



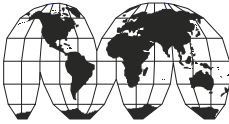



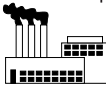



Section CE 3&4: Citizens and Citizenship

<i>Fastrack Civics</i>		
Second Edition		
		
		
		
	An interactive guide to the Virginia Civics SOL exam by David Burns	

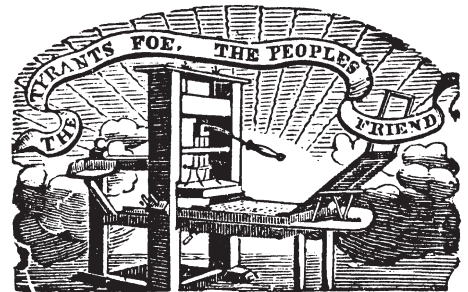


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CE 3 & 4

Citizens and Citizenship

This unit will focus on these big questions:



- What exactly does it mean to be a citizen of a country?
- How does a person become a citizen of the United States?
- What guarantees do citizens have for their rights?
- What duties and responsibilities do citizens have?
- What are the traits or characteristics of a good citizen?



Vocabulary:

accountability
alien
assembly, right of
Bill of Rights
citizen
citizenship
courtesy
devise
due process
duties (of citizens)

First Amendment
Fourteenth Amendment
honesty
illegal alien
immigrant
implement
jury
legal alien
naturalization
patriotism

petition, right to
respect
responsibilities (of
citizens)
responsibility
self-reliance
trustworthiness
USCIS

Contents & References

Related Textbook Pages

What Is a Citizen?	CE 3a	
The Steps of Naturalization	CE 3a	
First Amendment Freedoms	CE 3b	
The 14th Amendment	CE 3b	
Citizens' Duties and Responsibilities	CE 3c&d	
The Citizen in the Community	CE 3e	
Personal Traits of Good Citizens	CE 4a-e	
Effective Participation in Civic Life	CE 4f&g	
Glossary for CE 3 & 4 Vocabulary Words		

Internet Support Site: www.fasttrackteaching.com/civics

Notes:

The Steps of Naturalization

Complete this page with your teacher to review and summarize the topic.

These are the main steps a legal alien takes to become a citizen of the U.S. through naturalization:

Live in the U.S. for Five Years

Call me at my U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office.



alien - a person living in the U.S. who is not a citizen.



Apply for Naturalization

Interview & Citizenship Test



Oath of Allegiance

Immigration and naturalization have made America an increasingly diverse society!

First Amendment Freedoms

Complete this page with your teacher to review and summarize the topic.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees many of the fundamental rights and liberties of American citizens.



Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

(The First Amendment is part of the Bill of Rights, which was ratified as part of the U.S. Constitution in 1791)

These are the freedoms listed in the First Amendment:

The 14th Amendment

Complete this page with your teacher to review and summarize the topic.

The 14th Amendment protects and extends citizens' rights by requiring state governments to follow the principle of due process of law.

Amendment 14

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 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.

*- from the 14th Amendment,
ratified as part of the U.S.
Constitution in 1868*



The first part of this Amendment is important because it tells exactly who is a citizen of the U.S.

The rest of the 14th Amendment is just as important. It says the states cannot abridge (reduce) any citizen's rights, without "due process of law." That's a legal term that means "the fair, step-by-step process of law."

The Amendment goes on to make it clear that laws passed by the states must treat all people equally.

Citizens' Duties and Responsibilities

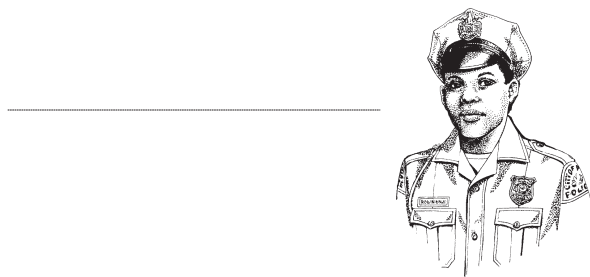
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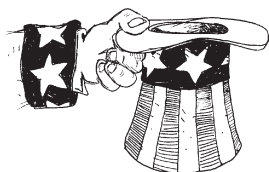
Citizens have both duties and responsibilities:



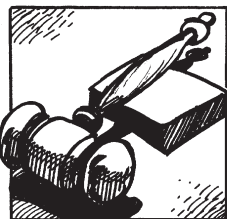
Duties are things citizens must do, because they are required by law.

For example:









Responsibilities are things citizens should do, but they are not legally required.

For example:





But wait, there's more!



Last but not least:



The Citizen in the Community

Complete this page with your teacher to review and summarize the topic.

All across America, ordinary citizens play a huge role in community life! Here are just some of the things they do:





- Springfield Civic Association
- The Cato Institute**
- American Civil Liberties Union
- AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE
- People for the American Way
- Independent Women's Forum

Personal Traits of Good Citizens

Complete this page with your teacher to review and summarize the topic.

