

Preparing for the Oath Transcripts

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Government Basics

Constitution: Purpose

What does the Constitution do?

USCIS #2

The Constitution **creates** the **federal** government. It says how the **federal** government works. It **creates** a government where **citizens** choose senators and **representatives** to make laws for the country. The Constitution also **protects** the basic **rights** of all Americans. People at the Constitutional Convention wrote the Constitution in 1787. It is the oldest Constitution in the world that is used today.

Constitution: Supreme Law

What is the supreme law of the land?

USCIS #1

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. All laws in the United States need to follow the Constitution. Sometimes, people think a law does not follow the Constitution. They make a **case**. They take the **case** to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court can decide that a law is **unconstitutional**. If that happens, it can't be a law anymore. Everyone must follow the Constitution. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land.

Constitution: First Three Words

The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

USCIS #3

The first three words of the Constitution are "We the People." The document says that the people of the United States choose to **create** the government. "We the People" also explains that people elect **representatives** to make laws. This is a form of **self-government**.

Rule of Law

What is the "rule of law"?

USCIS #12

In the United States, everyone must follow the law. All people and groups must follow the law. Government officials must follow the law. Everyone is **equal** under the government. This way, the government can **protect** everyone's **rights**. The rule of law means that everyone must follow the law.

Branches of Government

Name one branch or part of the government.

USCIS #13

There are three branches of the **federal** government: Congress, the president, and the courts. Each branch has a special **role**. The Congress is called the legislative branch. Congress writes, **debates**, and makes laws. The president leads the executive branch. The president **enforces** the laws. The president also **represents** the United States to other countries. The courts are called the judicial branch. The courts explain laws. They decide if laws follow the Constitution. They also decide if people **break** laws. The three branches of the United States government are Congress, the president, and the courts.

Checks and Balances

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

USCIS #14

The system of checks and balances stops one branch of the **federal** government from becoming too **powerful**. The United States government is divided into three **separate** branches. They are the president, Congress, and the courts. Each branch has the power to control some things in the other branches. This way, no person or branch becomes too **powerful**. For example, Congress makes laws. But the president can veto a law. That means he can refuse to sign it. The law is then sent back to Congress. This is one way the president limits, or “checks,” the power of Congress. Checks and balances stop one branch of the government from becoming too **powerful**.

Powers of the Federal Government

Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

USCIS #41

The powers of the United States government are listed in the Constitution. It has the power to **declare war**. The president can ask Congress for a declaration of war. In 1941, President Roosevelt asked Congress to **declare war**. Congress voted to **declare war**. The United States entered World War II. The **federal** government also has the power to print money, **create** an army, and make **treaties**.

Powers of the State Governments

Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

USCIS #42

State governments have the power to do many things. They provide schooling and education. State and local governments provide protection and safety. States give drivers’ licenses, and approve **zoning** and land use.

Your Governor Today

Who is the Governor of your state now?

USCIS #43

A state governor is the leader of the executive branch of the state government. The governor's job in the state government is similar to the president's job in the **federal** government. The governor makes sure that everyone follows the laws of that state. Who is the Governor of your state now?

Capitalism

What is the economic system in the United States?

USCIS #11

Capitalism is the economic system in the United States. It is a market economy. **Capitalism** means that people, not the government, own most businesses. In the U.S., businesses decide what to sell. They decide how much money to charge for products and services. Then people decide what they want to buy. This is called a market economy. The economy is controlled by individual people, not by the government. The United States is a **capitalist**, market economy.

Writing the Constitution

Constitution: Year

When was the Constitution written?

USCIS #66

The Constitution was written in 1787. The American army won the War of **Independence** in 1783. For several years, the U.S. was governed by a congress of **representatives** from the states. But in 1787, **delegates** for the states met in Philadelphia to **create** a stronger **federal** government. They wrote the Constitution that gave the framework for the government we have today. The Constitution was written in 1787.

The Constitutional Convention

65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

USCIS #65

The Constitution was written at the **Constitutional** Convention. In 1787, 55 **representatives** went to Philadelphia. They came from 12 of the 13 original states. They talked about how to design the government. They wrote the Constitution. After the **Constitutional** Convention, the states agreed to **adopt** the Constitution.

Federalist Papers

The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

USCIS# 67

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay wrote the Federalist Papers. The U.S. Constitution was written at the **Constitutional** Convention in 1787. People at the **Constitutional** Convention decided how the government should work. Then James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay wrote the Federalist Papers. The Federalist Papers explained the new government. They said that the new United States needed the Constitution. Newspapers all over the United States published the Federalist Papers.

Amendments

What is an amendment?

USCIS #4

An **amendment** is a change to the Constitution. The country grows and changes. **Amendments** to the Constitution allow the government to grow and change, too. For example, the Nineteenth **Amendment** gave women the **right** to vote. Many people, like Susan B. Anthony, fought for this **right** for many years. Today, women can vote because of this **amendment**. An **amendment** is a change to the Constitution.

Amendments: Number

How many amendments does the Constitution have?

USCIS #7

The Constitution has 27 **amendments**. **Amendments** are changes to the Constitution. Congress added the first ten **amendments** in 1791. They are called the **Bill of Rights**. Since then, the government added more **amendments**. The Twenty-seventh **Amendment** was added in 1992.

Bill of Rights

What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

USCIS #5

The first ten **amendments** to the Constitution are called the **Bill of Rights**. Members of the Constitutional Convention wrote the Constitution in 1787. The original Constitution did not **protect** individual **rights**. Soon after, in 1791, Congress added the first ten **amendments** to the Constitution. The first **amendment protects** the freedoms of **speech**, religion, and **assembly**. It also **protects** the freedom of the **press**, and freedom to **petition** the government. Other **amendments** in the **Bill of Rights protect** the **rights** to a fast and public court **trial**, the **right** to bear **arms**, and the **right** to fair police searches. The first ten **amendments** to the Constitution are called the **Bill of Rights**.

Presidency

The President

Who is in charge of the executive branch?

USCIS #15

The president is the leader of the executive branch. He or she **signs** and **enforces** laws. The president is the **commander in chief** of the **military**. The president **represents** the United States to other countries. He or she **signs treaties** with other countries. The president is in charge of the executive branch.

