

What It Means to Be a Citizen

Benchmarks

SS.7.C.2.1 Define the term “citizen”, and identify legal means of becoming a U.S. Citizen.

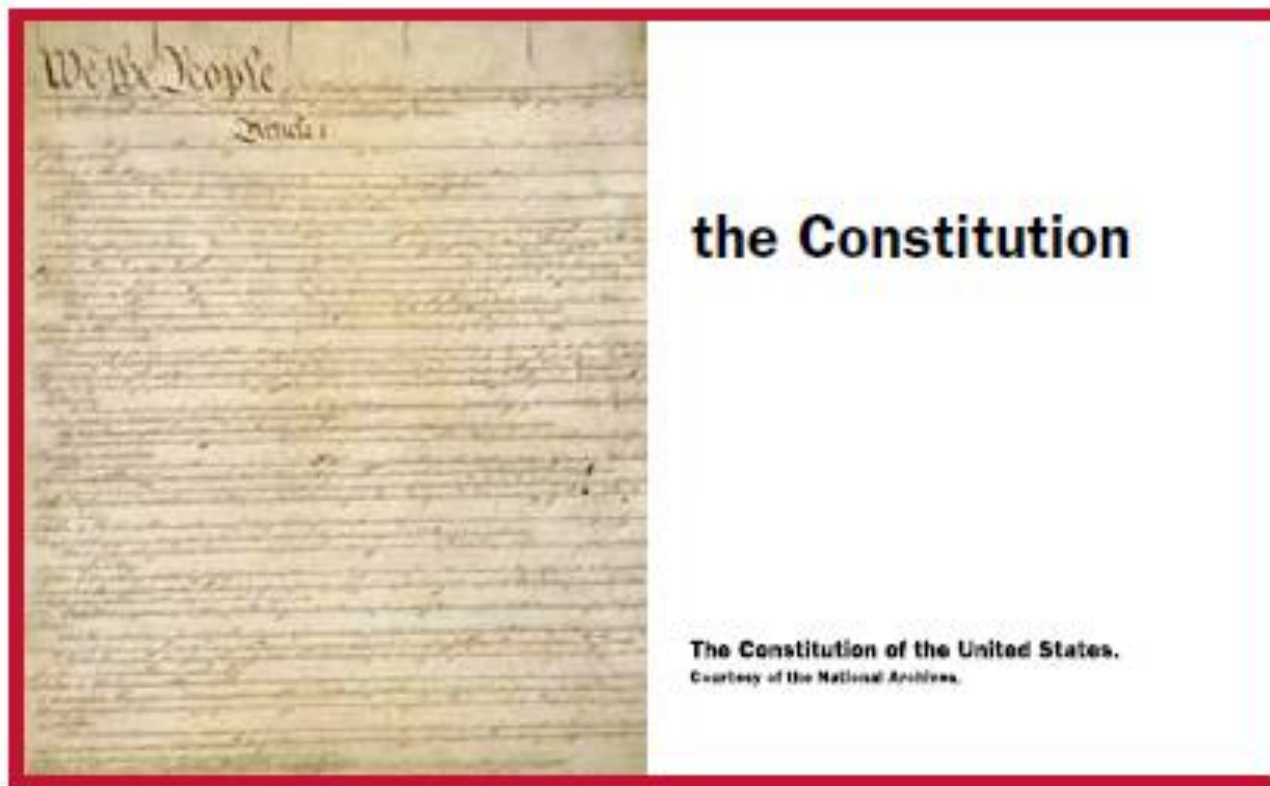


Complete the handout
provided to the best of
your ability!

