Instructions for cutting and folding cards

Cut the cards on the dashed line.

Print the cards on 8 1/2” x 11” paper. Cut and fold to make flash cards. Fasten the two sides together with tape, glue or staples.

Use as a study tool. Pick up a card and read the question. When you are ready to answer, turn the card over and see if your answer is correct.

Cut the cards on the dashed line.

Fold the cards on the dotted line.
Civics Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test (2008 version)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

M-623 (rev. 08/21)

USCIS Civics Flash Cards

These Civics Flash Cards will help immigrants learn about U.S. history and government while preparing for the naturalization test. These flash cards can also be used in the classroom as an instructional tool for citizenship preparation.

IMPORTANT NOTE: On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. Applicants must be aware of the most current answers to these questions. Applicants must answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of his or her eligibility interview with USCIS. The USCIS Officer will not accept an incorrect answer.

USCIS Civics Flash Cards

The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test are included in these flash cards. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided on these flash cards.

If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk (*).
What is the supreme law of the land?

The Constitution

What does the Constitution do?

★ sets up the government
★ defines the government
★ protects basic rights of Americans
The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

“We the People,” the first three words of the preamble to the Constitution of the United States. Courtesy of the National Archives.

What is an amendment?

★ a change (to the Constitution)
★ an addition (to the Constitution)

The 20th Amendment to the Constitution.
What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*

* speech  
* religion  
* assembly  
* press  
* petition the government

Question 7

How many amendments does the Constitution have?

twenty-seven (27)


What did the Declaration of Independence do?

* announced our independence (from Great Britain)
* declared our independence (from Great Britain)
* said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)

What are **two** rights in the Declaration of Independence?

- life
- liberty
- pursuit of happiness

What is freedom of religion?

You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.
What is the economic system in the United States?*

- capitalist economy
- market economy

What is the “rule of law”?

- Everyone must follow the law.
- Leaders must obey the law.
- Government must obey the law.
- No one is above the law.
Question 13

Name one branch or part of the government.*

- Congress
- legislative
- President
- executive
- the courts
- judicial

The U.S. Capitol (legislative branch) and the U.S. Supreme Court (judicial branch) buildings in Washington, D.C.

Question 14

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

- checks and balances
- separation of powers
Who is in charge of the executive branch?

the President
The White House in Washington, D.C.

Who makes federal laws?
★ Congress
★ Senate and House (of Representatives)
★ (U.S. or national) legislature
The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.
What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?*

The Senators of the 109th Congress.
Courtesy of the U.S. Senate Photo Studio.

How many U.S. Senators are there?

one hundred (100)

The Senators of the 109th Congress.
Courtesy of the U.S. Senate Photo Studio.
We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

six (6)

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

Answers will vary.

[Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first African American Senator in 1870.]

[District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]
The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

four hundred thirty-five (435)

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

two (2)
Question 23

Name your U.S. Representative.

Answers will vary.

[Residents of territories with nonvoting Delegates or Resident Commissioners may provide the name of that Delegate or Commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]

Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-66358.

Question 24

Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

all people of the state
Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

- (because of) the state’s population
- (because) they have more people
- (because) some states have more people

We elect a President for how many years?

- four (4)
In what month do we vote for President?*

November

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

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the President of the United States.
What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Vice President of the United States.

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

Swearing in of Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson as president aboard Air Force One following the death of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. Courtesy of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, photo by Cecil Stoughton.
If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

President Franklin D. Roosevelt reviewing American troops in Casablanca, Morocco during World War II. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USW33-027834-ZC.
Who signs bills to become laws?

the President

President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Immigration Act of 1965 on October 3rd of that same year, Liberty Island, NY. Courtesy of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum.

Who vetoes bills?

the President

The White House in Washington, D.C.
What does the President’s Cabinet do?

Advices the President

What are two Cabinet-level positions?

- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Commerce
- Secretary of Defense
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Energy
- Secretary of Health and Human Services
- Secretary of Homeland Security
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- Secretary of the Interior
- Secretary of Labor
- Secretary of State
- Secretary of Transportation
- Secretary of the Treasury
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Attorney General
- Vice President
What does the judicial branch do?

- reviews laws
- explains laws
- resolves disputes (disagreements)
- decides if a law goes against the Constitution

The Courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court building, where the Court has sat since 1935. Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.

