



Citizen You: SS.7.CG.2.1
Defining Citizenship
VIDEO SCRIPT



1. According to the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, a citizen is defined simply as:
2. “All persons born or naturalized in the United States.” That is a pretty inclusive definition. The amendment also states, “and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside.”
3. The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution defines citizenship, but that is not all we need to know about being a citizen in the United States.
4. In this video, we will
 - ✓ define citizenship as stated in the Fourteenth Amendment
 - ✓ explain the process of becoming a naturalized citizen
 - ✓ define permanent residency and explain its role in obtaining citizenship
 - ✓ examine the impact of the naturalization process on society, government or the political process
5. Let’s look again at the Fourteen Amendment. Did you know that this amendment was not added until 1868? Over 80 years after the U.S. Constitution was written.
6. Now even before the 14th Amendment, the term citizen appears in the Constitution several times. But we do not get a definition of citizenship and what that means until the 14th Amendment in 1868!
7. The Fourteenth Amendment defined the citizenship qualifications as
 - Anyone who is born in the United States or
 - Anyone who is an immigrant and has gone through the naturalization process. An immigrant is a person who comes to a country to live there permanently.
8. Let’s look at a natural born citizen, a person that gains citizenship through birth!
There are two ways: law of blood and law of soil

9. The law of blood means that a person's citizenship at birth is the same as that of his or her biological mother or father.
10. The law of soil says that a person's citizenship is determined by the country where he or she was born.
11. By being a citizen through birth, according to the Fourteenth Amendment, natural rights (remember life, liberty and property) are guaranteed and cannot be taken away without due process.
12. Let's Check In: Which amendment defines citizenship? Can you explain the concepts of law of blood and law of soil?
13. ANSWER TO QUESTIONS
14. Wait, didn't the Fourteenth Amendment also mention that immigrants can become citizens through a process called naturalization? Let's look at the qualifications required for that process.
15. To apply for citizenship, an immigrant must:
- ✓ Be at least 18 years old
 - ✓ Have been a lawful permanent resident (someone who has been legally granted the right to live in the United States permanently, but is not a citizen) for five years without leaving for more than 30 months combined and for no more than 12 uninterrupted months throughout a 5-year period
 - ✓ File a petition for naturalization; this is similar to filling out an application stating a person wants to become a citizen
 - ✓ Take a test that shows they can read, write and speak English well enough to demonstrate that they know American History and the U.S. Constitution.
 - ✓ Be able to prove that they are of good moral character which means they can prove they are not a criminal.
 - ✓ Must have two U.S. citizens confirm that the applicant is of good moral character and finally
 - ✓ Once all of the conditions have been met the applicant takes the "Oath of Allegiance." This means that people wanting to become a citizen must pledge their loyalty to the United States.
16. Let's Check in: What is permanent residency?
17. CORRECT ANSWER

Excellent!

18. Finally, let's look at the impact the naturalization process has on society, our government and the political process.

19. According to the *United States Citizenship and Immigration Services*, in fiscal year 2022, around one million people become naturalized citizens. That is a large number!

20. Over the years immigration has been a topic of debate with disagreements over questions such as:

- ✓ Who should be granted citizenship?
- ✓ How difficult should the process to gain citizenship by naturalization?
- ✓ How long should immigrants be allowed to live in the U.S. without applying for citizenship?
- ✓ Should we limit immigration? How? To who?

21. Presidential candidates discuss these questions in their party platforms and their views often influence how voters feel about the naturalization process and who becomes a citizen. Why might this be?

22. As more immigrants naturalize and become involved in the political process, they have a strong influence.

23. Their influence on our government happens by voting, participating in lawmaking, running for political office and being selected as public officials. This gives them an equal voice with natural born citizens!

24. Participating in the political process has become a lot easier for many naturalized citizens since the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

25. This requires ballots to be printed in all of the languages in a county where at least 5% of the citizens living in that county speak that language as their first language. This means that if 5% of citizens in a county speak Spanish or Chinese as the first language, the ballots should be in those language as well as English.

26. As a result, more naturalized citizens vote now than they did before the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Politicians are also more likely to pay attention to issues in immigrant communities with large numbers of naturalized citizens that can vote and impact their election.

27. LET'S CHECK IN: What are some ways the naturalization process has impacted our country?

28. ANSWER TO QUESTION

29. Pretty amazing isn't it? The Fourteenth Amendment defines citizenship and includes those who were immigrants that went through the naturalization process. Also, don't forget that means all of the people included in the citizenship category are guaranteed their natural rights of life, liberty and property.

30. That sort of sums up the American promise and the American dream. Now we know who the We in We the people really are. Good job!

