

 **ya es hora**
¡CIUDADANIA!

United States Citizenship

A Guide to U.S. Citizenship and the Naturalization Process



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



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Welcome

And congratulations, on behalf of the NALEO Educational Fund and the *ya es hora ¡Ciudadanía!* campaign alliance, for taking the first step to becoming a United States citizen! We are proud to give you this guide to the process.

Inside, you will find essential information to apply for citizenship and prepare for the interview and exams. To complete your application accurately and navigate the process successfully, please study this guide with care.

The *ya es hora ¡Ciudadanía!* alliance is committed to help you at every step of the way. For additional information or assistance:

- Call our national bilingual hotline, **(888) VE-Y-VOTA / (888) 839-8682**, to speak with a trained Citizenship Operator.
- Visit our website at **www.yaeshora.info**.
- Arrange a visit at a NALEO office with naturalization services:

Los Angeles Office

1122 W. Washington Blvd., Third Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Tel:(213) 747-7606
Fax: (213) 747-7664

Houston Office

1314 Texas Ave., Suite 410
Houston, Texas 77002
Tel: (713) 228-6400
Fax: (713) 228-0606

New York City Office

110 Wall Street, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10005
Tel: (212) 480-1918
Fax: (212) 480-1697

ya es hora is an historic Latino civic participation campaign that represents the largest and most comprehensive effort to incorporate Latinos as full participants in the American political process. The national effort is lead by the NALEO Educational Fund, Mi Familia Vota Education Fund, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), and Spanish-language media companies Entravision Communications, ImpreMedia, and Univision Communications Inc.

Why Become a U.S. Citizen?

We know you realize there are benefits to being a U.S. citizen. But you may not realize how many benefits there are. The long list includes:

- **The Right to Vote:** You can cast your ballot and fully participate in the electoral process.
- **Protection from Loss of Legal Status:** You enjoy the full rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. Non-citizens—even Legal Permanent Residents (green-card holders) who have lived here for many years—can suffer loss or reduction of their immigration status if Congress changes the law.
- **Protection from Deportation:** You cannot be deported.
- **Freedom of Travel:** You can leave and re-enter the United States easily, regardless of how long you are gone. You never lose your right to live here legally.
- **Passport:** You can obtain a U.S. passport for identification abroad.
- **The Right to Hold Office:** You can run in elections and win public office.
- **Government Employment:** You may obtain one of the many government-related jobs restricted only to U.S. citizens.
- **Public Benefits:** You can collect certain public benefits that Legal Permanent Residents cannot. Citizens are eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits, and many non-citizens may not be. You can also receive Social Security benefits wherever you live worldwide.
- **Tax Deductions:** You can receive substantial deductions on U.S. estate taxes.
- **End to USCIS Reporting:** U.S. citizens don't have to report any information—address changes or anything else—to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- **Residency Assistance for Family Members.** You can help family members become Permanent Residents. You can file a petition for your:
 - spouse
 - parent
 - child of any age, married or unmarried
 - brother
 - sister

You begin the process by filling out **Form I-130**, a Petition for Alien Relative. You can get it from the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov. For detailed information on this process, please see the USCIS guide “How Do I Help My Relative Become a U.S. Permanent Resident” at: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/article/A1eng.pdf>

Are You Eligible?

The first question you must answer is: Am I eligible to apply? Can I begin the naturalization process?

The Four Requirements

You must meet four basic requirements to become a U.S. citizen. You must:

1. **Be 18 years of age or older.**
2. **Have lived lawfully in the United States long enough.** You must have been a Legal Permanent Resident for either five or three years, depending on your marital status. If you have been here:

a. For 5 years, you must meet two requirements:

i. You cannot have left the United States for any period longer than 6 months.

EXAMPLE: Hector has lived in the United States as a Legal Permanent Resident for 7 years, but 3 years ago he took a business trip to Buenos Aires for 8 months. Result: The five-year period started all over again the day he returned and he must wait 2 more years to apply.

ii. You must have been physically present here for a total of at least 30 months.

EXAMPLE: Maria has been a Legal Permanent Resident for 6 years, but each year she has taken two 4-month trips out of the country. Result: She has been physically present in the United States for just 4 months a year, or 24 months total. She must remain here for another 6 months to apply.

b. For 3 years, you must also be married to and have lived with the same U.S. citizen for the last 3 years. Your spouse must have been a U.S. citizen for all 3 years. In addition:

i. You cannot have left the United States for any period longer than 6 months.

ii. You must have been physically present here for a total of 18 months.