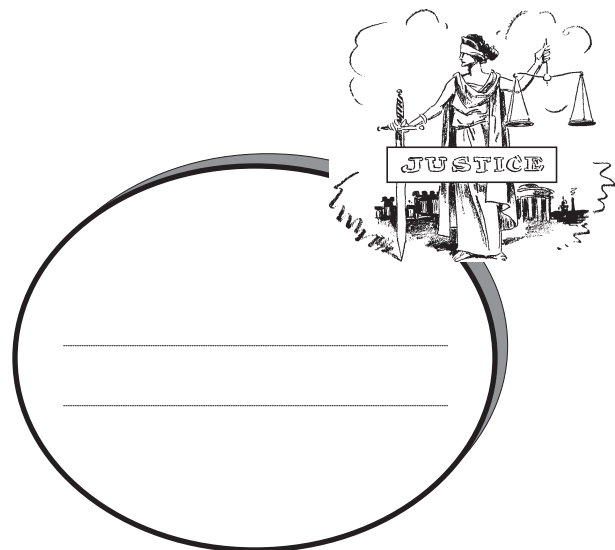
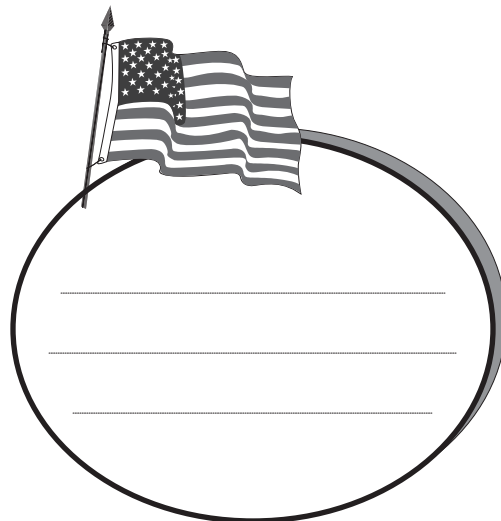
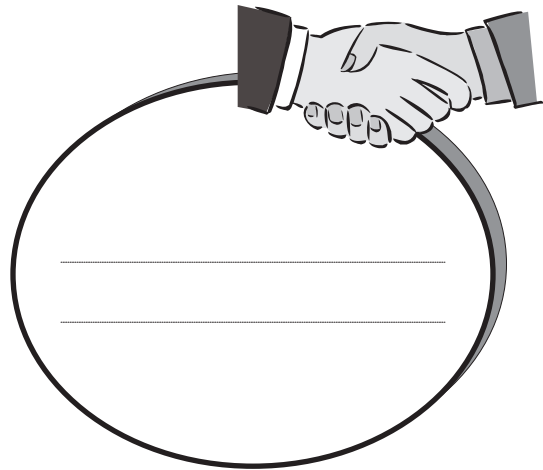
What are the
personal traits

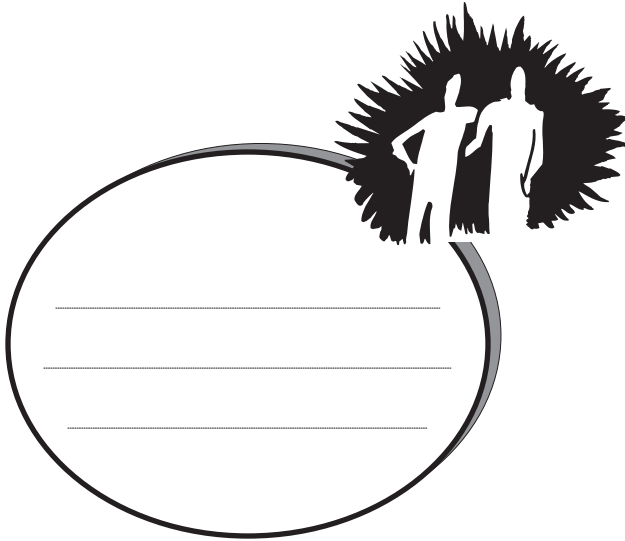
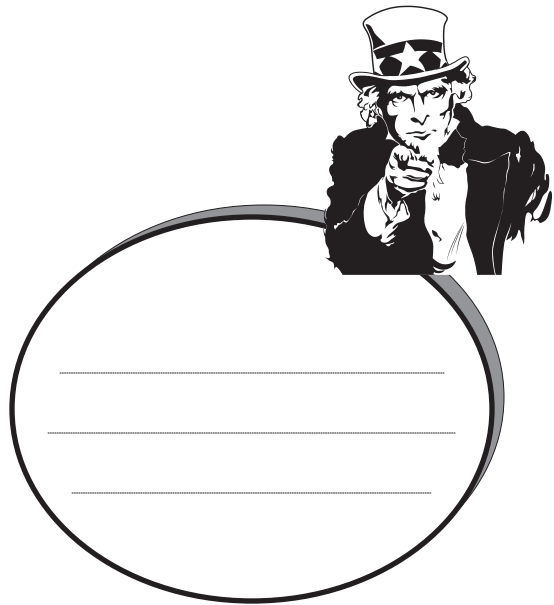
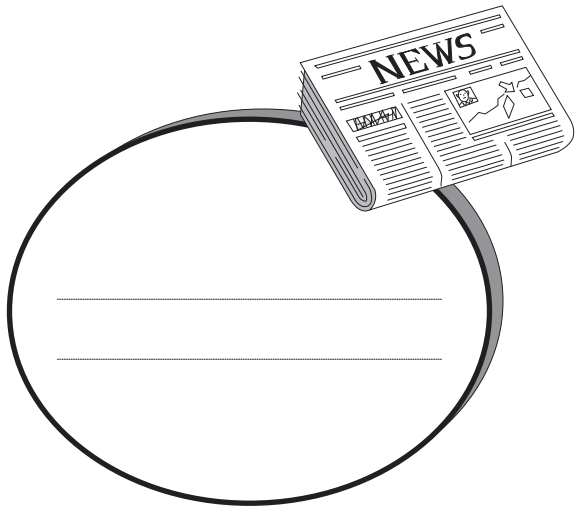


