

Citizen Connections

Read about rights, responsibilities, and belonging.

SS.2.CG.2.1 "Explain what it means to be a U.S. citizen."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells what a U.S. citizen is. Circle one right and number two responsibilities that citizens have or can do.

What Is a U.S. Citizen?

- ① Being a U.S. citizen means being a legal member of the United States. Citizens belong to this country. Most people born in the United States are citizens. Some people become citizens later by completing the naturalization process.
- ② Citizens have rights, or freedoms protected by law. For example, citizens who are 18 or older may vote in elections. Citizens also have responsibilities. They follow laws, respect other people's rights, and help make their communities better.
- ③ Citizens can take part in civic life in many ways. They may learn about problems, share ideas politely, volunteer, or vote when they are old enough. Being a citizen includes having rights and doing responsibilities to support the country and community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does it mean to be a U.S. citizen?

2 What is one way a person can become a U.S. citizen?

3 Write one right of citizens and one responsibility of citizens from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences for a new student who asks what it means to be a U.S. citizen. Include one right and one responsibility, and tell how the responsibility helps the community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells what a U.S. citizen is. Circle one right and number two responsibilities that citizens have or can do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does it mean to be a U.S. citizen?	It means being a legal member of the United States.
2	What is one way a person can become a U.S. citizen?	A person may be born in the United States or complete the naturalization process.
3	Write one right of citizens and one responsibility of citizens from the passage.	A right is that citizens 18 or older may vote. A responsibility is to follow laws, respect others' rights, or help make the community better.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A U.S. citizen who is 18 or older may vote. A citizen follows laws and respects others' rights, which helps the community.

Accept accurate explanations that identify citizenship as legal membership in the United States and include a passage-based right or responsibility. For Your Turn, accept other accurate rights and responsibilities if the student explains how the responsibility supports the community.