3. **Be a person of good moral character.**

How does the USCIS determine good moral character? They look mainly at criminal records and honesty in the application process.

Certain crimes or offenses can lead to denial of your application. Examples include:

- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (DUI or DWI)
- Domestic violence
- Involvement with prostitution
- Lying to gain immigration benefits or prevent deportation or removal
- Failing to pay court-ordered child support
- Failing to complete any probation, parole, or sentence before applying for naturalization

If you have been arrested or convicted of any crime, you must report it on your application — even if it has been removed from your record or if it occurred before your 18th birthday. You must also send certified copies of the arrest report, court disposition, sentencing, and any other relevant documents. If you are not truthful on your application or during your interview, USCIS may deny your application.

These offenses will not necessarily prevent you from becoming a U.S. citizen, but they may require you to hire a lawyer.

4. **Be able to pass two exams.** You must show the interviewer that you: a) can speak, read, and write basic English, and b) know basic facts about civics, that is, U.S. history and government.

A. English. **You do not have to take the English test if:**

- a. You are **50 and** have been a Permanent Resident for at least **20** years.
- b. You are **55 and** have been a Permanent Resident for at least **15** years.

If you decide not to take the English test, you must bring an interpreter to the interview.

B. Civics. You must get 6 questions out of 10 right on the civics test. You will be required to study from a list of 100 possible questions.

- a. **If you are 65 and have been a Permanent Resident for at least 20 years**, you can study from a designated list of just 20 questions.

If you have certain medical conditions, you can skip one or both exams. Complete Form N-648 (Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions) if you believe you have one.

Eligibility Checklist

If you answer “Yes” to any of the questions below, please call (888) VE-Y-VOTA to verify your eligibility.

1. Have you been outside the U.S. for six months or more since becoming a Legal Permanent Resident?
2. Have you EVER claimed to be a U.S. citizen (in writing or any other way)?
3. Have you EVER registered to vote in any federal, state, or local election in the United States?
4. Are you younger than 18?
5. Have you EVER lied to any U.S. government official to gain entry into the United States?
6. Have you EVER been arrested, cited, or detained by any law enforcement officer (including USCIS and military officers) for any reason?
7. Have you EVER been charged with any crime or offense?
8. Have you EVER been convicted of a crime or offense?
9. Have you EVER had your criminal record cleared?
10. Since becoming a Legal Permanent Resident, have you EVER failed to file a required federal, state, or local tax return?
11. Do you owe ANY overdue taxes, whether federal, state, or local?

In general, if you are unsure about your eligibility to apply, or if you need help filling out your application or working your way through the process, please contact (888) VE-Y-VOTA or visit www.yaeshora.info.

Seeking Legal Assistance

Depending on your situation, you may want or need to seek legal assistance with your application process. If you do, **first verify that your attorney is eligible to legally represent you before USCIS.**

An attorney must be in good standing with a U.S. state bar association (or U.S. possession, territory, commonwealth, or the District of Columbia) and may not be under any court order restricting their practice of law. The best way to protect yourself is to ask the attorney to show you his or her current license. Write down the information and contact the state bar admission office to verify its accuracy. Please contact (888) VE-Y-VOTA if you have questions about how to do this.

Avoiding Immigration Fraud

You can protect yourself in several ways:

- **DO NOT** sign blank applications, petitions, or other papers.
- **DO NOT** sign documents that you do not understand.
- **DO NOT** sign documents that contain false statements or inaccurate information.
- **DO NOT** make payments to a representative without getting a receipt.
- **DO** obtain copies of all documents prepared or submitted for you.
- **DO** verify an attorney’s or accredited representative’s eligibility to represent you.
- **DO** report any representative’s unlawful activity to USCIS, the state bar association, and/or state attorney general.





The Five Steps to Naturalization

The naturalization process consists of five simple steps:

1. Complete your written application.
2. Have your fingerprints taken.
3. Pass exams at an interview.
4. Take the oath of citizenship.
5. Participate in civic affairs.

This process will take a varying length of time depending on where you live in the United States. Modernization and streamlining have reduced the wait to 6 months or less in some places, but it may take longer.