**WARM UP ACTIVITY:
COULD YOU PASS THIS TEST?**

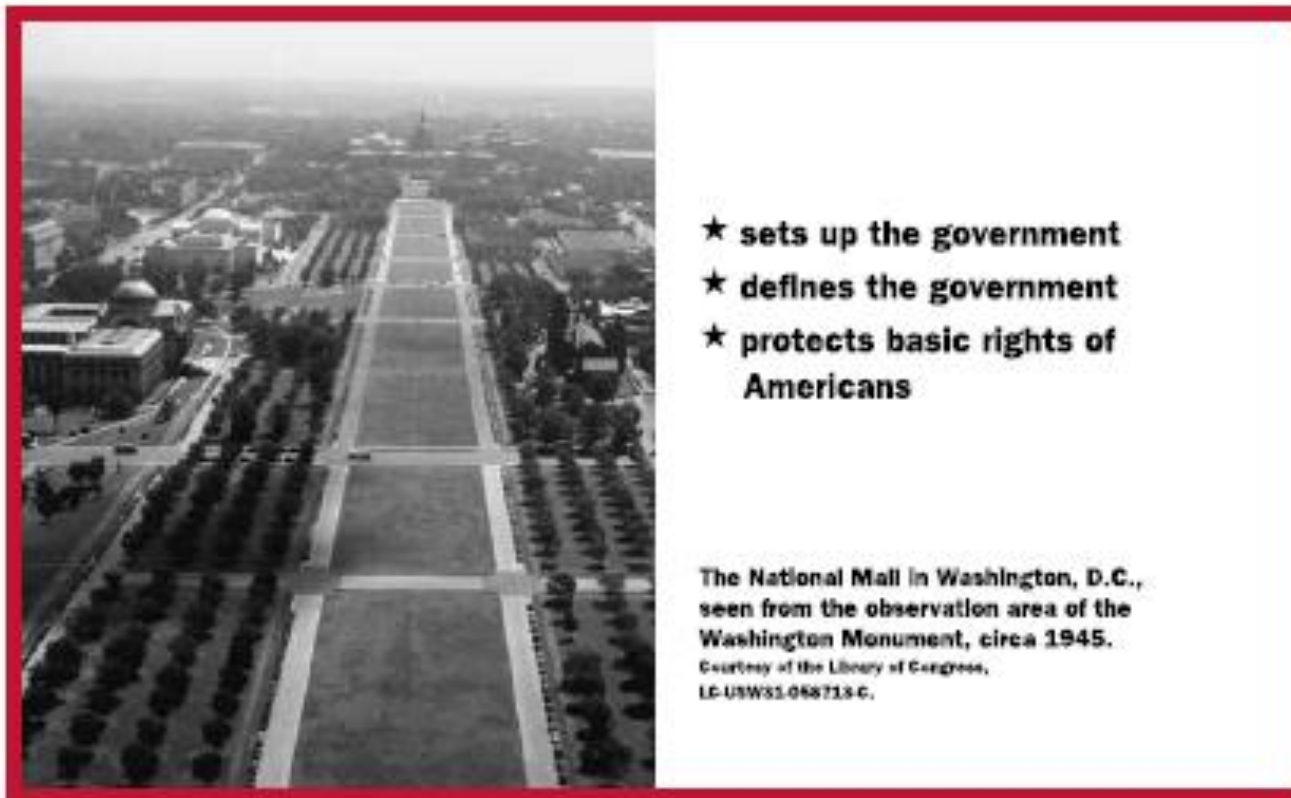
The supreme law of the land-

Is the U.S. Constitution



The Constitution

- *Sets up the Government
- *Defines the Government
- *Protects basic rights of Americans



- ★ sets up the government
- ★ defines the government
- ★ protects basic rights of Americans

The National Mall in Washington, D.C.,
seen from the observation area of the
Washington Monument, circa 1945.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress,
LC-USW31-058713-C.

Constitutional Powers belonging to the Federal (National) Government

- *Print money
- *Declare war
- *Create an army
- *Make treaties with other nations

