

21st Century Citizen



Read and Respond

1. What is a citizen?
2. What is the difference between a natural-born citizen and a naturalized citizen?
3. What are some of the rights and responsibilities that belong to U.S. citizens?
4. Does it matter if a citizen votes? Why?
5. Make a list of rights and responsibilities that you think all world citizens should have.
6. Design signs to post around your classroom or school that encourage other students to become better citizens.

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Image Credits: front cover, p1 (top right) sadikgulec/iStock; pp.2–3, p.9 (top), pp.10–11 Joseph Sohm/Shutterstock; p.7 (left) Kyodo/Newscom; p.8 Library of Congress [LC-DIG-hec-29676]; p.11 (right) LOC [LC-USZ62-60242]; p.12 LOC [LC-DIG-ds-07107]; p.13 (left) U.S. National Archives; p.13 (right) courtesy Arthur Wiknik, Jr.; p.14 (top) LOC [LC-USZC4-9904]; p.14 (bottom) Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives; p.15 Helioscribe/Shutterstock; pp.16–17 LOC [LC-DIG-highsm-31214]; p.17 (top) Everett Historical/Shutterstock; pp.18–19 Rob Crandall/Shutterstock; p.20 (middle) LOC [LC-USZ62-97864]; p.21 (left) Carl Iwasaki/The LIFE Images Collection/Getty Images; p.27 (left) Education & Exploration 4/Alamy; p.32 (left) Ben Gingell/Shutterstock; all other images from iStock and/or Shutterstock.

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TCM | Teacher
Created
Materials

5301 Oceanus Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030
www.tcmpub.com

ISBN 978-1-0876-3159-2

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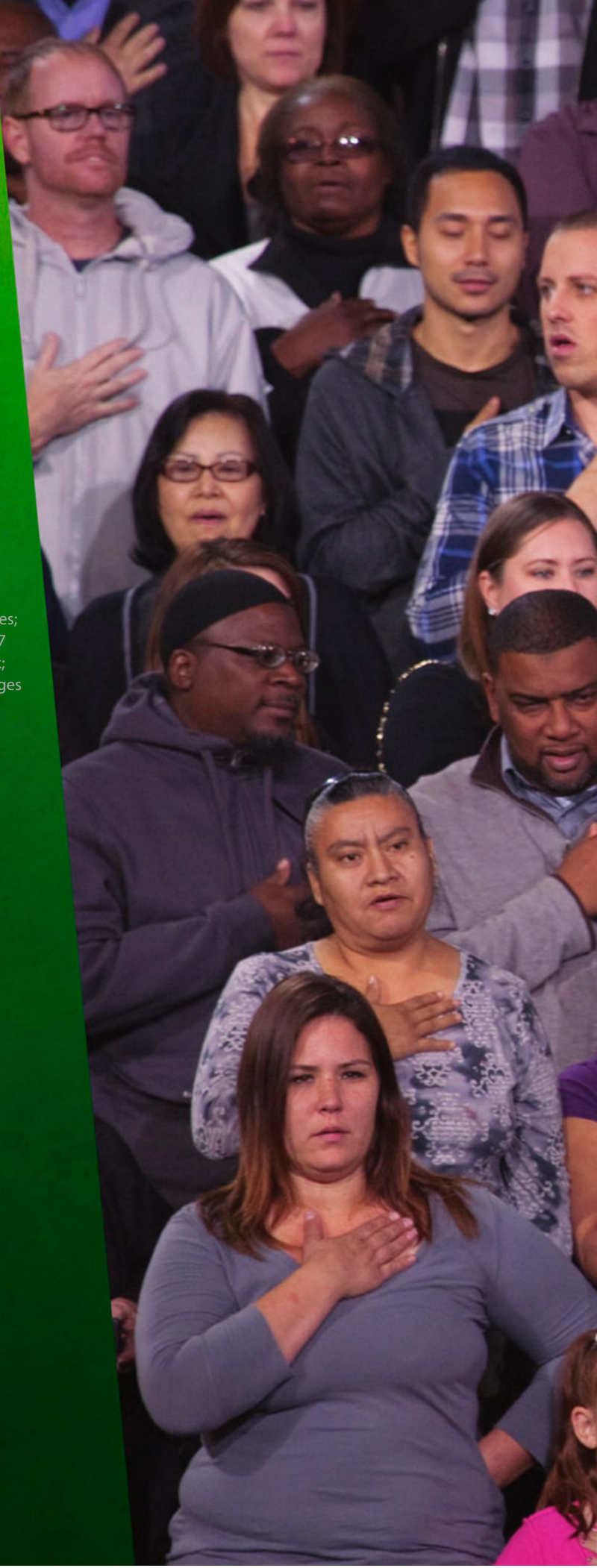




