

# Lesson 2



# CITIZENSHIP

**SS.7.C.2.1**

# Citizenship



- A **citizen** is one who has ***specific rights and obligations within a country.***
- All countries have their own definitions and expectations of citizenship
  - Democracies grant citizenship to all persons born within their jurisdictions
  - They do not have the same procedures for granting naturalization
  - Not all grant the same rights to naturalized citizens.

# Citizenship in the United States



- Citizenship in the United States was first mentioned in the United States Constitution.
- The U.S. Constitution ***as ratified in 1788*** mentions citizenship 13 times although it ***does not define it.***
  - For example, the U.S. Constitution limits office holding only to those who are U.S. citizens. Still, the original U.S. Constitution fails to define who is a citizen.
- It was not until 1868 that the U.S. Constitution defined citizenship with the 14th amendment.

# Section 1 of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment



- “**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.”

# Rights of U.S. Citizenship



- Citizenship brings with it both rights (stuff you are entitled to) and obligations (stuff you must do).
- Obligations:
  - *Serving on a jury (6<sup>th</sup> Amendment)*

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district where in the crime shall have been committed

- Swear allegiance to support and defend the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the United States against all enemies.

# Being and becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen



- A person who is not born a US citizen can become one. - ***NATURALIZATION***
- ***The U.S. Congress has the power to make naturalization laws for the United States.***

# Being and becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen



- ***In order to become a naturalized citizen***, one must meet the following conditions:
  1. ***The person is over 18 years old***
  2. Must have lived in the United States for ***five years***, without leaving for more than 30 months combined, and no more than 12 consecutive months throughout the five year period.
  3. Must file a petition for naturalization
  4. Must take an examination that shows that they can ***read, speak and write English***, and demonstrate knowledge of American history and the U.S. Constitution.
  5. Must be able to prove that they are ***of good moral character***
  6. Two U.S. citizens must confirm that the citizenship applicant will be a good citizen and will ***be loyal to the U.S***

# Oath of Allegiance



- ***When steps 1-6 have been met, then the applicant can take the oath.***
- “I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God. “

# Exceptions to the naturalization process



- ***The Child Citizenship Act of 2000***
  - It allows non-U.S. citizen children under 18
  - who have at least one U.S. citizen parent
  - who live in the legal and physical custody of that parent
  - to be granted automatic naturalized citizenship.
- The child must reside in the United States, and be a lawful permanent resident, at the time that citizenship is granted.

# Exceptions to the naturalization process



- At times, citizenship applicants may exclude the following clauses when taking the Oath of Allegiance.
  - ". . .that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by law. . ."
- “and solemnly affirm” may be substituted for the phrase “on oath”
- The phrase “so help me God” may be excluded if ***religious training or beliefs prevents a person from speaking those words.***

# The Naturalization Examination



- The following materials will help citizen applicants prepare for the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services Naturalization Civics and History Examination:
- Questions may be found at:
  - <http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/100q.pdf>
- Examination preparation flash cards may be found at:
  - [http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/M-623\\_red.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/M-623_red.pdf)

**BTW: You will take this test. I'll tell you when.**