*The President: **Commander in Chief***

Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

USCIS #32

The president is the **commander in chief** of the **military**. The president is a **civilian**, not a **military** official. The writers of the Constitution wanted the **commander in chief** to be a **civilian** who is elected by the people. The president is the **commander in chief** of the **military**.

President: Signing Bills

Who signs bills to become laws?

USCIS #33

The president **signs bills** to become laws. A **bill** is a proposed law. Members of Congress write **bills** to address issues that are important to the American people. They vote on **bills**. If Congress accepts a **bill**, they send it to the president to be **signed**. If the president agrees with the **bill**, the president **signs** it. Then the **bill** becomes a law. The president **signs bills** to become laws.

President: Vetoing Bills

Who vetoes bills?

USCIS #34

The president vetoes **bills**. The president has the power to stop a **bill** from becoming a law. The president can refuse to **sign a bill** that Congress approved. This is called a veto. The **bill** is sent back to Congress without the president's **signature**. Congress can change the **bill** or vote again. If two-thirds of the House of **Representatives** and two-thirds of the Senate vote to **override** the veto, it becomes a law without the president's **signature**. The president vetoes **bills**.

The President Today

What is the name of the President of the United States now?

USCIS #28

The president of the United States is the leader of the executive branch. The president **enforces** the laws of the United States. What is the name of the President of the United States now?

Vice President

If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

USCIS #30

If the president can no longer **serve**, the vice president becomes the president. This has occurred nine times in American history. For example, on November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Texas. Ninety-nine minutes after President Kennedy's death, Vice President Lyndon Johnson was **sworn in** as president. If the president can no longer **serve**, the vice president becomes the president.

The Vice President Today

What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

USCIS #29

The vice president advises the president. If the president can no longer **serve**, the vice president becomes the president. The vice president is also the president of the U. S. Senate. He or she votes in the Senate when there is a **tie**. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

The Speaker of the House

If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

USCIS #31

The Speaker of the House is the leader of the House of **Representatives**. If both the president and the vice president can no longer **serve**, the Speaker of the House becomes the president of the United States. This has never occurred in American history.

President's Cabinet

What does the President's Cabinet do?

USCIS #35

The president's **cabinet advises** the president. The people in the **cabinet** are the vice president and the heads of 15 government departments. The president chooses the members of the **cabinet**. However, the Senate must approve each member. The **cabinet advises** the president.

Cabinet Positions

What are two Cabinet-level positions?

USCIS #36

Cabinet-level positions include the secretary of state and the secretary of labor. The secretary of state works with other countries around the world. This person manages the president's foreign policies. The secretary of labor manages working conditions, **wages**, and unemployment benefits. The secretary of labor **advises** the president on employment issues. **Cabinet**-level positions include the secretary of state and the secretary of labor.

Congress

Congress

Who makes federal laws?

USCIS #16

Congress makes **federal** laws. A **bill** is a proposed law. Members of Congress can introduce **bills**. They **debate** the **bill**. They make changes. Congress must agree to send the **bill** to the president. When the president **signs** the **bill**, it becomes a **federal** law. One example of a **federal** law is the Americans with Disabilities **Act**. The **act** orders workplaces to treat people with **mental disabilities** and **physical disabilities** fairly. In 1989 and 1990, Congress **debated** and voted for the **bill**. Then, President George H.W. Bush **signed** the **bill**. It became a law. Congress makes **federal** laws.

Two Parts of Congress

What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

USCIS #17

The two parts of the United States Congress are the Senate and the House of **Representatives**. **Citizens** from all over the United States are elected to the Senate and the House of **Representatives**. There are 100 members in the Senate. Every state elects two senators. Senators **represent** all the people in their state. They are elected for 6-year **terms**. The House of **Representatives** has 435 voting members. States with more people have more **representatives** in the House of **Representatives**. **Representatives represent a district**, or part, of each state. **Representatives** are elected for 2-year terms. The two parts of the United States Congress are the Senate and the House of **Representatives**.

Number of U.S. Senators

How many U.S. Senators are there?

USCIS #18

There are 100 U.S. senators. There are two senators from each state. All states have the same number of U.S. senators. Today there are 50 states, so there are 100 senators.

Senator Elections

We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

USCIS #19

We elect U.S. senators for six years. Senators can run for office as many times as they want. Their job is to **represent** all the people of their state in the Senate.

Your Senators

Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?

USCIS #20

Each state has two senators. Senators **represent** everyone in the state. There are 100 senators in all. Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?

Who Senators Represent

Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

USCIS #24

A U.S. senator **represents** all the people in a state. Each state has two senators. Every **citizen** who is over 18 and living in a state can vote for both senators from that state. The number of U.S. senators does not change if a state has more people or fewer people living in it. This way, every state has **equal representation** in the Senate. U.S. senators **represent** all the people of the state.

Number of Representatives

The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

USCIS #21

There are 435 voting members in the House of **Representatives**. Each state is divided into districts. Each **district** elects one **representative**. California is the state with the most people. It has more than 50 **representatives**. States with fewer people, like Alaska, have only one **representative**. In all, there are 435 voting members in the House of **Representatives**.

Representative Elections

We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?

USCIS #22

We elect a U.S. **representative** for two years. **Representatives** can **run for office** as many times as they want. Their job is to **represent** the people who live in their **district** in the House of **Representatives**.

Your U.S. Representative

Name your U.S. Representative.

USCIS #23

There are 435 voting members of the House of **Representatives**. Each member **represents** one **district**. Name your U.S. **Representative**.

Districts and Representatives

Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

USCIS #25

Some states have more **representatives** than other states because they have more people. We know how many people live in each state because of the **census**. Every ten years, the United States government counts the people of the United States in the **census**. The **census** results decide how many **representatives** come from each state. The state is divided into districts. Each **district** elects one representative. If the number of people in a state changes, the number of **representatives** might change. Some states have more **representatives** than other states because they have more people.

The Speaker of the House Today

What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

USCIS #47

The Speaker of the House of **Representatives** is the leader of the House of **Representatives**. He or she speaks for the majority party. If the president and vice president can no longer be in office, the Speaker of the House of **Representatives** becomes president. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of **Representatives** now?