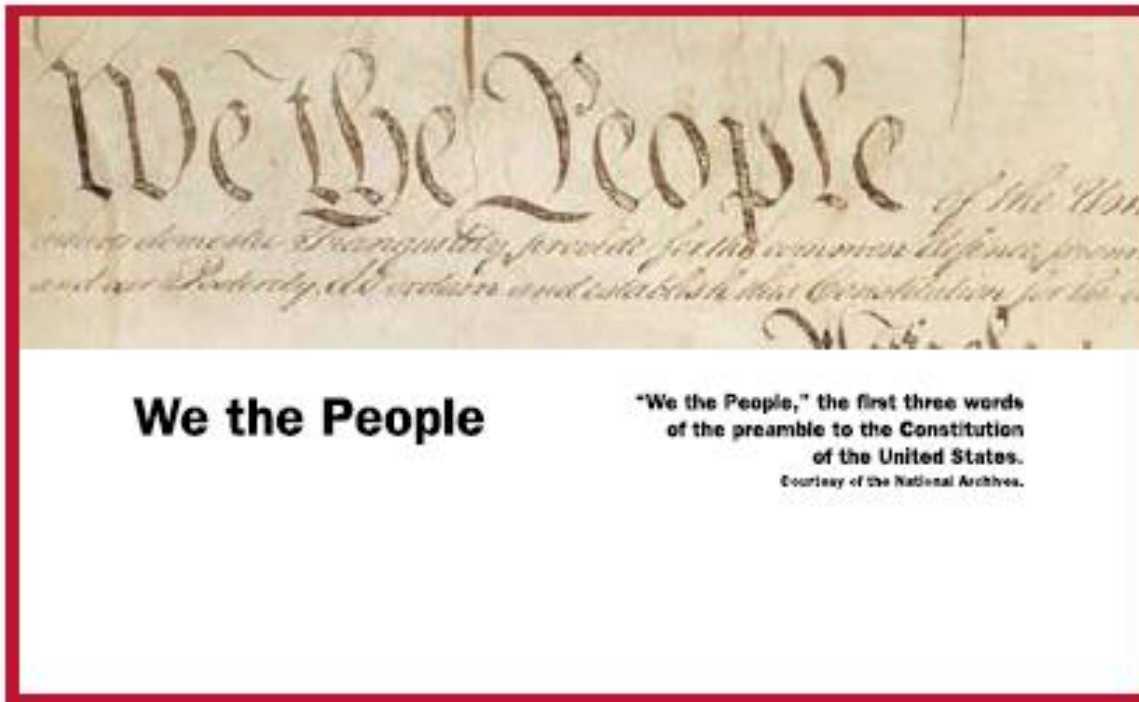
- ★ to print money
- ★ to declare war
- ★ to create an army
- ★ to make treaties

President Woodrow Wilson asking
Congress to declare war on Germany,
April 2, 1917.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ66-10297.



The idea of **self-government** is in the **first three words** of the U.S. Constitution. **“We the people...”**



The U.S. Constitution has 27 amendments

**twenty-seven
(27)**

**Portrait of Elizabeth Cady Stanton,
seated, and Susan B. Anthony,
standing, advocates for the rights
of women to vote.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-731.**



The “rule of law” means



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

The Contemplation of Justice statue outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C.

Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?



The judicial branch



- ★ reviews laws
- ★ explains laws
- ★ resolves disputes
(disagreements)
- ★ decides if a law goes
against the Constitution

The Courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court building, where the Court has sat since 1935.

Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.

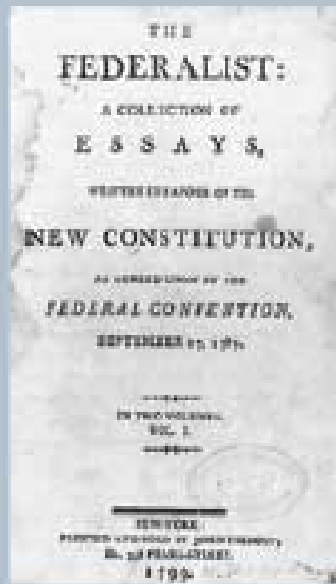
The U.S. Constitution was written in 1787



1787

Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA,
where the Constitution was signed in 1787.

The **Federalist Papers** supported the passage of the **U.S. Constitution**. Some of the writers were:

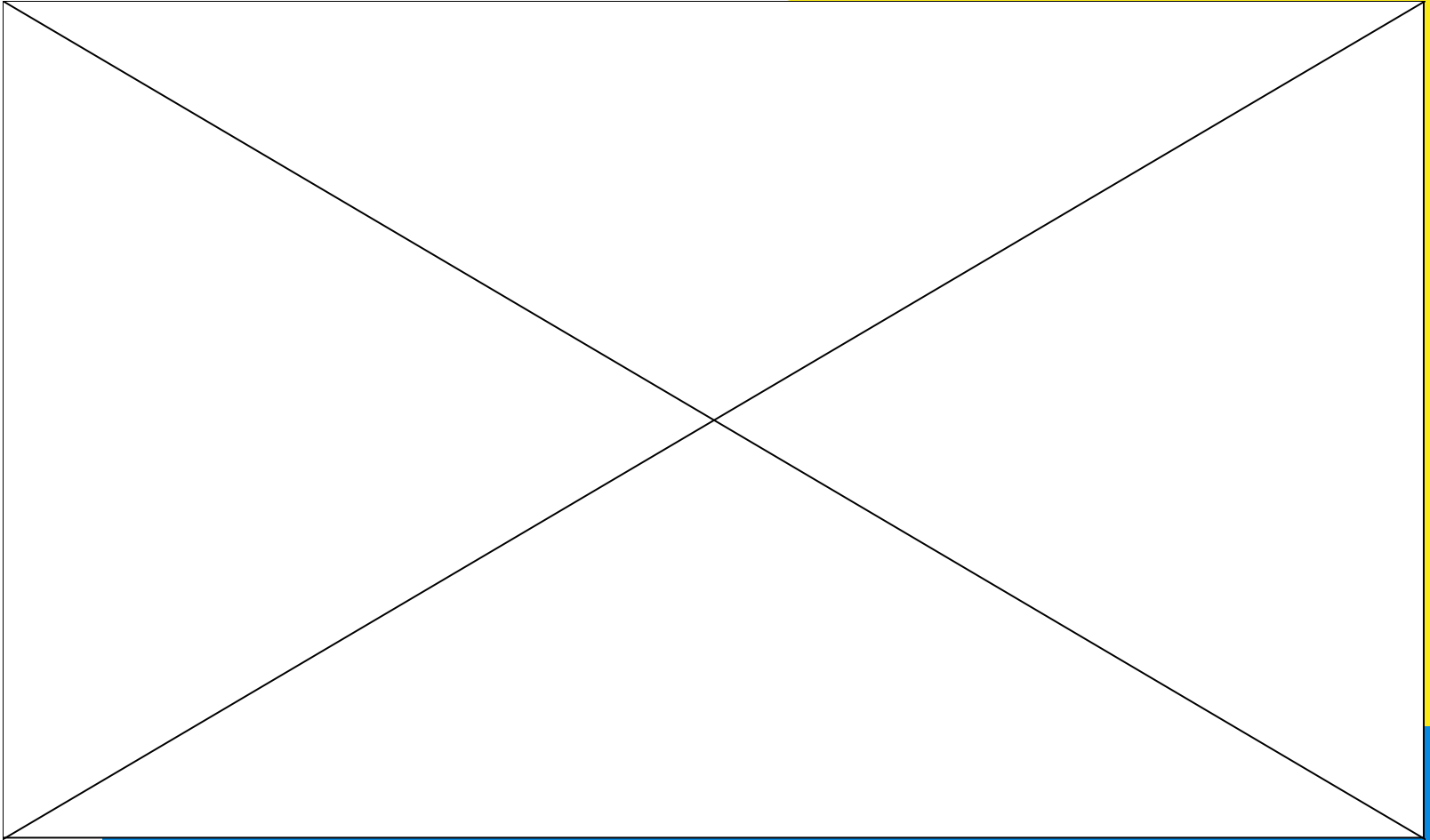


- ★ (James) Madison
- ★ (Alexander) Hamilton
- ★ (John) Jay
- ★ Publius

Title page of *The Federalist*, vol. 1, 1799.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-70608.

Did you pass the test?

- In order to become a **citizen**, **immigrants/aliens/residents** in the United States are required to take a Naturalization Test.
- To pass the civics portion of the United States **Naturalization Test** you are required to get 6 out of 10 questions correct.



**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A
U.S. CITIZEN?**

Your turn!

What does being a citizen
mean to you?

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A
CITIZEN?**



The Constitution is like a rule book for government: it outlines the structure and function of our government and names some of the rights of the people.

WHAT DOES THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES SAY ABOUT CITIZENSHIP?

The Fourteenth Amendment

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

Who is a natural born
citizen of the United
States?

NATURAL BORN CITIZENS

Natural Born Citizenship is based on two “laws”:

1. “Law of the Soil”

- Children born in the United States or Territories/Possessions

2. “Law of the Blood”

- Children born to a parent or parents who are United States citizens.



Soil of the U.S. includes Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

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“Law of the Soil”

- Any child born in the United States is a citizen of the United States, even if the child’s parents are not citizens.
- Soil of the U.S. includes Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

“Law of the Blood”

- Principle in which citizenship is determined by parentage rather than by place of birth.
- The U.S. recognizes children born abroad to American citizens as citizens .

To Sum It Up...