Step 1: Complete Your Written Application

The application is the first step. It provides the USCIS with background information about you and shows that you are eligible to apply. Follow the steps below:

1. Fill out the N-400 application form (more on this below).
2. Gather all the documents you need (more on this below).
3. Make copies of them all and put the copies in the application packet.
4. Enclose two more items:
 - Two identical color, passport-style photographs. Write your name and Alien Registration Number (A#, or the nine-digit Permanent Resident Card number) lightly in pencil on the back of each photo.
 - A check or money order payable to Department of Homeland Security to cover the application and fingerprinting fee (\$675, but \$595 if you are 75 or older). Write your "A-Number" on the back (more below).
6. Mail your application to the P.O. Box address for your state (see the left column in each box, immediately below). If you are using courier or express mail, send it to the street address in the right column:

If You Reside In: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Territory of Guam, or Northern Mariana Islands. File your N-400 with:		If You Reside In: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, or U.S. Virgin Islands. File your N-400 with:	
<u>USCIS Lockbox Deliveries</u>	<u>Courier and Express Mail</u>	<u>USCIS Lockbox Deliveries</u>	<u>Courier and Express Mail</u>
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services P.O. Box 21251 Phoenix, AZ 85036	USCIS, Attn: N-400 1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S. Floor 1 Phoenix, AZ 85036	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services P.O. Box 299026 Lewisville, TX 75067	USCIS, Attn: N-400 2501 S. State Hwy 121, Bldg. 4 Lewisville, TX 75029

The USCIS will mail you a receipt once it receives your application.

Filling Out the Application

The Naturalization Application Form (Form N-400) may seem fairly long, but in most cases it is not hard to complete. It will ask for information about:

Yourself

1. Your current legal name
Just as it appears on your birth certificate, unless you have legally changed it (such as by marriage or court order).
2. Your name as it appears on your Legal Permanent Resident Card (“green card”)
Copy it exactly, even if it is misspelled.
3. Other names you have used
4. Your U.S. Social Security Number
5. Date of birth
Use numbers and write them with slashes in this order: Month/Day/Year. For example, write April 1, 1990 as 04/01/1990.
6. Date you became a Legal Permanent Resident
In most cases, this is the date on your Legal Permanent Residency card. Use numbers and write them in this order: Month/Day/Year. For instance: 04/01/1990.
7. Country of birth and nationality
Write the name of the country where you were born, and where you are currently a citizen (your nationality).
8. Current marital status
9. Request for disability waiver (if applicable)
If you have certain disabilities, you need not take the English and/or civics exams. To qualify, fill out and attach Form N-648 (Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions). Please understand that the USCIS may not grant this request.
10. Home address
Provide the address where you currently live, that is, your permanent address.
11. Mailing address
Provide your mailing address if it is different from home address.
12. Telephone number and email address
These will help the USCIS contact you if they need information or have questions about your application.

Your Residence

Provide every address where you have lived over the past 5 years.

- *Be sure each address is complete.*
- *Include move-in and move-out dates (month/year). For example, write January 2009 to March 2009 as 01/09 to 03/09.*

Your Employment

List your occupation titles, and the names and addresses of all employers (or if you are a student, the schools you attended) during the last 5 years.

- *Begin with your most recent job.*
- *Write January 2009 to March 2009 as 01/09 to 03/09.*
- *If you are self-employed, write “self-employed.”*

Your Trips Outside the U.S. Since You Became a Legal Permanent Resident

Provide the dates of all trips of more than 24 hours outside the U.S. since you became a Legal Permanent Resident, including all trips to border cities in Mexico or Canada.

- *Begin with your most recent trip*
- *Write the date you left and date you returned in numerical format (month/year). For example, write January 2009 to March 2009 as 01/09 to 03/09.*
- *List all countries you visited.*
- *State the total number of days on each trip.*

Your Marriages

1. Indicate the number of times you have been married. Provide the following information about your current spouse and any previous ones:

Current Spouse

- *Name*
- *Address*
- *Country and date of birth*
- *Legal date of marriage*
- *Social Security Number*
- *Alien Registration Number from his or her Permanent Resident Card (if applicable)*
- *Date and place of naturalization (if applicable)*

Former Spouses

- *Name*
- *Date of marriage*
- *Date marriage ended (you will need to provide copies of your divorce or your former spouse's death certificate)*
- *Same information is necessary if your former spouse was previously married.*

Current Spouse's Former Marriages

- *Name of each person*
- *Date of marriage*
- *Date marriage ended (you will need to provide copies of your divorce or your former spouse's death certificate)*
- *Same information is necessary if your spouse was previously married.*

Your Children

1. Include **all** of your children, whether they are:
 - Alive, missing, or dead.
 - Born here or in other countries.
 - Under 18 or adults.
 - Married or unmarried.
 - Living with you or elsewhere.
 - Stepsons, stepdaughters, or legally adopted.
 - Born when you were married or unmarried.
2. Provide the following information about each child:
 - First and last name
 - Date of birth, numerically: Month/date/year
 - Alien Registration Number (A#), if applicable
 - Country of birth
 - Current address

Your Criminal Record (if any)

1. Date and location of any arrest
2. Nature of the offense
3. Outcome of the case

Your Selective Service Registration (only if you are male)

1. Selective Service Number and date registered
2. If you did NOT register for Selective Service and you lived in the United States between the ages 18-26, you have to include a letter explaining why you did not register.