Courts

Judicial Branch: Purpose

What does the judicial branch do?

USCIS #37

The judicial branch reviews laws and explains laws. It resolves disagreements. It also decides if a law is supported by the Constitution, or is **constitutional**. The Supreme Court and all other **federal** courts are part of the judicial branch. Some **federal** courts decide if someone **breaks the law**. Other **federal** courts resolve disagreements. Every law must follow the Constitution.

The Supreme Court

What is the highest court of the United States?

USCIS #38

The Supreme Court is the highest court of the United States. The Supreme Court decides if a law goes against the Constitution. All other courts must follow the decisions of the Supreme Court. One example is the **case** of Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas in 1954. The **case** was about racial **segregation** in schools. **Segregation** was a system that **separated** people based on race and ethnic group. The Supreme Court decided that **segregation** in schools was against the Constitution. All states had to follow the Supreme Court decision. **Segregation** in school became **illegal** in the United States. The Supreme Court is the highest court of the United States.

Supreme Court Justices

How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

USCIS #39

There are nine **justices** on the Supreme Court. The president **nominates** Supreme Court **justices**. The Senate votes to confirm them. Supreme Court **justices** have the job for life or until they decide to retire. There are nine **justices** on the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice Today

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

USCIS #40

The Chief **Justice** of the United States is the leader of the judicial branch. This person is one of nine **justices** of the Supreme Court. Who is the Chief **Justice** of the United States now?

Rights

Colonists: Purpose

What is one reason colonists came to America?

USCIS # 58

Colonists came to America because they wanted **political liberty**. They wanted religious freedom and **economic opportunity**. The United States is a country where individual **rights** and **self-government** are important. This has always been true.

Colonists first came to America for more freedom. Governments in Europe ruled the **colonies**. But the **colonists** were free to decide many things for themselves. Some **colonists** came to America for religious freedom. In Europe, the government punished people for practicing certain religions. In America, there was more freedom of religion.

Some **colonists** came to America for **political liberty**. One example of **political liberty** is the government in Plymouth **Colony** in Massachusetts. The men in the **colony** voted to elect a governor. Later, they elected **representatives** to their government.

Some **colonists** came to America for **economic opportunity**. In the **colonies**, people had more opportunities to trade goods and farm the land. America was a place where **colonists** were free to do things differently. It was an opportunity to have a better life.

Freedom of Religion

What is freedom of religion?

USCIS # 10

Freedom of religion is the ability to practice any religion, or not practice a religion. Freedom to practice different religions is part of American life. It is part of the First **Amendment** to the Constitution. Everyone living in the U.S. has religious freedom. They can choose to practice any religion, or not practice a religion.

Declaration of Independence: Rights

What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

USCIS #9

Leaders of the new American government wrote the Declaration of **Independence** in 1776. It told the world that American **colonists** were free from Great Britain. It said that all people were **created equal**. It said that the government should **protect citizens' rights** to life, **liberty**, and the **pursuit of happiness**. The **rights** in the Declaration of **Independence** are important in United States history. They are still important today. Americans continue to believe in the **right** to life, **liberty**, and the **pursuit of happiness**.

First Amendment

What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

USCIS #6

The First **Amendment** **protects** the **right** of **speech, assembly**, and **press**. It **protects** the **right** to **petition** the government and freedom of religion. **Democracy** works only if people can talk to each other and share their **opinions**. The First **Amendment** of the U.S. Constitution **protects** these **rights**.

The freedom of **speech**. You are free to think and speak as you want. The freedom to **peacefully assemble**. You are free to meet with other people in a **peaceful** way. You are free to **protest** for what you believe. The freedom of the **press**. You are free to write or share your opinions in newspapers, magazines, books. Also on the radio, TV shows and the Internet. You are free to **petition** the government. You have the **right** to ask the government to change or correct a problem. You have freedom of religion. All people who live in the United States have these **rights**, not just **citizens**.

Rights for Everyone

What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

USCIS #51

Individual freedoms, or **rights**, are **protected** in the United States. Many of these **rights** are for everyone. We all have the **right** to free expression and free **speech**. We are allowed to say what we think without fear of what the government will do. We have the **right** to freedom of **assembly**. We can meet **peacefully** with other people. We have the **right** to **petition** the government. We can ask the government to change or correct a problem. We have the **right** to practice religion as we choose. We have the right to practice no religion at all. This is freedom of religion. We also have the **right** to bear **arms**. With limits, we have the **right** to have weapons. These **rights** are for everyone living in the United States.

Rights for Citizens

Name one right only for United States citizens?

USCIS #50

Only United States **citizens** can vote in **federal elections** and run for **federal office**. **Citizens** make laws through elected **representatives**. Many naturalized **citizens** have been elected as U.S. senators and U.S. **representatives**. However, naturalized **citizens** cannot run for president.

Participating in Democracy

What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

USCIS #55

American **democracy** only works when people are active in the government. Our government has a **duty** to listen to **citizens' opinions** and take them seriously. Voting is one of the best ways for **citizens** to participate in their **democracy**. But it is not the only way. We can also call or write letters to government **representatives**. We can ask questions about the government or share our **opinion**. We can join a **civic group**, a community group, or help with an **election campaign**. We can write a letter to a newspaper. Sometimes the newspaper will print the letter for everyone to read. Or, we can choose to **run for office**.

Civil Rights Movement

What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

USCIS #84

The Civil **Rights** Movement tried to end **racial discrimination**. Most African Americans in the U.S. were **slaves** until the end of the Civil War in 1865. **Unfair treatment** of African Americans continued into the 1900s. In many places, African Americans were not allowed to vote. They had to go to **separate** schools, and use **separate** public spaces. In the 1950s and 1960s, people of all races worked for **equal rights** for all Americans. People gave **speeches**. They **organized peaceful marches** and **protests**. They **demanded** that the government change its laws and **protect the rights** of all Americans. The Civil Rights Movement tried to end **racial discrimination**.

Martin Luther King Jr.

