Citizenship at the Fair

Sort the rules, duties, and rights of U.S. citizenship.

SS24.6.18b "Differentiate between the requirements, responsibilities, and rights for citizenship in the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways a person can become a citizen and any rules for naturalization. Circle rights, and number responsibilities as you find them so you can tell the three groups apart.

Three Claims About Citizenship

1. At a neighborhood fair, Maya hears three different claims about U.S. citizenship. One sign says that a person can become a citizen just by paying taxes. That claim mixes up a responsibility with a requirement. Most people born in the United States are citizens at birth. A person born elsewhere may also be a citizen through a U.S. citizen parent under certain rules. Other people may apply to become citizens through naturalization. Applicants usually must be at least 18, hold a green card, meet residence rules, and take an oath.

2. Maya's aunt recently became a citizen. Now she can vote in federal elections if she meets voting rules, including being at least 18. She can also apply for a U.S. passport. These are rights tied to citizenship. Yet not every right in the United States depends on citizenship. For example, the Constitution protects freedom of speech for people in the country, including noncitizens. Knowing the difference matters: someone may speak at a town meeting without being a citizen, but speaking there does not give that person the right to vote in federal elections.

3. At the fair, volunteers explain that a right is something a person is allowed to do, while a responsibility is something a person should or must do. Citizens must obey laws and pay taxes when they owe them. Adults who are citizens may also be called for jury duty and must respond to a summons. Citizens can choose to vote, but federal law does not require voting. Noncitizens also must obey laws and pay taxes when they owe them. Sharing a responsibility does not make the rules for becoming a citizen disappear.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The sign says paying taxes can make someone a citizen. Why is that claim wrong? Name one way the passage says a person can become a citizen.

2. An adult has a green card. What two other naturalization rules named in the passage must the adult meet or complete?

3. How is the right to vote in federal elections different from freedom of speech in the passage?

4. A citizen is called for jury duty and also wants to vote. Which action must the citizen take, and which is a choice?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence note to someone who thinks applying for a U.S. passport, paying taxes, and voting are all requirements for becoming a citizen. Classify each action correctly and include one actual way a person can become a citizen.

ANSWER KEY

Citizenship at the Fair

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.18b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways a person can become a citizen and any rules for naturalization. Circle rights, and number responsibilities as you find them so you can tell the three groups apart. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The sign says paying taxes can make someone a citizen. Why is that claim wrong? Name one way the passage says a person can become a citizen.	**Paying taxes when owed is a responsibility, not a way to become a citizen. Most people born in the United States are citizens at birth.**
2	An adult has a green card. What two other naturalization rules named in the passage must the adult meet or complete?	**The adult must meet residence rules and take an oath.**
3	How is the right to vote in federal elections different from freedom of speech in the passage?	**Voting in federal elections is a right tied to citizenship, while freedom of speech also protects noncitizens.**
4	A citizen is called for jury duty and also wants to vote. Which action must the citizen take, and which is a choice?	**The citizen must respond to the jury summons. Voting is a choice, not a federal requirement.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Applying for a U.S. passport is a right tied to citizenship. Paying taxes when you owe them is a responsibility shared by citizens and noncitizens, while voting in federal elections is a right citizens may choose to use. Most people born in the United States are citizens at birth.

For question 1 and the open task, also accept citizenship through a U.S. citizen parent under certain rules or naturalization as a way to become a citizen. For question 2, accept being at least 18 if the response does not assume the adult's exact age.