



Citizen You: SS.7.CG.2.1
Defining Citizenship
READING #2

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.2.1 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will explain the process of becoming a naturalized citizen.

Naturalization is how a person not born in the United States voluntarily becomes a U.S. **citizen**.

Immigrants must:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be at least 18 years old
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● have been a resident of the United States for five years, without leaving for more than 30 months combined and for no more than 12 uninterrupted months throughout the five years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● file for a petition for naturalization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● take a test to show that they can read, write, and speak English, and demonstrate knowledge of American history and the U.S. Constitution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be able to prove that they are of good moral character
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● have two U.S. citizens confirm that the applicant will be of good moral character

Once all the conditions above have been met, the applicant must take the “Oath of Allegiance.” The oath is the last step in the naturalization process and requires people seeking citizenship to pledge their loyalty to the United States.

citizen - a legal member of a state and/or country
good moral character - not participating in certain crimes or behavior
immigrant - a person who comes to a country to live there permanently
naturalization - the process by which an immigrant becomes a citizen
resident - someone who lives in a place for a minimum period of time