What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

USCIS #85

Martin Luther King, Jr., fought for civil **rights** and worked for **equality** for all Americans. In some places, it was difficult for African Americans and other groups to vote in **elections**. One **citizen** who is famous for helping the government change is Martin Luther King Jr. Martin Luther King Jr. worked for **equality** for all Americans. He led thousands of men and women in **nonviolent protests**. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that **nonviolent protest** was more **powerful** than violence. The government passed the Civil **Rights Act** in 1964. The laws **protected** voting **rights** and ended **segregation**. On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was killed. Each year in January, we **celebrate** Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for civil **rights** and worked for **equality** for all Americans.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities for Citizens

What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

USCIS #49

United States citizens **vote** in **federal elections** and **serve** on juries. It is the **responsibility** of United States **citizens** to vote in **federal elections**. Voting is important. However, there is no law that says **citizens** must vote. It is also the **responsibility** of **citizens** to **serve** on a **jury** when they are asked. If a **citizen** gets a court letter to **serve** on a **jury**, the person must go. A **jury** is a group of **citizens** in a **courtroom** that listen to a **trial**. The **jury** decides the **outcome** of the **trial**. It is the **responsibility** of United States **citizens** to vote and **serve** on juries.

Citizenship Oath

What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

USCIS #53

An immigrant completes many **requirements** to become a U.S. **citizen**. The final step is to take an Oath of Allegiance. You **promise** to be **loyal** to the United States and give up **loyalty** to other countries. You **promise** to **defend** the Constitution and **obey** the laws of the United States. And you **promise** to **serve** the United States when the government needs your help.

Selective Service

When must all men register for the Selective Service?

USCIS #57

All men must **register** for the Selective Service between the ages of 18 and 26. When you **register**, you tell the government you can **serve** in the **military** if necessary. After you **register**, you may be selected to **serve**. Selective Service was used in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The government calls this the **draft**. The United States does not have a **draft** now. You do not have to **serve** in the **military** unless you want to. This Selective Service card was issued during World War II. All men must **register** for selective service between the ages of 18 and 26.

Federal Income Tax

When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

USCIS #56

April 15 is the last day you can send in **federal** income tax forms. The Constitution gives the **federal** government the power to collect taxes. Today, the United States uses taxes to pay for things the government does. Taxes pay for things like **national defense**, educational programs and

Social Security. April 15th is the last day we can send our **federal** income tax forms. We send them to the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS. The IRS is the **federal** government office that collects taxes.

Symbols and Holidays

American Flag: Stripes

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

USCIS #96

The United States flag has 13 stripes because there were 13 original **colonies**. Today, the United States is an **independent** country. Before that, it was 13 **separate colonies**. Great Britain governed the 13 **colonies**. The 13 **colonies** worked together to fight the British. They won the War of **Independence** in 1783. The **colonies** became an **independent** country, called the United States of America. The 13 original **colonies** became the first states. The flag has 13 stripes to **represent** the 13 original **colonies**.

American Flag: Stars

Why does the flag have 50 stars?

USCIS #97

The United States flag has 50 stars because there is one star for each state. After **independence** from Great Britain, the United States had 13 states. Then, the United States grew. Many immigrants came from around the world. The country grew bigger. The borders expanded. New states formed. A star was added to the flag for each new state. Today we have 50 states, so the flag has 50 stars.

National Anthem

What is the name of the national anthem?

USCIS #98

“The Star-Spangled Banner” is the name of our national **anthem**. The song is about the United States flag. In the War of 1812, the United States fought the British. One night of the war, British ships attacked Fort McHenry in Baltimore. Bombs like this one **exploded** all night. An American man named Francis Scott Key watched the **battle** from a boat. He worried that the United States might lose the **battle**. The next morning, he saw the United States’ flag flying in the wind. He knew that the United States won the **battle**. This is the flag that he saw. Then he wrote the words to “The Star-Spangled Banner.” “The Star-Spangled Banner” is now the national **anthem** of the United States.

Pledge of Allegiance

What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

USCIS #52

The Pledge of Allegiance is a **promise** to be **loyal** to the United States. “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with **liberty** and **justice** for all.” We show **loyalty** to the United States when we say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Statue of Liberty

Where is the Statue of Liberty?

USCIS #95

The **Statue of Liberty** is on an island in New York Harbor. In 1886, France gave the **statue** to the United States. Many immigrants came by boat to New York. The **Statue of Liberty** was the first **symbol** of the United States they saw. The **statue represents liberty**. The **statue** is a famous **symbol** of hope. It is a **symbol** of starting a new life in the United States. The **Statue of Liberty** is in New York Harbor.

Independence Day

When do we celebrate Independence Day?

USCIS #99

We **celebrate Independence** Day on July 4. **Representatives** from the **colonies signed** the Declaration of **Independence** on July 4, 1776. This is the day the United States declared **independence** from Great Britain. On July 4, Americans **celebrate** in many different ways. We have **parades, picnics** and watch **fireworks**. We **celebrate Independence** Day every year on July 4.

National Holidays

Name two national U.S. Holidays.

USCIS #100

National holidays **honor** special events and important people in American history. Some holidays **honor** individuals. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we **honor** a man who worked for **equality** for all Americans. Columbus Day **commemorates** the day Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas. Some holidays **honor** groups of people. Memorial Day and Veterans Day **honor** people who served in the **military** and fought in wars. On Labor Day, we **celebrate** American workers. On Presidents' Day, we **honor** the work of American presidents. On Thanksgiving and **Independence** Day we remember important events in United States history. Christmas and New Year's Day are national holidays in the winter season. There are also other holidays during this time. These are the national U.S. holidays.

Voting

Voting Age

How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

USCIS #54

Citizens have to be 18 or older to vote for president. In 1971, government leaders added the Twenty-sixth **Amendment** to the Constitution. They added this **amendment** because young people **demanded** the **right** to vote. The **amendment** changed the **minimum** voting age in the United States to 18. Now all **citizens** who are 18 years and older can vote for president.