Providing Documents

In addition to the form, you have to supply the USCIS with a number of documents. They include:

Three Forms of Identification

You will need to provide copies of your:

- Permanent Residency Card. Make copies of both sides.
If your Permanent Residency Card is missing, please let the Immigration Officer know at the time of your interview. If it has expired, you can still apply for citizenship, but you cannot leave the country until you have been sworn in and received your naturalization certificate.
- Driver's license or state-issued identification card (I.D.).
- Social Security Card
If you fail to include copies of your state I.D. or Social Security Card in the application packet, you can still present them at the interview.

Evidence of Trips Outside the United States Since Becoming a Legal Permanent Resident

1. Any passports or visas that may verify your trips.
2. Any airline tickets that may provide dates of departure and return.

Marriages

1. Current Spouse
Include a copy of the marriage certificate.
2. Former Spouse
Include copies of all marriage, divorce, and death certificates.
3. Spouse's Former Marriages
Include copies of all marriage, divorce, and death certificates.

Criminal Record

1. If you have been arrested, cited, or detained and you had to pay a fine of more than \$500, you must provide:
 - A certified copy of the arrest report,
 - Court dispositions, and
 - Sentencing and any other relevant documents.
2. If a traffic incident was related to alcohol or drugs, you need to submit documentation for traffic fines.
3. If you were convicted of a crime such as driving while intoxicated (DWI) or domestic violence, you must first speak with an immigration attorney before submitting your application.

Selective Service

1. If you registered but have lost your registration number, you can obtain it by calling (847) 688-6888 or visiting www.sss.gov.
2. If you have not registered and are between the ages of 18 to 26, you should register immediately.
3. If you lived in the United States between the ages of 18 to 26 and were born after 1960, you must have registered for Selective Service *even if you were undocumented at the time*. If you did not register, you must include a written explanation with your application.

Fee

1. Include a money order or check for **\$675.00**, payable to:
Department of Homeland Security
2. Include your Alien Registration Number (A#) on the money order or check.
3. **If you are 75 or older, you only pay the \$595.00 application fee.** (you do not have to have your fingerprints taken or pay the \$80 fingerprinting fee.). Be sure to include a letter stating that you qualify for the lower fee because of your age.

Translations

If you are providing any document in a foreign language such as Spanish, you must include a certified full English language translation. The translator must certify that the translation is complete and accurate, and that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English.



Step 2: Have Your Fingerprints Taken

Next, you have to have your fingerprints taken. The FBI will use them to run a background check and USCIS will update its records with them.

1. USCIS will send you an appointment letter telling you when and where to go for your fingerprinting. If you absolutely cannot attend at the place or time, follow the instructions for rescheduling on the letter.
2. Arrive early for the appointment. Do NOT be late or miss the appointment.
3. Bring your appointment letter from the USCIS to the fingerprinting, along with your Permanent Resident Card and another form of official photo identification, such as a driver's license or state ID.

Step 3: Pass Exams at an Interview

Wait for the USCIS to schedule your interview. The agency will send you an appointment letter, which will tell you the date, time, and place of your interview. If you absolutely cannot attend the interview, follow the rescheduling instructions in the letter immediately.

While the USCIS is conducting your background check, they may request additional documents before it schedules your interview. If so, they will send you a letter telling you what they need and where to send it.

Arrive early for the appointment. Do NOT be late or miss the appointment.

The interviewer will ask you questions about your background and N-400 application, and test your English language skills and your knowledge of U.S. civics. *For the list of possible civics questions and to learn more about the English test, see page XX.*

