

Citizenship: Just the Facts Sample Answers

Directions: Below are two versions of the 14th Amendment. The first is taken from the U.S. Constitution. Read the 14th Amendment below and underline the important information that will help you to write your own definition of citizenship. The next version of the 14th Amendment is written specifically for students that may help you to understand the passage taken from the U.S. Constitution. After reading both, design your own definition of citizenship.

14 th Amendment, Section 1	<i>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. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge [take away] the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.</i>
From the Kid's Constitution	People born in the United States or become citizens of the United States (by the process of naturalization) are United States citizens and citizens of the state they live in. All US citizens must be protected by, must follow, and must be held accountable for all the same laws of the Federal Government and their state. Also, all citizens deserve to be fairly treated under the law, even when they have broken the law.
Definition of citizenship	A citizen is someone who has citizenship, a legal member of a state and/or country. In the U.S. a person is a citizen if they have been born in the U.S. or have gone through the naturalization process.

Directions: Use the [article](#) from iCivics and class notes to complete the charts below.

Already a U.S. Citizen?	
Law of blood – being born to a parent who is a U.S. citizen	Law of soil – being born in the United States

Non Citizens of the United States		
Immigrant- a person who comes to a country to live there permanently	Alien- any person not a citizen or national of a country	Permanent Resident- an individual that is allowed to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis, giving them a Green Card and allowing an opportunity to become a citizen

What is the Naturalization Process?
The naturalization process requires many steps. To go through the process, the applicant must be at least 18 years old, have already been granted legal permanent residency and have been a resident for at least 5 years. The applicant must also be of good character and be able to speak and read English. The applicant must take a civics and history test and take an oath of allegiance.

Impact of the Naturalization Process		
Impact on Society	Impact on Government	Impact on the Political Process
It allows people who were not born into being a citizen an opportunity to become part of the United States. This allows our country to have a diverse group of people and ideas to make our society better.	Government has to adapt to having a diverse group of people that may change laws and policies to meet the needs of everyone.	The number of people that are voting in elections may be higher and the different issues that are addressed by candidates may change.