Amendments about Voting

There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

USCIS #48

The United States added four **amendments** to the Constitution about who can vote. Government leaders added the Fifteenth **Amendment** in 1870. It says that a male **citizen** of any race can vote. The Nineteenth **Amendment** says that any **citizen**, including women, can vote. Government leaders added the Twenty-fourth **Amendment** to the Constitution in 1964. It made **poll taxes illegal**. **Poll taxes** were taxes that **citizens** had to pay to vote. **Poll taxes** were used to stop some people, especially African Americans, from voting. The Twenty-sixth **Amendment** was added in 1971. It says that all **citizens** who are 18 years old and older can vote. There are four **amendments** to the constitution about who can vote. The Fifteenth **Amendment** says a male **citizen** of any race can vote. The Nineteenth **Amendment** says both women and men can vote. The Twenty-fourth **Amendment** says no one has to pay to vote. And the Twenty-sixth **Amendment** says **citizens** 18 and older can vote.

Susan B. Anthony

What did Susan B. Anthony do?

USCIS #77

Susan B. Anthony was an important leader in the women's **rights** movement. She fought for women's **rights** and for civil **rights**. She gave **speeches** to support women's **rights**, especially the **right** to vote. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony tried to vote and had to go to jail. Susan B. Anthony died in 1906. Women still did not have the **right** to vote all over the United States. Other people fought for women's **rights**. In 1920, the Nineteenth **Amendment** was added to the Constitution. It gave women the **right** to vote. Susan B. Anthony is an important leader in American history. She fought for women's **rights** and civil **rights**.

Political Parties

What are the two major political parties in the United States?

USCIS #45

The Democratic Party and the Republican Party are the two major political parties in the U.S. Political parties are groups of people who **organize** to help **candidates** win **elections** and to **create** public policies. Today, there are two major political parties in the United States. They are the Democrats and the Republicans. A donkey **represents** the Democrats. An elephant **represents** the Republicans. Party membership is voluntary. Many people belong to a political party.

Presidential Elections

We elect a President for how many years?

USCIS #26

We elect a president for a 4-year term. These are buttons from **elections** starting in 1976. They count every four years. 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000. A **candidate** can run for president as many times as he or she wants. The person can only be elected president for eight years, or two **terms** of four years each. The Constitution says how many **terms** a president can **serve**. For example, President Dwight D. Eisenhower became president for the first time in 1953. Then he ran for president again. He won the **election** and, in 1957, was president for another four years. We elect a president for four years.

Presidential Election Month

In what month do we vote for President?

USCIS #27

We vote for the president in November. In 1845, Congress decided that November was the perfect month to have **elections**. At that time, most American **citizens** lived on farms. By November, farmers had finished harvesting their crops. They could leave the farm to vote. Also, November was not as cold as the winter months. Bad weather would not stop people from voting.

The President's Political Party

What is the political party of the President now?

USCIS #46

Today, there are two major political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. The political party of the president might change in each **election**. What is the political party of the president now?

Establishing Independence

War of Independence

Why did the colonists fight the British?

USCIS #61

The **colonists** fought the British because they wanted to be free from Britain. They fought the British because of **unfair** taxes. They fought because they didn't have **self-government**. When the American **colonies** formed, they were part of Britain. Britain increased taxes for **colonists** on things they bought and used every day, like tea. Many **colonists** were angry because no one **represented** their needs in the British government. **Colonists** believed they did not have **self-government**. The British **forced colonists** to allow British soldiers to sleep and eat in their homes. The **colonists** joined together to fight Britain and gain **independence**. They fought the War of **Independence** from 1775 to 1783. The **colonies** won the war. They **created** the United States.

Declaration of Independence: Purpose

What did the Declaration of Independence do?

USCIS #8

The Declaration of **Independence** announced the United States' **independence** from Britain. The **colonies** adopted the Declaration of **Independence** on July 4, 1776. It said the British government did not respect the **rights** of the **colonists**. It said that a good government must **protect** the **rights** of the people. **Colonists** read the Declaration in town squares and on **battlegrounds**. The **colonists** fought and won the War of **Independence**. The Declaration of **Independence** said that the United States was free from Britain.

Declaration of Independence: Writer

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

USCIS #62

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of **Independence**. Thomas Jefferson was an important political leader and thinker. He wanted to **create** a government for the United States that **protected** individual **rights**. Thomas Jefferson wrote that the United States was free from Britain. He wrote that all men are **created equal**. He wrote that everyone has the **right** to life, **liberty**, and the **pursuit of happiness**. He wrote the Declaration of **Independence** on this desk. The ideas in the Declaration helped shape the American government. These ideas are still important today.

Declaration of Independence: Date

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

USCIS #63

On July 4, 1776, the **colonists adopted** the Declaration of **Independence**. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of **Independence**. It said the **colonies** were free from Great Britain. **Representatives** from the 13 **colonies signed** the Declaration. July 4, 1776, is a special date in American history. It is the day that the United States became an **independent** country, **separate** from Britain.

Independence Day

When do we celebrate Independence Day?

USCIS #99

We **celebrate Independence** Day on July 4. **Representatives** from the **colonies signed** the Declaration of **Independence** on July 4, 1776. This is the day the United States declared **independence** from Great Britain. On July 4, Americans **celebrate** in many different ways. We have **parades, picnics** and watch **fireworks**. We **celebrate Independence** Day every year on July 4.

Declaration of Independence: Rights

What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

USCIS #9

Leaders of the new American government wrote the Declaration of **Independence** in 1776. It told the world that American **colonists** were free from Great Britain. It said that all people were **created equal**. It said that the government should **protect citizens' rights** to life, **liberty**, and the **pursuit of happiness**. The **rights** in the Declaration of **Independence** are important in United States history. They are still important today. Americans continue to believe in the **right** to life, **liberty**, and the **pursuit of happiness**.

George Washington: First President

Who was the first President?

USCIS #70

George Washington was the first president of the United States. He was president from 1789 to 1797. Before he became president, George Washington was the **general** of the American army. George Washington decided to stop being president after two 4-year **terms**. Today, we follow his example. No one can be the president for more than two 4-year **terms**. George Washington was the first president of the United States.

George Washington: Father of Our Country

Who is the "Father of Our Country"?

USCIS #69

George Washington is called the "Father of Our Country." He was the **general** of the American army during the War of **Independence**. He was the first president of the United States. He became a **symbol** for the new government. His image is on the one-dollar **bill**. Many places are named for George Washington.

The capital of the United States is named Washington, D.C. One of the 50 states is named Washington. George Washington is the "Father of Our Country."