1. Bring your Permanent Resident Card, your official photo identification, and your interview appointment letter. Bring additional documents if the USCIS asks for them.
2. During the interview, the USCIS officer will:
 - Ask to see your identification and place you under oath.
 - Ask you questions about your application and background.
 - Assess how well you speak and understand English through the whole interview. To test your reading ability, the interviewer will present three sentences and ask you to read of them. To test your ability to write English, you must write one sentence out of three.
 - Ask you 10 civics questions. You must answer 6 correctly to pass.
3. Based on all the information you provide and your exams, USCIS will either grant, continue, or deny your application after your interview.
 - *Granting.* USCIS can tell you if you will receive citizenship at the end of your interview. You will later receive a letter telling you when and where your oath ceremony will be.
 - *Continuing.* The USCIS officer may put your case on hold, (that is, continue it.) The most common reasons are: a) failing all or parts of the English or civics test, or b) failing to provide the proper documents.
 - *Test.* If you fail all or parts of either test, the USCIS will reschedule you for another interview. The officer will then test you again on the part you failed. If you fail a second time, the USCIS will deny your application.
 - *Documents.* If you fail to provide required information or documents, USCIS will give you a form (form N-14) that explains what you need to supply, and when and how to provide it. If you do not follow the instructions, your application may be denied.
 - *Denying.* The USCIS may also reject your application. If it does, you will receive a written notice telling you why.

If the decision in your naturalization proceedings is unfavorable you may submit a request for a hearing, Form N-336. You must file your request for a hearing within 30 calendar days after service of the decision (33 days if your decision was mailed) with the local USCIS office that made the unfavorable decision. The filing fee for Form N-336 is \$605.

Step 4: Take the Oath of Citizenship

If USCIS approves your application, you must attend a ceremony and take the Oath of Allegiance of the United States. USCIS will notify you by mail of the time and date of your ceremony in a letter.

The ceremony is usually a wonderful experience and it requires just a few simple steps:

1. Dress appropriately. The ceremony is an important event presided over by a judge.
2. Bring your oath ceremony appointment letter, "Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony" (Form N-445), and Permanent Resident Card.
3. Arrive at least 30 minutes before the ceremony and check in with the USCIS.
4. Answer questions about your activities since your interview, as indicated on your appointment letter.
5. Return your Permanent Resident Card at check-in. You will no longer need it.
6. Take the oath of allegiance. You are not a U.S. citizen until you have taken this oath.
7. Receive your Certificate of Naturalization.

Step 5: Participate in Civic Affairs

You are now a U.S. citizen, but in most cases you will want to follow through with a number of final steps:

1. Register to Vote

As a new citizen, you can influence government decisions on issues that matter to you, your family, and your communities. The first step in the voting process is to register. For information on voter registration, call (888) VE-Y-VOTA.

2. Apply for a U.S. Passport

In some cases, representatives will be available to help you process the passport application at your oath ceremony. For more information please visit www.travel.state.gov or call the National Passport Information Center toll-free at (877) 487-2778.

3. Let People Know of Any Name Change

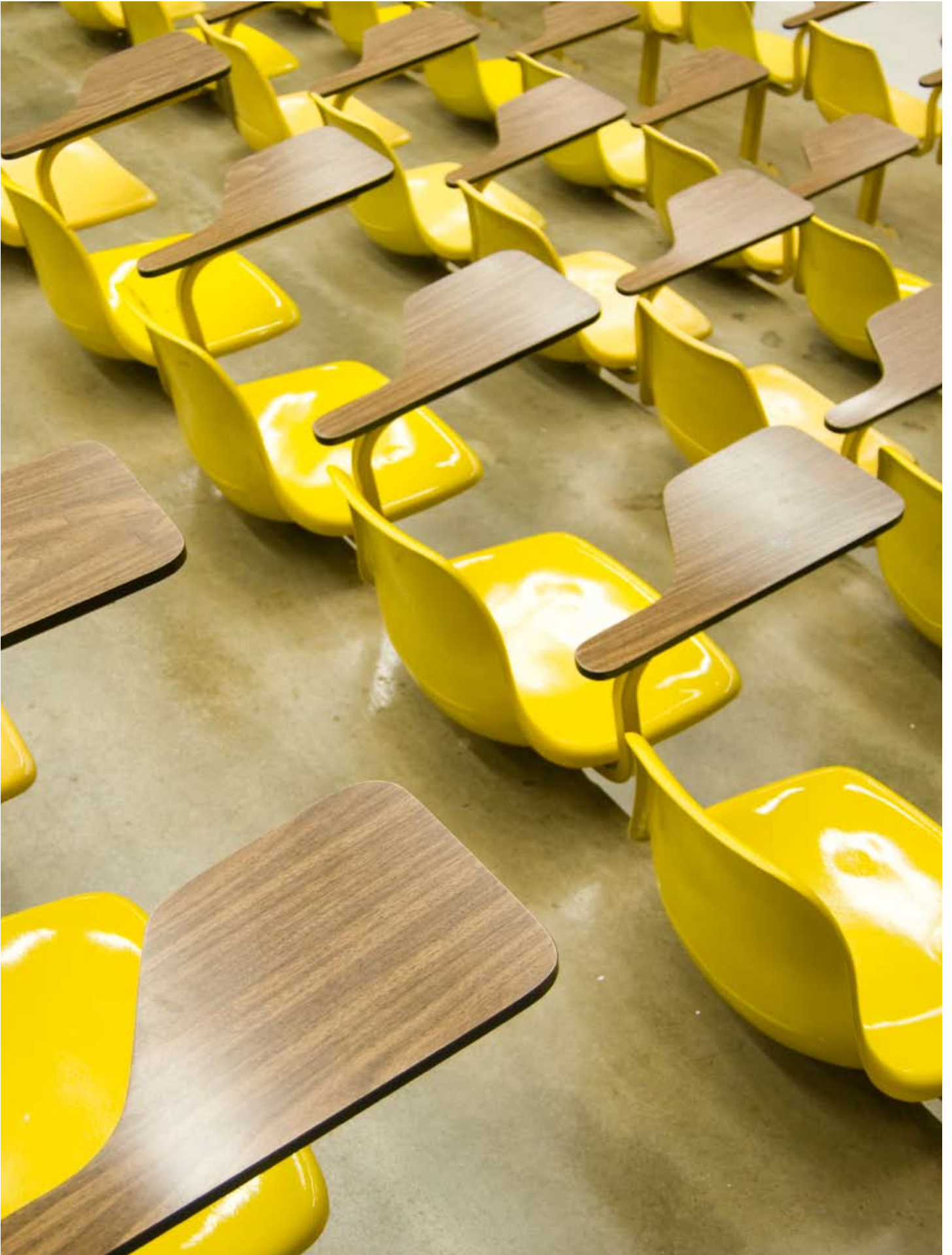
If your name has changed as a result of your naturalization, be sure to change all corresponding legal documents.

