

Who is a citizen?

How do we determine who
is a citizen of the United
States?

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Welcome to the Think Tank

**Think
about it**



Question 1: Think



- What do YOU think a citizen is?
 - Write your answer on your handout

Question 1: Pair



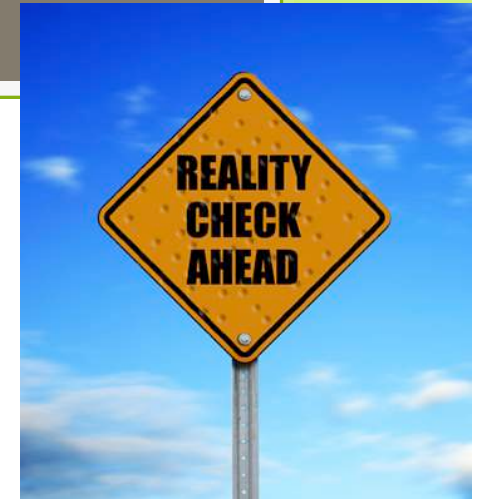
- What does your partner think a citizen is?
- Write their answer on your handout

Question 1: Share



- What does another group think a citizen is?
- Write one of the other answers on your handout

Question 1: Reality



- The United States Constitution tells us what our government considers a citizen to be...

The Fourteenth 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...

Naturalized is the legal
process of becoming a
citizen.

Jurisdiction
means legal
authority.

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With your PARTNER:

- How would you define the word “citizen” based on the 14th Amendment?

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States...are citizens of the United States and the state wherein they reside.”

Did you know...
The word “Citizen” is used 13 times in the Constitution before it was ever defined.

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Two types of citizens

- Natural born
- Naturalized

Question 1: Think



- What do YOU think a NATURAL BORN citizen is?
- Write your answer on your handout

Question 1: Pair



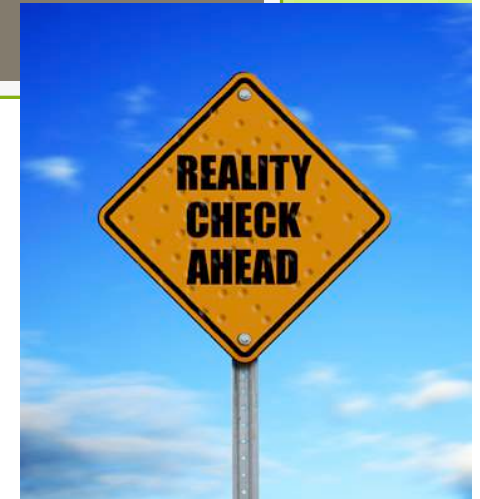
- What does your partner think a NATURAL BORN citizen is?
- Write your partner's answer on your handout

Question 1: Share



- What does another group think a NATURAL BORN citizen is?
 - Write another answer on your handout.

Question 1: Reality



- The United States government has determined what a natural born citizen is.

Natural Born Citizenship is based on two “laws”:

1. Place of **birth**, or “**Law of the Soil**”
 1. Children born in the **United States** or **Territories**/Possessions
2. **Parents**, or “**Law of the Blood**”
 1. Children born to a **parent** or **parents** who are United States **citizens**.





“Law of the Soil”

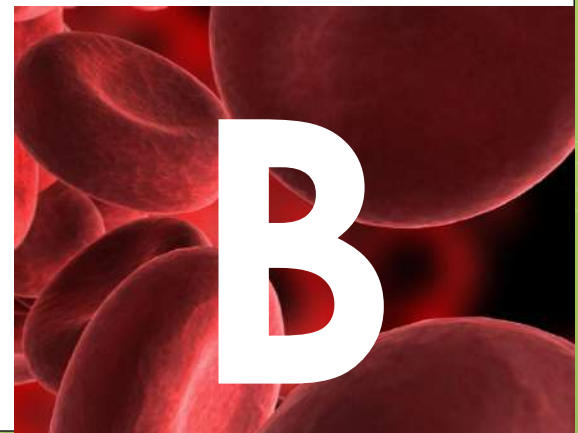
- Any child born in the United States is a citizen of the United States, even if the child's parents are not citizens.
- Soil of the US includes Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. (people who live in American Samoa, although it is a U.S. possession, they are not currently considered U.S. citizens)

“Law of the Blood”

- Principle in which citizenship is determined by parentage rather than by place of birth.
- US recognizes as citizens children born abroad to American citizens.

