

CITIZENSHIP AND THE PLEDGE



LESSON SUMMARY

BENCHMARKS	
SS.2.CG.2.1 <i>Explain what it means to be a U.S. Citizen.</i> SS.2.CG.2.3 <i>Explain how citizens demonstrate patriotism.</i>	
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ SS.2.CG.2.1 Students will recognize that there are multiple ways to obtain citizenship.■ SS.2.CG.2.3 Students will explain why reciting the Pledge of Allegiance daily is an act of patriotism.■ SS.2.CG.2.3 Students will explain the importance of recognizing patriotic holidays or observances (e.g., American Founders Month, Celebrate Freedom Week, Constitution Day, Independence Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Medal of Honor Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, Veterans Day).	
CORRELATED FLORIDA STANDARDS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ ELA.2.C.2.1: <i>Present information orally using complete sentences, appropriate volume, and clear pronunciation.</i>■ ELA.2.R.1.1: <i>Identify plot structure and describe main story elements in a literary text.</i>■ ELA.2.V.1.1: <i>Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.</i>■ ELA.2.V.1.3: <i>Identify and use context clues, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the meaning of unknown words.</i>	
ESSENTIAL QUESTION	
What does it mean to be a citizen of the United States?	
VOCABULARY	
citizen, pledge, patriotism, allegiance	
MATERIALS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Team USA- An Introduction to Citizenship slides■ <i>I Pledge Allegiance</i> by Libby Martinez and Pat Mora	

ACTIVITY SEQUENCE

INTRODUCTION/HOOK

Teacher Note: *Keep in mind that students may have family members or friends that are citizens of other countries and/or students themselves may not yet be citizens of the United States. It is important to note that even while waiting to “officially” become a U.S. citizen, individuals can still participate in and contribute to civic life.*

1. Project slide 1 of the “Team USA- An Introduction to Citizenship” slides. Ask students to share observations. Ask students if they are fans of any teams or participate on a team themselves.
2. Ask students the following questions: How does someone show their loyalty (allegiance) to a team? How do we demonstrate we are a fan of a specific team?
3. Project slide 2 and review some of the ways both players and fans show loyalty and pride.

Teacher Note: *There are two optional sound clips to use with this slide. One is the UF ‘Come on Gators, Get Up and Go’ chant, and the other is a performance of the UCF alma mater.*

4. Using slide 3, explain to students that all of us are on a team, Team USA. Every citizen in the country is a part of this team.
5. Remind students that being a citizen means belonging to a country (slide 4).
6. Ask students: How does someone join/become part of Team USA? How does someone become a citizen?
7. Using slide 5, explain to students that there are three main ways to obtain citizenship in the United States. You are automatically a U.S. citizen if you are born here. You are a citizen if one or both of your parents are U.S. citizens, regardless of where you are born. The other way is through the naturalization process. This involves permanently moving to the United States, living here for at least 5 years, and completing tasks such as classes, taking a test, and reciting an oath.
8. Explain to students that next, we are going to take a closer look at an important part of belonging to Team USA, The Pledge of Allegiance.

Teacher Note: *Save slide 6 for the closure of the lesson.*

ACTIVITY

9. Introduce the class to the story, *I Pledge Allegiance* by Libby Martinez and Pat Mora.
10. Conduct the read aloud, pausing to clarify unknown words, terms, and concepts.
Possible guiding discussion questions and places to pause for clarification:
 - a. Vocabulary to clarify: indivisible, justice, liberty, pledge, oath, citizenship
 - b. What does Libby say her teacher told her about the Pledge? (it’s a promise you make with your heart)
 - c. Why does Lobo like the line “liberty and justice for all?” (it is a promise to be fair to everyone and be like one big family)
 - d. Why is Lobo practicing the Pledge? (for her citizenship ceremony)

- e. Was Lobo born in the United States? (no, she was born in Mexico)
- f. Why did Lobo have to take a citizenship test? (because she was not born in the United States, and neither were her parents) Why is she allowed to take the test now? (she has lived in the United States for several years, she has practiced her English, she has been studying for the test)
- g. Why is Libby a U.S. citizen, but Lobo is not? (Libby was born in the United States, and her parents are U.S. citizens. Lobo came from Mexico)
- h. How do Libby, Lobo, and the class show respect during the Pledge? (standing, right hand over heart, looking at the flag)

CLOSURE/FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

- 11. Ask students: How can we show our loyalty (allegiance) to Team USA? How can we show that we are excited to be on this team (patriotism)?
- 12. Project slide 6 of the “Team USA- An Introduction to Citizenship” slides. Review some of the ways responsible citizens can demonstrate allegiance and patriotism. Point out the similarities to the answers from slide 2 and the actions of the characters from the story.

Teacher Note: *There is one optional sound clip of the National Anthem to use with this slide.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[FJCC/LFI Website](#)

Supporting Florida State Statutes:

- [Florida State Statute 1003.44: Patriotic Programs](#)

Supporting United States Code:

- [United States Code, 2006 Edition, Supplement 5, Title 4 - FLAG AND SEAL, SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE STATES](#)

ANSWER KEYS

n/a

SOURCES

I Pledge Allegiance by Libby Martinez and Pat Mora