4. Contact Social Security

Notify the Social Security Administration (SSA) of your new citizenship status. Fill out the *SS-5 Form* (available at www.ssa.gov) at your local Social Security office—please bring your Certificate of Naturalization and Identification. The USCIS will not notify Social Security or the Department of Public Safety on its own. For more information, call Social Security at (800) 772-1213.

5. Contact Your Elected Officials

We encourage you to communicate with your elected and appointed officials, to keep them aware of what is going on in your community, and to share your feelings about policies, laws, and proposals. Visit Project Vote Smart's website at www.vote-smart.org to locate your elected officials and to learn more about how you can make a difference.



The Exam: English and Civics Study Guide

The 100 Civics Questions

Civics is U.S. history and government. Below you will find the 100 civics questions and answers for the new naturalization test. If you filed your application (form N-400) on or after October 1, 2008, you should study this list.

The civics test is administered verbally. The USCIS officer will simply ask you up to 10 of the 100 civics questions listed below. You must answer 6 out of 10 correctly to pass.

Although the USCIS is aware that there may be other correct answers to these questions, you can simplify things by using the answers below.

American Government

A. Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?

- The Constitution*

2. What does the Constitution do?

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

3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

- We the People*

4. What is an amendment?

- A change (to the Constitution)*
- An addition (to the Constitution)*

5. What do we call the first ten Amendments to the Constitution?

- The Bill of Rights*

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

- Speech*
- Press*
- Religion*
- Petition the government*
- Assembly*

7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

- Twenty-seven (27)*

8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

- Announced our independence (from Great Britain).*
- Declared our independence (from Great Britain).*
- Said that the United States is free (from Great Britain).*

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

- Life*
- Liberty*
- Pursuit of happiness*

10. What is freedom of religion?

- You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.

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

- Capitalist economy
- Market economy

12. What is the “rule of law”?

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

B. System of Government

13. Name one branch or part of the government.

- Congress
- Executive
- Legislative
- The courts
- President
- Judicial

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

- Checks and balances
- Separation of powers

15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

- The President

16. Who makes federal laws?

- Congress
- Senate and House (of Representatives)
- (U.S. or national) legislature

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

- The Senate and House (of Representatives)

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

- One hundred (100)

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

- Six (6)

20. Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?

- Answers will vary. [If you live in the District of Columbia or a U.S. territories, you should answer that you have no U.S. Senators.]