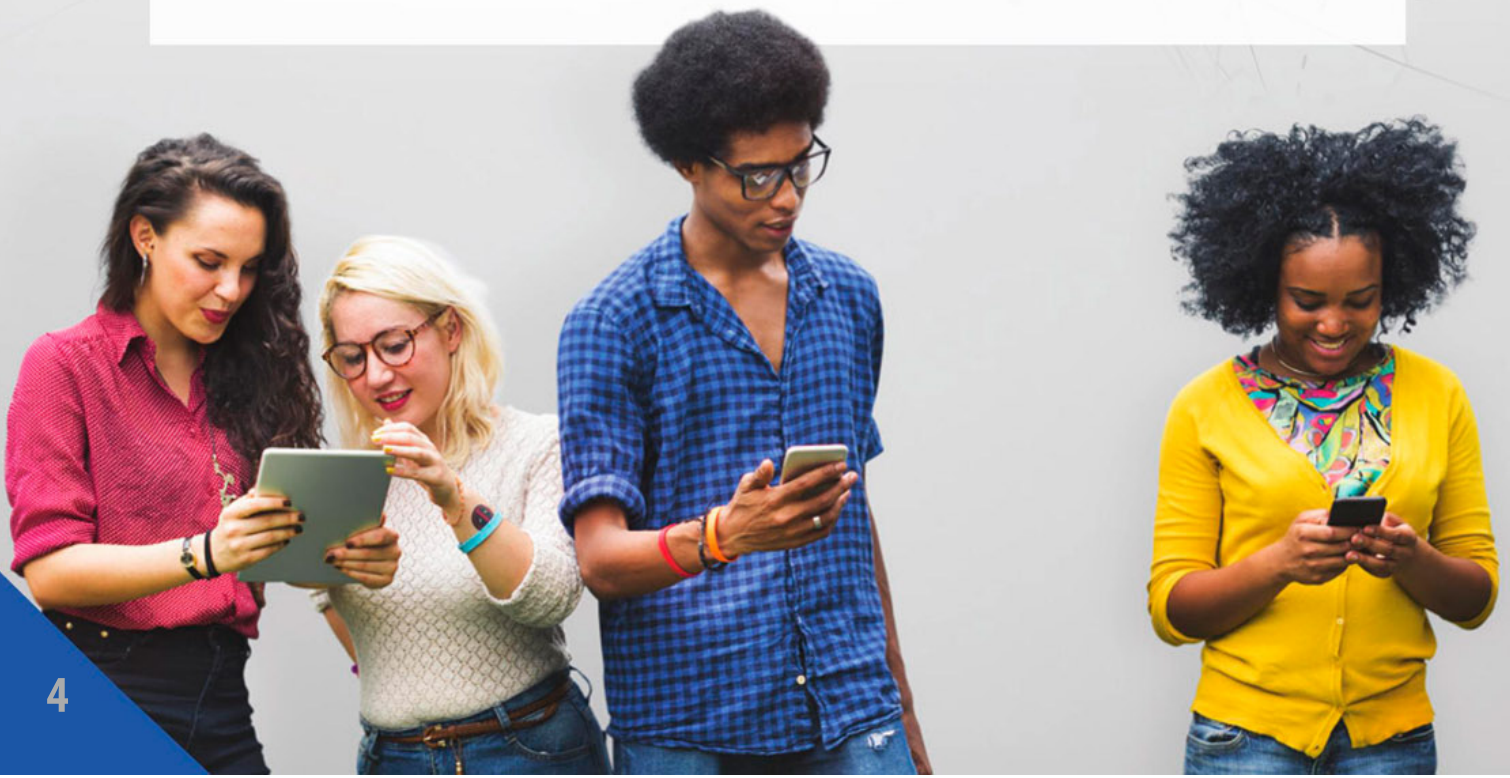
Table of Contents

Small World	4
What It Means to Be a Citizen	6
U.S. Citizen	10
Community Citizen	18
World Citizen	24
Connect It!	28
Glossary	30
Index	31
Your Turn!	32

Small World

The population of the world is nearing eight billion people. They live across nearly forty billion acres of land. Those are huge numbers. In fact, they are much bigger than most people can easily understand. Yet, all those people across all that land still live within a moment of one another. Technology today breaks down all barriers and distance. As massive as the world is, it can also feel small. Person to person, everyone is just a click, search, or social media message away.

Because of this, it is nearly impossible to stay out of touch with events and needs around the world. People are linked through a network of communications systems and news updates. Throughout much of history, people were able to live their lives apart from the rest of the world. That is not the case today. People are connected in ways unheard of in the past. What happens in one place often affects the rest of the planet. No matter where each person lives today, the people of the twenty-first century are truly citizens of the world.

