line

The assembly line is a listed American innovation. The compass, gunpowder, and steam locomotive were all invented outside the United States, so they don't fit the 'American innovation' category this question tests.

Lesson 13: Symbols and Holidays

1. D Washington, DC

Washington, DC. Philadelphia hosted the Constitutional Convention but is not the nation’s capital.

2. C New York Harbor

New York Harbor. The Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island, near New York City.

3. A Because there were 13 original colonies

Because there were 13 original colonies. The stripes stand for those colonies, while the fifty stars stand for the states.

4. B Out of many, one

Out of many, one. E Pluribus Unum also means “We all become one,” which shows many joining into one rather than the reverse.

5. D The country’s birthday

The country’s birthday. It marks the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted, July 4, 1776.

6. A Out of many, one

Key: Out of many, one. That is the printed translation of the motto; the other phrases come from other patriotic texts.

7. B Labor Day

Key: Labor Day. Labor Day is on the printed list of national holidays; the others are not federal holidays.

8. C A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service

Key: A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service. Memorial Day honors the fallen, unlike Veterans Day or Labor Day.

9. D A holiday to honor people who have served in the military

Key: A holiday to honor people who have served in the military. Veterans Day honors those who served, distinct from Memorial Day's purpose.

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- **Lesson 13, Veterans Day's Purpose:** Wikimedia Commons · Arlington National Cemetery · Public domain — https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tomb_of_the_Unknown_Soldier_Centennial_Commemoration_Flower_Ceremony_-_Day_One_at_Arlington_National_Cemetery,_Arlington,_Virginia,_November_9,_2021_-_2.jpg

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