1800s

Wars in the 1800s

Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

USCIS #72

The United States fought four wars in the 1800s: the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War. The United States fought Mexico in the Mexican-American War from 1846 to 1848. The United States wanted to **expand** west. In 1846, the government of the United States decided it wanted land that belonged to Mexico. Many **citizens** of the United States and Mexico lived on that land. The United States won the war. The land that was once part of Mexico became part of the United States. That land now forms the states of California, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. The United States fought the Mexican-American War in the 1800s. The United States also fought the War of 1812, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War.

Slavery

What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

USCIS #60

Millions of Africans were taken to America and sold as **slaves**. For hundreds of years, **slave** owners treated **slaves** like property. **Slaves** had no **rights**. People in the United States did not agree about **slavery**. This led to the Civil War. In 1865, after the Civil War was over, **slavery** was **illegal**. **Enslaved** people became free **citizens**. Africans were taken to America and sold as **slaves**.

The Louisiana Territory

What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

USCIS #71

The United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. After the U.S. gained **independence**, many Americans believed that the country should **expand**. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. This land **doubled** the size of the United States. American Indians and European **settlers** lived on this land. After the United States bought the Louisiana Territory, many more **settlers** moved west.

The Civil War: Causes

Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

USCIS #74

Disagreements over **slavery** and other issues led to the Civil War. Some people believed **slavery** should be **illegal**. Other people did not. When the Civil War started in 1861, **enslaved** African Americans worked on farms and in cities. Many people in the South believed their economy and daily life needed **slaves**. Many people in the North wanted to stop **slavery**. The South fought the Civil War because they wanted states' **rights** to keep **slavery** legal. The North won the war in 1865. **Slavery** became **illegal** in all states. **Slavery**, economic reasons, and states' **rights** were problems that led to the Civil War.

The Civil War

Name the war between the North and the South.

USCIS #73

The war between the states in the North and the states in the South is called the Civil War. The Civil War started in 1861. It ended in 1865. Southern states disagreed with the North over **slavery** and other issues. They did not want to be part of the United States. They formed their own country called the Confederate States of America, or the Confederacy. States in the North wanted to keep the United States together. They were the Union. The North won the war. The Confederacy became part of the United States again. The war between the North and the South is called the Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln

What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

USCIS #75

President Abraham Lincoln led the United States during the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln was president from 1861 to 1865. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This document **freed** the **slaves** in the Southern states. Lincoln worked to keep the country together. He stopped the states in the South from separating the United States. People say he saved the Union. Soon after the war ended in 1865, a supporter of the South shot and killed Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln **freed** the **slaves** in the Southern states. He saved the Union and led the United States during the Civil War.

Emancipation Proclamation

What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

USCIS #76

The Emancipation Proclamation **freed** the **slaves**. Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, during the Civil War. It said that **slaves** in the Southern states were free. **Slaves** could then join the United States Army. 185,000 African Americans fought in the Civil War. They fought for the Union and for freedom. The Emancipation Proclamation **freed** the **slaves**.

Susan B. Anthony

What did Susan B. Anthony do?

USCIS #77

Susan B. Anthony was an important leader in the women's **rights** movement. She fought for women's **rights** and for civil **rights**. She gave **speeches** to support women's **rights**, especially the **right** to vote. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony tried to vote and had to go to jail. Susan B. Anthony died in 1906. Women still did not have the **right** to vote all over the United States. Other people fought for women's **rights**. In 1920, the Nineteenth **Amendment** was added to the Constitution. It gave women the **right** to vote. Susan B. Anthony is an important leader in American history. She fought for women's **rights** and civil **rights**.

1900s

Wars in the 1900s

Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s

USCIS #78

The United States fought five wars in the 1900s: World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War.

In 1917, 2 million American soldiers went to France to help end World War I. The United States joined France, Britain, and Russia in a war against Germany and Austria-Hungary. The war ended in 1918.

In 1941, the United States entered World War II. The United States joined Britain, the Soviet Union and other **allies** against Germany, Italy, and Japan. This war ended in 1945.

The United States fought the Korean War in 1950. The United States and its **allies** wanted to stop North Korean **communists** from invading South Korea. The war ended in 1953. Korea divided into two countries, North Korea and South Korea.

The Vietnam War began in 1955. The American **military** started to fight in 1959. The United States wanted to stop **communism** in Vietnam. United States' soldiers left Vietnam in 1973. Vietnam soon became a **communist** country.

The United States fought the Gulf War in 1991. Iraq invaded its neighboring country, Kuwait. The United States and its **allies** fought Iraq's armies. Iraq's armies left Kuwait just a few months after the war began.

The United States fought five wars in the 1900s: World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War.

Woodrow Wilson

Who was President during World War I?

USCIS #79

Woodrow Wilson was the president during World War I. The war started in 1914. Many countries in Europe and other places fought each other during World War I. Woodrow Wilson and others in the United States did not want to enter World War I. But in 1917, German submarines attacked American ships. Woodrow Wilson decided the United States had to fight in the war. Congress agreed and declared war. Woodrow Wilson was the president during World War I.

Franklin Roosevelt

Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?

USCIS #80

Franklin Roosevelt was president of the United States during the Great Depression and World War II. Franklin Roosevelt became president in 1933. The United States economy was weak. Banks failed. Many people did not have jobs. Franklin Roosevelt tried to fix the economy. He made rules for banks and the **stock market**. He started programs to **create** jobs and help workers across the country. The United States joined World War II in 1941. Americans joined Britain and the Soviet Union to fight against Germany, Italy, and Japan. Franklin Roosevelt was the president until 1945. Roosevelt led America through the challenges of the Great Depression and World War II.

World War II: Enemies

Who did the United States fight in World War II?

USCIS #81

The United States fought Germany, Italy, and Japan in World War II. The United States entered World War II because Japan **bombed** the U.S. at Pearl Harbor in 1941. Japan was an **ally** of Germany and Italy. Together they formed the "Axis powers." The United States and its **allies** won the war in 1945 against Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

USCIS #82

President Dwight D. Eisenhower was a **general** in World War II. He led the United States army and its **allies** in western Europe during World War II. When he came home from World War II, he was a famous war hero. He became president in 1952. Eisenhower was a **general** in World War II before he was president.