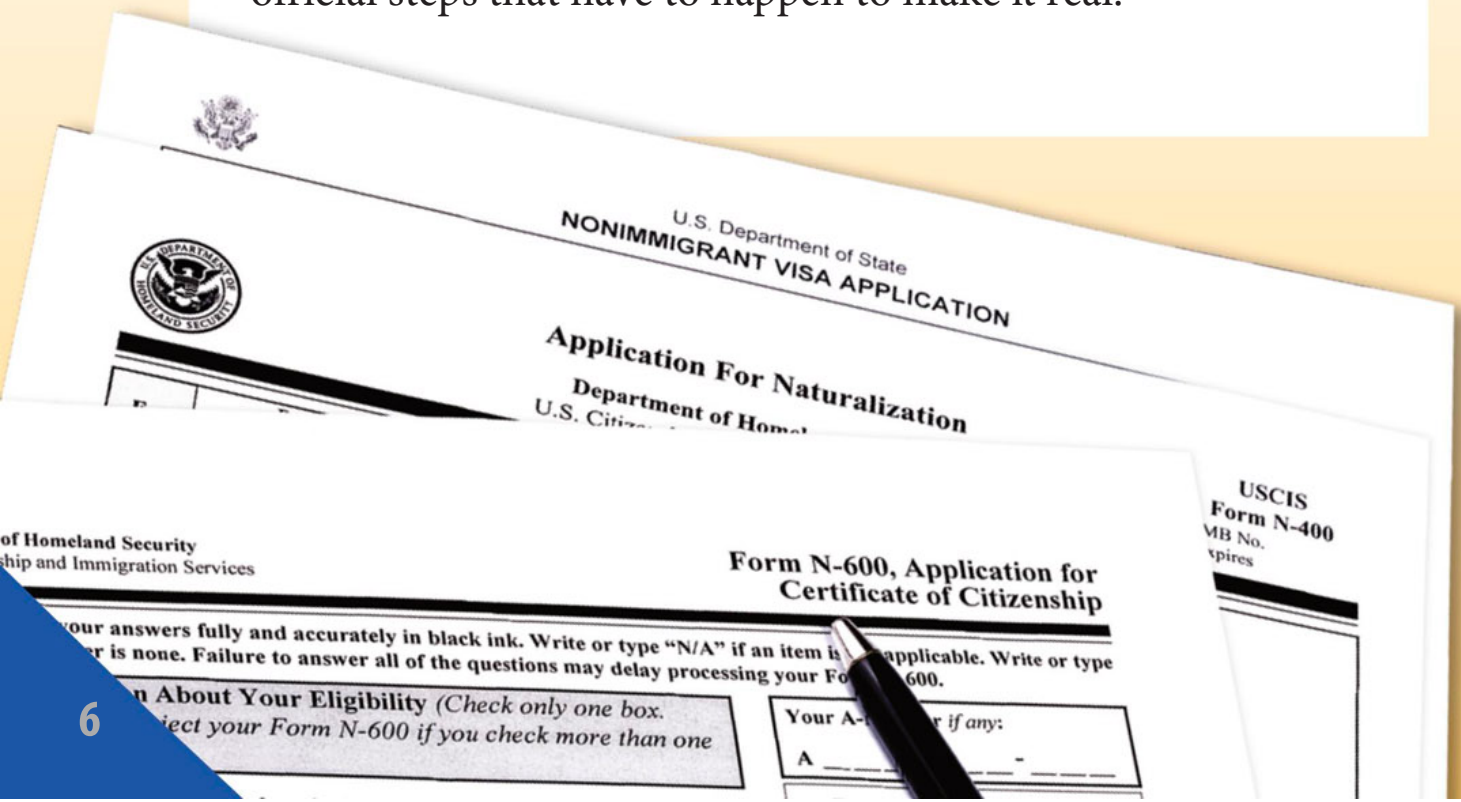


What It Means to Be a Citizen

What does it mean to be a citizen of the world? First, it is important to know what it means to be a citizen.

A citizen belongs to a place. This may be a country, state, community, family, or even the world. As part of belonging, citizens enjoy all the **rights** and privileges those places have to offer. Likewise, citizens have **responsibilities** to those places (and to other citizens). Citizens both take and give back. Without this give and take, citizenry would not function for long. Citizens as a group must be active.

To be a citizen is also a legal matter when it comes to governments. A citizen by law belongs to a state, province, or country. That means the government sees that person as a member of a group. A person may live in a place but not be a citizen there. Being a legal citizen is an official title. In most cases, a person cannot just say they are a citizen. There are official steps that have to happen to make it real.



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