Two Kinds of Citizenship

How federal and Tribal laws shape citizenship

USG.C.8.1 "Explain the constitutional and legal provisions that establish and affect citizenship, including the naturalization process and the concept of dual citizenship as it applies to Tribal citizens."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the constitutional rule for U.S. citizenship, circle the federal law and naturalization requirements, and put a star beside the sentence that explains how U.S. and Tribal citizenship can coexist.

What Citizenship Documents Show

1. At a city library, two visitors fill out forms that ask for proof of U.S. citizenship. A birth certificate might settle the question for one visitor, while another may bring a naturalization certificate. The Fourteenth Amendment states that people born or naturalized in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction are U.S. citizens. A person born in a U.S. state today generally gains citizenship at birth, even if their parents are not citizens. Congress also sets rules for naturalization, the legal process by which an eligible person who was not born a citizen can become one.

2. Consider a visitor who moved to the United States as an adult and became a lawful permanent resident. Under federal law, most applicants for naturalization must be at least 18, complete a required period as permanent residents, show good moral character, and meet English and civics requirements unless an exception applies. Many must have held permanent residence for five years, although some spouses of U.S. citizens may qualify after three. Applicants submit a federal application, complete an interview and required tests, and take an oath of allegiance if approved. These steps offer a path to citizenship, not a guarantee of approval.

3. A third visitor carries both a U.S. passport and a citizenship card issued by a Tribal nation. The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 granted U.S. citizenship to Native Americans born within the United States who had not already become citizens. It did not erase Tribal nations' authority to determine their own citizens under their laws. A person may therefore be a citizen of both the United States and a Tribal nation. This is dual citizenship across two governments, not two foreign countries. U.S. citizenship brings federal rights and duties, while Tribal citizenship connects a person to a nation's government and community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the Fourteenth Amendment help explain why one library visitor might use a birth certificate and another a naturalization certificate?

2. How can the required period of permanent residence differ for naturalization applicants, and why does meeting that period not guarantee citizenship?

3. Why did the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 not end Tribal nations' authority over citizenship?

4. Explain what dual citizenship means for the third visitor. Why does it not mean citizenship in two foreign countries?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Maya was born outside the United States and is not a U.S. citizen. She later became a lawful permanent resident, and her parent is a citizen of a Tribal nation. Write a four-sentence advisory note explaining a possible route to U.S. citizenship, who decides whether Maya can become a Tribal citizen, and what dual citizenship would mean if she gains both.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USG.C.8.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the constitutional rule for U.S. citizenship, circle the federal law and naturalization requirements, and put a star beside the sentence that explains how U.S. and Tribal citizenship can coexist. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the Fourteenth Amendment help explain why one library visitor might use a birth certificate and another a naturalization certificate?	**The amendment recognizes citizenship through birth in the United States, subject to its jurisdiction, or through naturalization. The documents provide evidence of those different routes.**
2	How can the required period of permanent residence differ for naturalization applicants, and why does meeting that period not guarantee citizenship?	**Many applicants need five years as permanent residents, while some spouses of U.S. citizens may qualify after three. Applicants must also meet other requirements and complete the application process.**
3	Why did the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 not end Tribal nations' authority over citizenship?	**The act granted U.S. citizenship to Native Americans born within the United States who were not already citizens, but Tribal nations retained authority to determine their own citizens under their laws.**
4	Explain what dual citizenship means for the third visitor. Why does it not mean citizenship in two foreign countries?	**The visitor is a citizen of both the United States and a Tribal nation. A Tribal nation is not a foreign country.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya could seek naturalization after completing the required period as a permanent resident and meeting other federal requirements. She would apply, complete an interview and required tests, and take the oath if approved. Her parent's Tribal citizenship alone does not decide her status because the Tribal nation applies its own citizenship laws. If that nation recognizes Maya as a citizen and she naturalizes, she would be a citizen of both the United States and a Tribal nation.

Accept answers that distinguish federal citizenship rules from a Tribal nation's authority to determine its citizens. For Part 3, do not require Maya to qualify for Tribal citizenship solely because her parent is a citizen.