The Cold War

During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

USCIS #83

The United States' main concern during the Cold War was **communism**. The Cold War was not a traditional war. It was "cold" because the U.S. and the Soviet Union did not fight each other directly. The Cold War began after World War II ended in 1945. The Soviet Union was a **communist** country. **Communism** is an economic system where most property belongs to the government. The United States had a **capitalist** economy, where property usually belongs to individuals. The United States and the Soviet Union competed for world power. Leaders of both countries worried that the other would use the atomic bomb to turn the Cold War into a real war. This never happened. The Cold War ended in 1991 when the Soviet Union divided into many smaller countries. The United States' main concern during the Cold War was **communism**.

Civil Rights Movement

What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

USCIS #84

The civil **rights** movement tried to end **racial discrimination**. Most African Americans in the U.S. were **slaves** until the end of the Civil War in 1865. **Unfair treatment** of African Americans continued into the 1900s. In many places, African Americans were not allowed to vote. They had to go to **separate** schools, and use **separate** public spaces. In the 1950s and 1960s, people of all races worked for **equal rights** for all Americans. People gave **speeches**. They **organized peaceful marches** and **protests**. They **demanded** that the government change its laws and **protect** the **rights** of all Americans. The civil **rights** movement tried to end **racial discrimination**.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

USCIS #85

Martin Luther King Jr. fought for civil **rights** and worked for **equality** for all Americans. In some places, it was difficult for African Americans and other groups to vote in **elections**. One **citizen** who is famous for helping the government change is Martin Luther King Jr. Martin Luther King Jr. worked for **equality** for all Americans. He led thousands of men and women in **nonviolent protests**. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that **nonviolent protest** was more **powerful** than violence. The government passed the Civil **Rights Act** in 1964. The laws **protected** voting **rights** and ended **segregation**. On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was killed. Each year in January, we **celebrate** Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for civil **rights** and worked for **equality** for all Americans.

September 11, 2001

What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

USCIS #86

On September 11, 2001, **terrorists** attacked the United States. **Terrorists captured** four American passenger airplanes. They used the planes as weapons. Two planes hit the World Trade Center in New York City. One plane hit the Pentagon, a government building in Virginia. The last plane crashed in Pennsylvania. The attacks killed almost 3,000 people. After the **terrorist** attacks on September 11, 2001, the U.S. began the war on **terrorism**.

A Growing Nation

American Indians

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

USCIS #59

American Indians lived in America before the Europeans arrived. There were, and still are, many nations and **tribes** of American Indians. Each **tribe** has different religions, customs, and languages. Europeans arrived in America in the 1500s and later. Life changed for the American Indians who met the Europeans. **Colonial settlers** spread disease to American Indians. **Settlers** fought American Indians and took their land. American Indians reacted in different ways to the Europeans. Some American Indians helped them. Some tribes signed treaties that gave land to the Europeans. Other **tribes** fought against Europeans in wars over land. American Indians lived in America before the Europeans arrived.

American Indian Tribes

Name one American Indian Tribe in the United States.

USCIS #87

There are hundreds of American Indian **tribes** in the United States today.

The Cherokee is a large American Indian **tribe**. Cherokees are originally from the southeastern part of the United States. Some still live there today. In 1838 and 1839, the United States government **forced** many Cherokee people to move to reservations, or small plots of land, in Oklahoma.

The Iroquois was a large Indian nation near the border with Canada. Some still live there today. Growing corn is a central part of Iroquois culture. They use corn for many things.

The Pueblo people are from the southwestern part of the country. They live where there is little water.

Three American Indian **tribes** in the United States are Cherokee, Iroquois, and Pueblo.

Colonists: Purpose

What is one reason colonists came to America?

USCIS # 58

Colonists came to America because they wanted **political liberty**. They wanted religious freedom and **economic opportunity**. The United States is a country where individual **rights** and **self-government** are important. This has always been true.

Colonists first came to America for more freedom. Governments in Europe ruled the **colonies**. But the **colonists** were free to decide many things for themselves. Some **colonists** came to America for religious freedom. In Europe, the government punished people for practicing certain religions. In America, there was more freedom of religion.

Some **colonists** came to America for **political liberty**. One example of **political liberty** is the government in Plymouth **Colony** in Massachusetts. The men in the **colony** voted to elect a governor. Later, they elected **representatives** to their government.

Some **colonists** came to America for **economic opportunity**. In the **colonies**, people had more opportunities to trade goods and farm the land. America was a place where **colonists** were free to do things differently. It was an opportunity to have a better life.

Original States

There were 13 original states. Name three.

USCIS #64

The 13 original states were New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The 13 original states were the first 13 British **colonies**. British **colonists** traveled across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe. They came to the East Coast of the United States. They founded **colonies** there.

Massachusetts is an original state. In 1620, British **colonists** landed in Massachusetts. These **colonists** wanted freedom to practice their religion.

Virginia is an original state. British **colonists** founded Virginia in 1607. **Colonists** in Virginia grew tobacco on large farms.

New York is an original state. The area that is now New York used to be called New Amsterdam. It became the British **colony** of New York in 1664.

Massachusetts, Virginia, and New York are three of the 13 original states.

Slavery

What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

USCIS #60

Millions of Africans were taken to America and sold as **slaves**. For hundreds of years, **slave** owners treated **slaves** like property. **Slaves** had no **rights**. People in the United States did not agree about **slavery**. This led to the Civil War. In 1865, after the Civil War was over, **slavery** was **illegal**. **Enslaved** people became free **citizens**. Africans were taken to America and sold as **slaves**.

The Louisiana Territory

What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

USCIS #71

The United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. After the U.S. gained **independence**, many Americans believed that the country should **expand**. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. This land **doubled** the size of the United States. American Indians and European **settlers** lived on this land. After the United States bought the Louisiana Territory, many more **settlers** moved west.

Wars in the 1800s

Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

USCIS #72

The United States fought four wars in the 1800s: the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War. The United States fought Mexico in the Mexican-American War from 1846 to 1848. The United States wanted to **expand** west. In 1846, the government of the United States decided it wanted land that belonged to Mexico. Many **citizens** of the United States and Mexico lived on that land. The United States won the war. The land that was once part of Mexico became part of the United States. That land now forms the states of California, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. The United States fought the Mexican-American War in the 1800s. The United States also fought the War of 1812, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War.