- Law of the Soil – **WHERE** you are born (must be **within** the United States or territory/possession)
- Law of the Blood – **WHO** you are born to (U.S. Citizen Parent(s))



How to become a citizen of the United States

NATURALIZED CITIZEN

Defining Immigrants, Residents, and Aliens

Immigrant

- A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

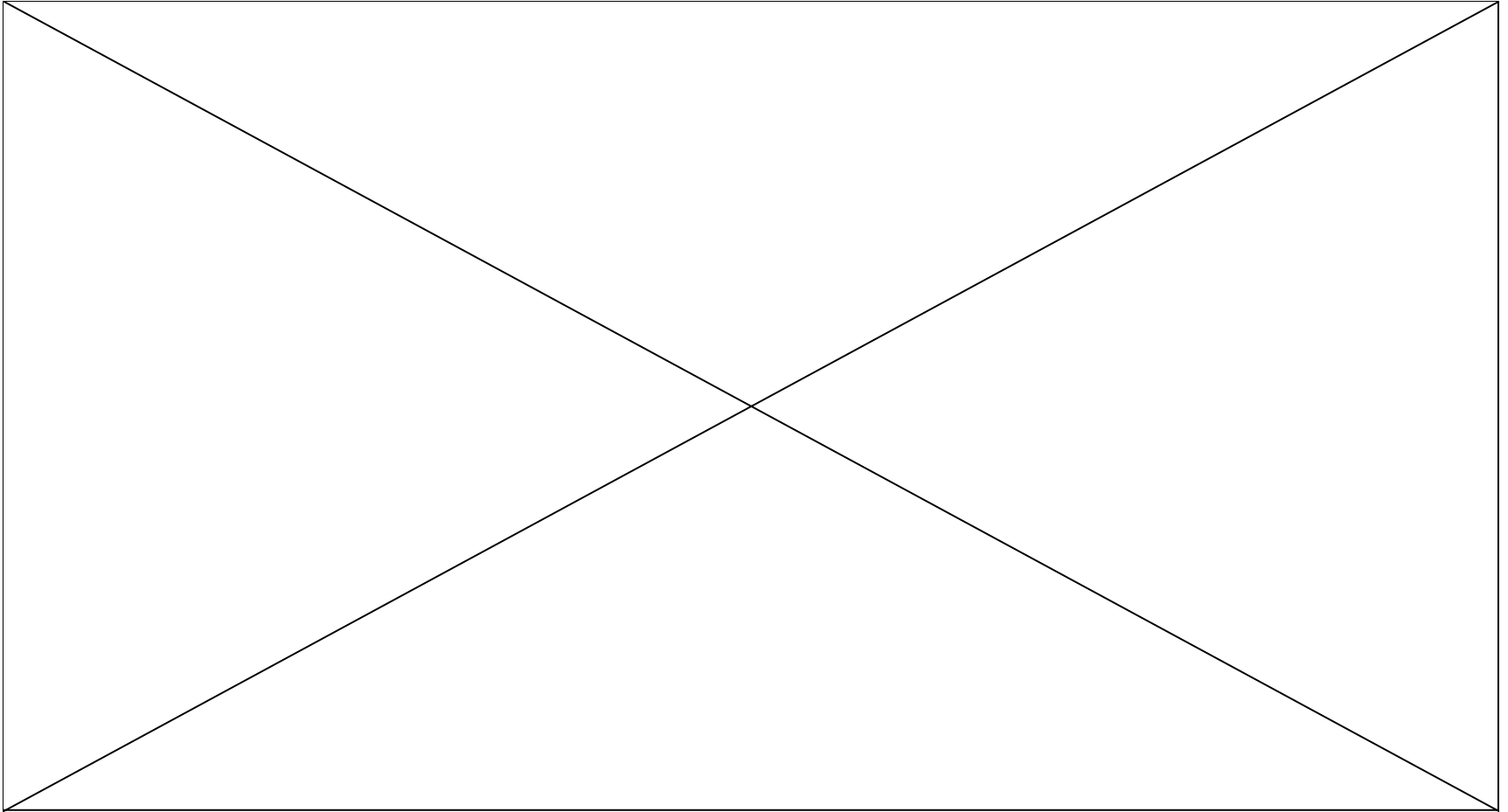
Resident

- A **resident** is someone who has been legally allowed to live in the United States, but is not a citizen; lawful permanent resident

Alien

- Any person not a citizen or national of the United States.

Becoming a Citizen of the United States



To Become a Naturalized Citizen...

REQUIREMENTS



**Time as
Permanent
Resident**



**Good Moral
Character**



**English & Civics
Knowledge**



**Attachment
to the
Constitution**

If you are at least 18 years old and:

Have been a Permanent Resident for the past 5 years and have no special circumstances.

