

9.1

American Citizenship



As a Young Political Scientist, I will be able to...

- Describe how people become American citizens by birth and by naturalization.
- Explain how an American can lose his or her citizenship.
- Illustrate how the United States is a nation of immigrants.
- Compare and contrast the status of undocumented aliens and legal immigrants

What is Citizenship?

Citizen- One who owes allegiance to the U.S. & is entitled to both its protection & privileges of its laws

The assumption used to be if you were a citizen of a state, you were an American Citizen

This was challenged, however, with the Civil War and the adoption of the 14th Amendment

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, golden tones.

Natural Born Citizens

About 90% of the country are people born within its borders

Jus soli- the law of the soil, citizenship is determined by the place of birth

The 14th Amendment protects this & Native Americans were “recognized” in 1924

Jus Sanguinis- The law of the blood, citizenship at birth may be determined by whom one is born

Naturalized Citizens

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, muted tones.

Naturalization- The legal process by which a person can become citizen of another country

Alien- citizen of a foreign state who lives in this country

Homeland security will analyze alien status for an individual

Sometimes groups have been allowed en mass, such as a territory taken over by United States

The background of the slide is a close-up, artistic rendering of the American flag. The stars in the upper left are sharp and bright, while the stripes in the lower right are blurred and flowing, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Lost It!

Expatriation- the legal process by which a loss of citizenship occurs

This cannot be automatic due to the constitution

Denaturalization- Legal process to take away citizenship when it was gained by fraud or deception

Marriage does not guarantee it, but will speed up the process of naturalization

Immigration Policies

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, muted tones.

Congress has the exclusive power to regulate the crossing of the nations borders

Immigration is allowed as long as industry expands & work is plentiful in early days

Eventually quota systems were implemented to curb immigration. Only select few

Deportation- Legal process by which aliens are legally required to leave the country

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, golden tones.

Reasons for Deportation*

Illegal Entry into the United States

Conviction of a serious crime. State or federal.

Criminal records of individuals.

It is a civil issue, not criminal, so constitutional guarantees don't matter

Government Policies

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We do not have an exact number of undocumented aliens in the U.S.

About half of illegal immigrants are from Mexico.

Many illegal immigrants move to bigger cities as its harder to locate them

Illegal immigrants will often work for substandard wages & conditions as employers don't want people to know they are working

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Immigration Reform

Problems with immigration divide many different interests in the United States.

Law in 1986 said they had 1 year to become legal & those that hire illegal immigrants can be fined

Immigration reform is still one of the nation's top concerns that is disputed today

The background of the entire image is a close-up, artistic rendering of the American flag. It features a field of white stars on a blue background in the upper left, and broad, wavy stripes of red and white in the lower right. The colors are slightly muted and the texture appears soft, like a painting or a high-quality photograph.

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The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the stars appearing in the upper left and the stripes flowing across the rest of the frame. The colors are somewhat muted, with a soft, painterly quality.

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