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

- Four hundred thirty-five (435)

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

- Two (2)

23. Name your U.S. Representative.

- Answers will vary. [If you live in a territory with a nonvoting Delegate or Resident Commissioner, you may provide his or her name. You may also state that your territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]

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

- All people of the state

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

- (Because of) the state’s population
- (Because) they have more people
- (Because) some states have more people

26. We elect a President for how many years?

- Four (4)

27. In what month do we vote for President?

- November

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

- Barack Obama
- Obama

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

- Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
- Joe Biden
- Biden

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

- The Vice President

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

- The Speaker of the House

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

- The President

33. Who signs bills to become laws?

- The President

34. Who vetoes bills?

- The President

35. What does the President’s Cabinet do?

- Advises the President

36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?

- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of the Interior
- Secretary of Commerce
- Secretary of Labor
- Secretary of Defense
- Secretary of State
- Secretary of Education

- Secretary of Transportation
- Secretary of Energy
- Secretary of the Treasury
- Secretary of Health and Human Services
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Secretary of Homeland Security
- Attorney General
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- Vice President

37. What does the judicial branch do?

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

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

- The Supreme Court

39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

- Nine (9)

40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

- John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)

41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

- To print money
- To declare war
- To create an army
- To make treaties

42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

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

43. Who is the Governor of your state now?

- Answers will vary. [If you live in the District of Columbia, answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]

44. What is the capital of your state?

- Answers will vary. [If you live in the District of Columbia, answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. If you live in a territory, name its capital.]

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

- Democratic and Republican

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

- Democratic (Party)

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

- (Nancy) Pelosi

C. Rights and Responsibilities

48. There are four Amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

- Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).
- You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.
- Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)
- A male citizen of any race (can vote).

49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

- Serve on a jury
- Vote in a federal election

50. Name one right only for United States citizens.

- Vote in a federal election
- Run for federal office

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

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom to petition the government
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of worship
- Freedom of assembly
- The right to bear arms

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

- The United States
- The flag

53. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

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

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

- Eighteen (18) and older

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

- Vote
- Join a political party
- Help with a campaign
- Join a civic group
- Join a community group
- Give an elected official your opinion on an issue
- Call Senators and Representatives
- Publicly support or oppose an issue or policy
- Run for office
- Write to a newspaper

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

- April 15

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

- At age eighteen (18)
- Between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

American History

A. Colonial Period and Independence

58. What is one reason colonists came to America?

- Freedom
- Political liberty
- Religious freedom
- Economic opportunity
- Practice their religion
- Escape persecution

59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

- American Indians
- Native Americans

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

- Africans
- People from Africa

61. Why did the colonists fight the British?

- Because of high taxes (*taxation without representation*)
- Because the British army stayed in their houses (*boarding, quartering*)
- Because they didn't have self-government

62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- (Thomas) Jefferson

63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

- July 4, 1776

64. There were 13 original states. Name three.

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

- New Jersey
- Georgia
- Pennsylvania

65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

- The Constitution was written.
- The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.

66. When was the Constitution written?

- 1787

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

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

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

- U.S. diplomat
- Oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
- First Postmaster General of the United States
- Writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"
- Started the first free libraries

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

- (George) Washington

70. Who was the first President?*

- (George) Washington

B. The 1800s

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

- The Louisiana Territory
- Louisiana

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

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

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

- The Civil War
- The War between the States

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

- Slavery
- Economic reasons
- States' rights

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

- Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)*
- Saved (or preserved) the Union*
- Led the United States during the Civil War*

76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

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

77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

- Fought for women's rights*
- Fought for civil rights*

C. Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

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

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

79. Who was President during World War I?

- (Woodrow) Wilson*

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

- (Franklin) Roosevelt*

81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?

- Japan, Germany, and Italy*

82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

- World War II*

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

- Communism*

84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

- Civil rights (movement)*

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

- Fought for civil rights*
- Worked for equality for all Americans*

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

- Terrorists attacked the United States.*

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

[USCIS officers will have a list of federally recognized tribes.]

- Cherokee*
- Cheyenne*
- Navajo*
- Arawak*
- Sioux*
- Shawnee*
- Chippewa*
- Mohegan*
- Choctaw*
- Huron*
- Pueblo*
- Oneida*
- Apache*
- Lakota*
- Iroquois*
- Crow*
- Creek*
- Teton*
- Blackfeet*
- Hopi*
- Seminole*
- Inuit*

Integrated Civics

A. Geography

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

- Missouri (River)*
- Mississippi (River)*

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

- Pacific (Ocean)*

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

- Atlantic (Ocean)*

91. Name one U.S. territory.

- Puerto Rico*
- U.S. Virgin Islands*
- American Samoa*
- Northern Mariana Islands*
- Guam*

92. Name one state that borders Canada.

- Maine*
- Michigan*
- Alaska*
- New Hampshire*
- Minnesota*
- Vermont*
- North Dakota*
- New York*
- Montana*
- Pennsylvania*
- Idaho*
- Ohio*
- Washington*

93. Name one state that borders Mexico.

- California*
- Arizona*
- New Mexico*
- Texas*

94. What is the capital of the United States?

- Washington, D.C.*

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

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

B. Symbols

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

- Because there were 13 original colonies*
- Because the stripes represent the original colonies*

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?