To Sum It Up...

- Law of the Soil – **WHERE** you are born (must be **within** the United States or territory/possession)
- Law of the Blood – **WHO** you are born to



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Natural Born Citizens...

- Are born with all of the rights held by U.S. Citizens given by the U.S. Constitution
- Are eligible to become a Senator, Representative, or President .



RESTRICTIONS in the Constitution...

No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of the Constitution shall be eligible to the Office of President.

Article II, Section 1

In your pair...

- Put a “S” for “Soil” next to examples of “Law of the Soil”
- Put is “B” for “Blood” next to examples of “Law of the Blood”



Law of the Soil or of the Blood?

- 1. _____ Anyone born inside the United States.
- Answer: soil

Law of the Soil or of the Blood?

- 2. _____ Anyone born outside the United States, both of whose parents are citizens of the U.S., as long as one parent has lived in the U.S.
- Answer: BLOOD

Law of the Soil or of the Blood?

- 3. _____ Anyone found in the U.S. under the age of five, whose parentage cannot be determined, as long as proof of non-citizenship is not provided by age 21.
- Answer: SOIL

Law of the Soil or of the Blood?

- 4. _____ Anyone born outside the United States, if one parent is an alien and as long as the other parent is a citizen of the U.S. who lived in the U.S. for at least five years (with military and diplomatic service included in this time).
- Answer: BLOOD

Law of the Soil or of the Blood?

- 5. _____ Any Indian or Eskimo born in the United States, provided being a citizen of the U.S. does not impair the person's status as a citizen of the tribe.
- Answer: SOIL

Law of the Soil or of the Blood?

- 6. _____Any child born to parents serving in the U.S. military abroad.
- Answer: BLOOD

The Fourteenth 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...

Who is a
“naturalized”
citizen?

X



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Question 1: Think



**Think
about it**

- What do YOU think a NATURALIZED citizen is?
 - Write your answer on your handout

Question 1: Pair



- What does your partner think a NATURALIZED citizen is?
 - Write your partner's answer on your handout

Question 1: Share



- What does another group think a **NATURALIZED** citizen is?
 - Write another group's answer on your handout

Naturalized Citizens

- Naturalized citizens are non-citizens who go through legal means of becoming a citizen.
- In order to become a naturalized U.S. Citizen, you must go through several steps...

Question 4: Think

**Think
about it**

How do YOU think
someone can become a
naturalized citizen?

Write your answer on your
handout



Question 4: Pair



- How does your partner think someone can become a naturalized citizen?
 - Write your partner's answer on your handout

Question 4: Share



- How does another group think someone can become a naturalized citizen?
 - Write another group's answer on your handout

To Become a Naturalized Citizen...

1. Apply to become a **permanent** resident (resident **alien**). You must be a permanent resident of the United States **for 5 years** before applying for **naturalization**/citizenship
2. Apply to become **naturalized**.
3. Be **fingerprinted** and **interviewed**
4. Be of good **moral** character.
5. Demonstrate the ability to **read**, **write**, and **speak** English,
6. Successfully complete a **civics** exam
7. You must also pay a **fee** to become a Naturalized citizen. (approximately **\$700**)
8. Take an Oath of **Allegiance** to the United States.

Naturalized Citizens

- **A naturalized** citizen gains the rights established in the the **14th** Amendment
- Naturalized citizens can run for all political offices except for the **President** of the United States. The U.S. **Constitution** requires that the president must be a **natural** born citizen.



Look at this statement:

Naturalized citizens should be permitted to run for President of the United States.

NOW...

- Write down if you agree or disagree with this statement.
- Write down 2-3 reasons why you agree or disagree with this statement.

Can you lose your citizenship?

Yes.

The following **voluntary** acts may result in loss of citizenship:

- Becoming **naturalized** in another **country**
- Swearing an oath of **allegiance** to another **country**
- Serving in the **armed forces** of a nation at **war** with the **U.S.**, or if you are an officer in that force
- **Working** for the government of another nation if doing so required that you become a naturalized or that you **swear** an oath of **allegiance**
- Formally **renouncing** citizenship at a U.S. **consular** office
- Formally **renouncing** citizenship to the U.S. **Attorney General**
- By being **convicted** of committing **treason**

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**Why would these acts be sound reasons for taking away
someone's citizenship?**

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