or characteristics of a
good citizen?

Match these traits up with the
pictures shown on these pages, and
write them in the spaces provided!

- Patriotism (love of one's country)
- Respect for the law
- Honesty and trustworthiness
- Courtesy and respect for the rights of others
- An informed voter
- Participant in school and the community
- Responsibility, accountability, self-reliance





Something to think about:

"I believe with all my heart that America remains 'the great idea' that inspires the world. It is a privilege to be born here. It is an honor to become a citizen here. It is a gift to raise your family here, to vote here, and to live here."

- Arnold Schwarzenegger,
a famous film actor,
Governor of California,
and an immigrant to the
U.S. at age 21

Effective Participation in Civic Life

Complete this page with your teacher to review and summarize the topic.



Being a good citizen requires thoughtful, effective participation in civic life. Here are some of the ways you can do that:

Effective Citizenship

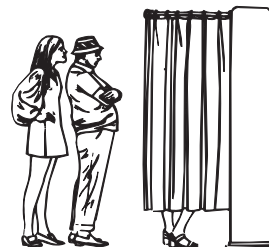












accountability - being responsible and accepting the consequences for what you do and say.

alien - a person living in the U.S. who is not a citizen.

assembly, right of - the right of people to hold meetings and demonstrations.

Bill of Rights - the first ten Amendments to the Constitution. It lists the key rights of citizens that the government must recognize.

citizen - a person recognized as holding full membership and political rights in a nation. A citizen has allegiance to a nation, and has certain rights and duties under that government.

citizenship - a broad term for participation in a nation's political life, including the rights, duties, and responsibilities of a citizen.

courtesy - practicing good and considerate behavior toward others.

devise - to plan, design, create, or make.

due process - the legal procedures that the government must follow, in a fair manner according to the rules of law, when dealing with citizens.

duties (of citizens) - in Civics, duties are defined as those things citizens must do by law, such as pay taxes and obey laws. (Contrast responsibilities, which citizens should do, but are not required to do.)

First Amendment - the first Amendment to the Constitution, and part of the Bill of Rights. It guarantees freedom of religion, assembly, press, petition, and speech.

Fourteenth Amendment - it defines who is a citizen, and requires states to treat all citizens fairly and equally. Passed just after the Civil War, it says that any person born in the U.S. is a citizen. It says states must follow the principle of "due process" in all legal proceedings.

honesty - telling the truth.

illegal alien - a person living in the U.S. who is not a citizen and who did not get permission to enter the country.

immigrant - a person who comes to the U.S. from another country, with the intention to live here permanently.

implement - to put a plan into action, to make it happen.

jury - in a trial, the group of citizens that hears the case against the person accused. Citizens generally must serve on a jury if called.

legal alien - a person living in the U.S. who is not a citizen, but who obtained proper permission to enter.

naturalization - the process by which a non-citizen becomes a citizen.

patriotism - love of one's country and honoring its best traditions.

petition, right to - the right of citizens to bring their concerns to government leaders and be heard.

respect - treating others in the proper way, as you would want to be treated in similar circumstances.

responsibilities (of citizens) - in Civics, things that citizens should do, but are not legally required to do. Voting is a civic responsibility, for example, but not a legal duty.

responsibility - being reliable, doing what you should do and especially what you say you will do.

self-reliance - depending on oneself, rather than others.

trustworthiness - being a person who others know they can trust.

USCIS - a federal agency that handles immigration and naturalization matters. The letters stand for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The agency was formerly known as the INS or the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.