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

98. What is the name of the national anthem?

- The Star-Spangled Banner*

C. Holidays

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

- July 4*

100. Name two national U.S. holidays.

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





The 20 Civics Question for 65/20 Applicants

If you are 65 or older and have been a Legal Permanent Resident States for 20 years or more, your 10 questions will come from the shorter list of 20 below.

American Government

A. Principles of American Democracy

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

- Speech*
- Press*
- Religion*
- Petition the government*
- Assembly*

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

- Capitalist economy*
- Market economy*

B. System of Government

3. Name **one** branch or part of the government.

- Congress*
- Executive*
- Legislative*
- The courts*
- President*
- Judicial*

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

- The Senate and House (of Representatives)*

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

- Answers will vary. [If you live in the District of Columbia or a U.S. territories, you should answer that you have no U.S. Senators.]*

6. In what month do we vote for President?

- November*

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

- Barack Obama*
- Obama*

8. What is the capital of your state?

- Answers will vary. [If you live in the District of Columbia, answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. If you live in a territory, name its capital.]*

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

- Democratic and Republican*

C. Rights and Responsibilities

10. What is **one** responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

- Serve on a jury*
- Vote in a federal election*

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

- Eighteen (18) and older*

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

- April 15*

American History

A. Colonial Period and Independence

13. Who was the first President?

- (George) Washington*

B. 1800s

14. What was **one** important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

- Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)*
- Saved (or preserved) the Union*
- Led the United States during the Civil War*

C. Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

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

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

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

- Fought for civil rights*
- Worked for equality for all Americans*

Integrated Civics

A. Geography

17. What is the capital of the United States?

- Washington, D.C.*

18. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

- New York (Harbor)*
- Liberty Island*

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

B. Symbols

19. Why does the flag have 50 stars?

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

C. Holidays

20. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

- July 4*

The English Exam: Speaking, Reading, and Writing

The English test has three parts: speaking, reading, and writing. With all three, the law says you must be able to use “simple words and phrases...in ordinary usage.” That is, you must be able to read, write, and speak basic English.

Speaking

The USCIS officer will judge your speaking ability from your answers to questions throughout the interview, and especially about your application.

Reading

Each reading test will contain no more than three sentences. You must read one of them correctly to pass. To help you prepare, USCIS has released the vocabulary list below, which contains every word you need to know. The content focuses on civics and history.



Writing

The writing test will contain no more than three sentences. You must write one of them correctly to pass. To help you prepare, USCIS has released the vocabulary list below, which contains every word in the test. Again, the content focuses on civics and history.

People

Abraham Lincoln
George Washington

Civics

American flag
Bill of Rights
Capital
Citizen
City
Congress
Country
Father of Our Country
Government
President
Right
Senators
State/states
White House

Places

America
United States
U.S.

Holidays

Presidents' Day
Memorial Day
Flag Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Thanksgiving

Question Words

How
What
When
Where
Who
Why

Verbs

Can
Come
Do/does
Elects
Have/has
Is/are/was/be
Lives/lived
Meet
Name
Pay
Vote
Want

Other (function)

A
For
Here
In
Of
On
The
To
We

Other (content)

Colors
Dollar bill
First
Largest
Many
Most
North
One
People
Second
South

People

Adams
Lincoln
Washington

Civics

American Indians
Capital
Citizens
Civil War
Congress
Father of Our Country
Flag
Free
Freedom of speech
President
Right
Senators
State/states
White House

Places

Alaska
California
Canada
Delaware
Mexico
New York City
Washington
Washington, D.C.
United States

Months

February
May
June
July
September
October
November

Holidays

Presidents' Day
Memorial Day
Flag Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Thanksgiving

Verbs

Can
Come
Elect
Have/has
Is/was/be
Lives/lived
Meets
Pay
Vote

Other (function)

And
During
For
Here
In
Of
On
The
To
We

Other (content)

Blue
Dollar bill
Fifty/50
First
Largest
Most
North
One
One hundred/100
People
Red
Second
South
Taxes
White



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