NOTE: Over 90% of applicants fall into this category:

5 years

Required

Required

Required

If you are at least 18 years old and:

Are currently married to and living with a U.S. citizen;
and
Have been married to and living with that same U.S. citizen for the past 3 years;
and
Your spouse has been a U.S. citizen for the past 3 years.

3 years

Required

Required

Required

There are special considerations for those who serve in the military or served during times of war/conflict.

Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

Rights	Responsibilities and Obligations (or Duties)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freedom to express yourself.• Freedom to worship as you wish.• Right to a prompt, fair trial by jury.• Right to vote in elections for public officials.• Right to apply for federal employment requiring U.S. citizenship.• Right to run for elected office.• Freedom to pursue "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support and defend the Constitution.• Stay informed of the issues affecting your community.• Participate in the democratic process.• Respect and obey federal, state, and local laws.• Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.• Participate in your local community.• Pay income and other taxes honestly, and on time, to federal, state, and local authorities.• Serve on a jury when called upon.• Defend the country if the need should arise.

Poster Walkabout

You are going to be visiting three posters in a small group. Each poster will be labeled with: society, government, and political process. In your group, write about the impact that the naturalization has on society, government, and the political process.

What impact does the naturalization process have on:

- Society?
- Government?
- Political process?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Think about the impact
naturalization has on our
culture.

SOCIETY

Think about the debates
you hear about
immigration among
government officials.

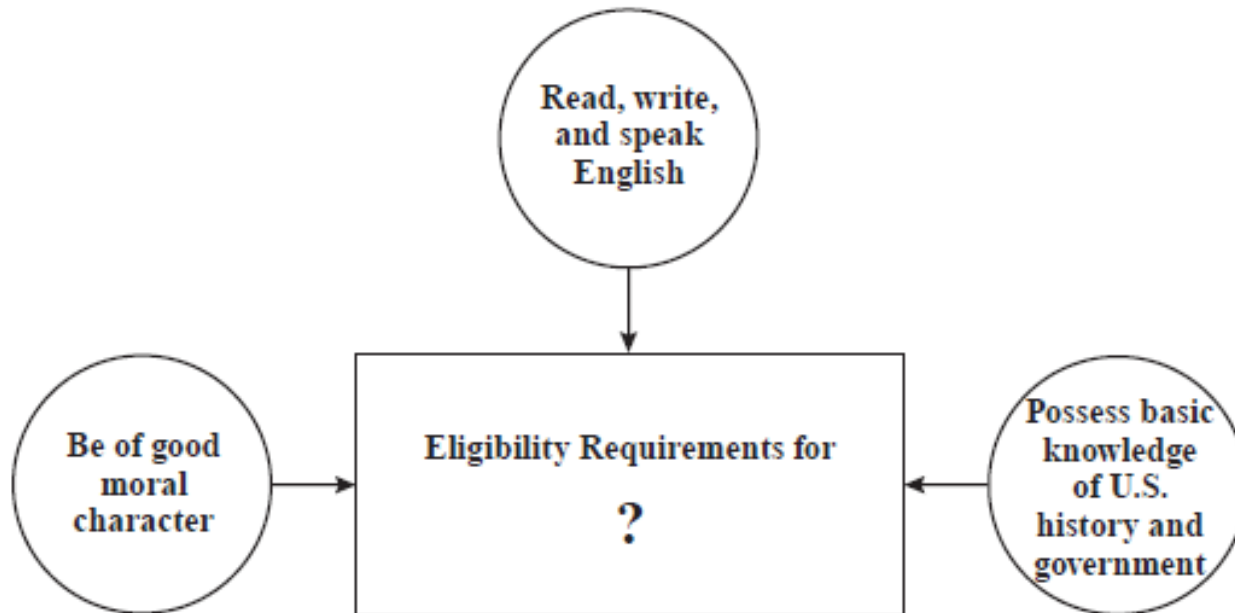
GOVERNMENT

Think about the roles that naturalized citizens play in the processes of our government (elections, jury service, running for office)

POLITICAL PROCESS

Checking for Understanding

The diagram below shows some general eligibility requirements.



Which statement completes the diagram?

- A. Joining a Military Service
- B. Obtaining a Driver's License
- C. Becoming a Naturalized Citizen
- D. Receiving a Social Security Card