Statue of Liberty

Where is the Statue of Liberty?

USCIS #95

The **Statue of Liberty** is on an island in New York Harbor. In 1886, France gave the **statue** to the United States. Many immigrants came by boat to New York. The **Statue of Liberty** was the first **symbol** of the United States they saw. The **statue represents liberty**. The **statue** is a famous **symbol** of hope. It is a **symbol** of starting a new life in the United States. The **Statue of Liberty** is in New York Harbor.

Famous Citizens

Benjamin Franklin

What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

USCIS #68

Benjamin Franklin was a famous American. He lived from 1706 to 1790. Benjamin Franklin was an **inventor**. He **invented** many things that we use today. He **invented** bifocal eyeglasses. He **invented** the Franklin stove. Franklin was the writer of Poor Richard's Almanac. It was a book with information about the weather and other topics. Franklin became the first **postmaster general** of the United States in 1775. He **created** the postal, or mail, system in the United States. Also, he started the first free libraries. Later, he was a U.S. **diplomat**. He was the oldest member at the **Constitutional** Convention. Benjamin Franklin was famous for many reasons.

Declaration of Independence: Writer

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

USCIS #62

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of **Independence**. Thomas Jefferson was an important political leader and thinker. He wanted to **create** a government for the United States that **protected** individual **rights**. Thomas Jefferson wrote that the United States was free from Britain. He wrote that all men are **created equal**. He wrote that everyone has the **right** to life, **liberty**, and **the pursuit of happiness**. He wrote the Declaration of **Independence** on this desk. The ideas in the Declaration helped shape the American government. These ideas are still important today.

George Washington: Father of Our Country

Who is the "Father of Our Country"?

USCIS #69

George Washington is called the "Father of Our Country." He was the **general** of the American army during the War of **Independence**. He was the first president of the United States. He became a **symbol** for the new government. His image is on the one-dollar bill. Many places are named for George Washington. The capital of the United States is named Washington, D.C. One of the 50 states is named Washington. George Washington is the "Father of Our Country."

George Washington: First President

Who was the first President?

USCIS #70

George Washington was the first president of the United States. He was president from 1789 to 1797. Before he became president, George Washington was the **general** of the American army. George Washington decided to stop being president after two 4-year **terms**. Today, we follow his example. No one can be the president for more than two 4-year **terms**. George Washington was the first president of the United States.

Federalist Papers

The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

USCIS# 67

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay wrote the Federalist Papers. The U.S. Constitution was written at the **Constitutional** Convention in 1787. People at the **Constitutional** Convention decided how the government should work. Then James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay wrote the Federalist Papers. The Federalist Papers explained the new government. They said that the new United States needed the Constitution. Newspapers all over the United States published the Federalist Papers.

Abraham Lincoln

What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

USCIS #75

President Abraham Lincoln led the United States during the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln was president from 1861 to 1865. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This document **freed** the **slaves** in the Southern states. Lincoln worked to keep the country together. He stopped the states in the South from **separating** the United States. People say he saved the Union. Soon after the war ended in 1865, a supporter of the South shot and killed Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln **freed** the **slaves** in the Southern states. He saved the Union and led the United States during the Civil War.

Susan B. Anthony

What did Susan B. Anthony do?

USCIS #77

Susan B. Anthony was an important leader in the women's **rights** movement. She fought for women's **rights** and for civil **rights**. She gave **speeches** to support women's **rights**, especially the **right** to vote. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony tried to vote and had to go to jail. Susan B. Anthony died in 1906. Women still did not have the **right** to vote all over the United States. Other people fought for women's **rights**. In 1920, the Nineteenth **Amendment** was added to the Constitution. It gave women the **right** to vote. Susan B. Anthony is an important leader in American history. She fought for women's **rights** and civil **rights**.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Geography

Longest Rivers

Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

USCIS #88

The two longest rivers in the United States are the Mississippi River and the Missouri River. The Mississippi River runs through ten U.S. states. It starts in Minnesota near the border we share with Canada. It ends in Louisiana. The Missouri River starts in Montana. It joins the Mississippi River in the state of Missouri. The rivers have always been important to people living in the United States. American Indians used the rivers for trade, food and water. People still use the rivers to transport products. They are an important source of water. The two longest rivers in the United States are the Mississippi River and the Missouri River.

Pacific Ocean

What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

USCIS # 89

The Pacific Ocean is on the West Coast of the United States. The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean in the world. It reaches from the West Coast of the United States to Asia and Australia. The states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii border the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Ocean is on the West Coast of the United States.

Atlantic Ocean

What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

USCIS #90

The Atlantic Ocean is on the East Coast of the United States. The Atlantic Ocean reaches from the East Coast of the United States to Europe and Africa. The 13 original **colonies** bordered the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic Ocean is on the East Coast of the United States.

U.S. Territories

Name one U.S. territory.

USCIS #91

There are five major U.S. territories: Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. A territory is a part of the United States that is not a state. Territories have their own local governments. They also must follow the laws of the U.S. **federal** government.

Border with Canada

Name one state that borders Canada.

USCIS #92

There are 13 states that border Canada: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Alaska. Canada is the country to the north of the United States. The U.S. border with Canada changed many times in American history. But it has not changed since 1846. There are 13 states that border Canada.

Border with Mexico

Name one state that borders Mexico.

USCIS #93

There are four states that border Mexico: California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Mexico is the country to the south of the United States. All of the states that now border Mexico were once part of Mexico. The states on the border share some of their culture with Mexico. Those states are California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

U.S. Capital

What is the capital of the United States?

USCIS #94

Washington, D.C., is the capital of the United States. In 1800, the **federal** government moved to Washington, D.C. D.C. stands for **District** of Columbia. Senators and **representatives** meet at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., to make laws. The president lives and works at the White House in Washington, D.C. Supreme Court judges make decisions at the Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. Washington, D.C., is the capital of the United States.

Your State Capital

What is the capital of your state?

USCIS #44

Each state or territory has its own capital. The state capital is where the state government is located. This is where state **legislatures** make state laws. Governors usually live in the state's capital city. What is the capital of your state?