

Paths to Citizenship

Read closely to identify citizenship and the constitutional paths to it.

SS.7.CG.2.1 "Define the term "citizen," and explain the constitutional means of becoming a U.S. citizen."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that defines *citizen*. Then number the two ways to become a U.S. citizen, writing 1 by birth and 2 by naturalization, and circle the constitutional source connected to each path.

Who Is a U.S. Citizen?

- ① A citizen is a legal member of a country. In the United States, citizens belong to the national political community. They have rights protected by law, such as voting when they meet age and registration rules. Citizens also have responsibilities, including obeying laws and serving on a jury when selected. The Constitution describes two main ways a person can become a U.S. citizen: birth and naturalization. These rules help decide who is included in the United States.
- ② The Fourteenth Amendment says that people born in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction are citizens of the United States and of the state where they live. In most cases, this means a child born in the country is a citizen at birth. The phrase subject to its jurisdiction means the person is under U.S. law. A child born to a foreign diplomat is a well-known exception because diplomats have special legal status. Birth citizenship does not require an application or an oath.
- ③ Naturalization is the legal process through which someone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth may become one. Article I of the Constitution gives Congress the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization. Congress has created laws for this process, and the federal government administers them. An eligible applicant files forms, completes required steps, and takes an Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony. The oath is a promise of loyalty to the United States. A state cannot create its own separate path to U.S. citizenship.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is a citizen?

2 According to the passage, what two conditions are named for birth citizenship under the Fourteenth Amendment?

3 Which part of the Constitution gives Congress power over naturalization, and what power does it give Congress?

4 Name two actions an eligible applicant may take during the naturalization process.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

A student says, "Each state can make its own U.S. citizenship rules, and everyone must apply to become a citizen." Write three sentences that correct this statement. Use the words *birth*, *naturalization*, and *Congress*.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that defines *citizen*. Then number the two ways to become a U.S. citizen, writing 1 by birth and 2 by naturalization, and circle the constitutional source connected to each path. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is a citizen?	A citizen is a legal member of a country.
2	According to the passage, what two conditions are named for birth citizenship under the Fourteenth Amendment?	A person must be born in the United States and subject to U.S. jurisdiction.
3	Which part of the Constitution gives Congress power over naturalization, and what power does it give Congress?	Article I gives Congress the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization.
4	Name two actions an eligible applicant may take during the naturalization process.	Answers may include filing forms, completing required steps, and taking an Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Citizenship can begin at birth for most people born in the United States who are subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Someone who was not a citizen at birth may seek naturalization through the federal process. Congress has constitutional power to make a uniform naturalization rule, so states cannot create separate U.S. citizenship paths.

Accept equivalent wording that distinguishes citizenship at birth from naturalization and identifies Congress as the maker of a uniform naturalization rule. For the open response, check that all three required terms are used accurately and that the student corrects both parts of the statement.