What is the highest court in the United States?

the Supreme Court

West facade of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the number of justices on the Supreme Court.

Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Chief Justice of the United States.
Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

- to print money
- to declare war
- to create an army
- to make treaties

President Woodrow Wilson asking Congress to declare war on Germany, April 2, 1917. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-10297.

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

- provide schooling and education
- provide protection (police)
- provide safety (fire departments)
- give a driver's license
- approve zoning and land use
Question 43
Who is the Governor of your state now?

Answers will vary.
[District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]

Question 44
What is the capital of your state?*

Answers will vary.
[District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of U.S. territories should name the capital of the territory.]
What are the two major political parties in the United States?*

Democratic and Republican


What is the political party of the President now?

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the political party of the President.
What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

Visit uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates for the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

- Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).
- You don’t have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.
- Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)
- A male citizen of any race (can vote).

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

- serve on a jury
- vote in a federal election

Name one right only for United States citizens.

- vote in a federal election
- run for federal office

**Question 51**

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

- freedom of expression
- freedom of speech
- freedom of assembly
- freedom to petition the government
- freedom of religion
- the right to bear arms


**Question 52**

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

- the United States
- the flag

A young boy pledging allegiance at a naturalization ceremony in 1962. Courtesy of the USCIS Historical Library, BK9.4, Item 112.
What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

- give up loyalty to other countries
- defend the Constitution and laws of the United States
- obey the laws of the United States
- serve in the U.S. military (if needed)
- serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)
- be loyal to the United States

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

eighteen (18) and older
Question 55

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

★ vote
★ join a political party
★ help with a campaign
★ join a civic group
★ join a community group
★ give an elected official your opinion on an issue
★ call Senators and Representatives
★ publicly support or oppose an issue or policy
★ run for office
★ write to a newspaper

Question 56

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

April 15

* Federal income tax forms must be sent in by April 15 for the tax year.
Question 57

When must all men register for the Selective Service?

★ at age eighteen (18)
★ between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

World War I draft registration card of Irving Berlin, an American composer who became a naturalized citizen in 1918. Courtesy of the National Archives.

Question 58

What is one reason colonists came to America?

★ freedom
★ political liberty
★ religious freedom
★ economic opportunity
★ practice their religion
★ escape persecution

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

★ American Indians
★ Native Americans

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

★ Africans
★ people from Africa
Why did the colonists fight the British?

- because of high taxes (taxation without representation)
- because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)
- because they didn’t have self-government

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

(Thomas) Jefferson

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

July 4, 1776

There were 13 original states. Name three.

- New Hampshire
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut
- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Virginia
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia
What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

* The Constitution was written.

When was the Constitution written?

1787

Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA, where the Constitution was signed in 1787.
The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

- (James) Madison
- (Alexander) Hamilton
- (John) Jay
- Publius

What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

- U.S. diplomat
- oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
- first Postmaster General of the United States
- writer of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”
- started the first free libraries
Who is the “Father of Our Country”?

(George) Washington

Courtesy of the U.S. Senate, Catalog #: 31.100002.000.

Who was the first President?*

(George) Washington

“Washington Crossing the Delaware,” by Emanuel Leutze.
Courtesy of the National Archives, NARA File #: 565-S-500-30.
What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803? ★ the Louisiana Territory ★ Louisiana

Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
★ War of 1812 ★ Mexican-American War ★ Civil War ★ Spanish-American War

Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

- the Civil War
- the War between the States

Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

- slavery
- economic reasons
- states’ rights
What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?*

- freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
- saved (or preserved) the Union
- led the United States during the Civil War


What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

- freed the slaves
- freed slaves in the Confederacy
- freed slaves in the Confederate states

What did Susan B. Anthony do?

- fought for women’s rights
- fought for civil rights

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

- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- (Persian) Gulf War
Who was President during World War I?

(Woodrow) Wilson


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

(Franklin) Roosevelt

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing the Declaration of War against Japan on December 8, 1941. Courtesy of the National Archives.
Who did the United States fight in World War II?

Japan, Germany, and Italy

Surrender of Japan, September 2, 1945. General Douglas MacArthur signs as Supreme Allied Commander during formal surrender ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Courtesy of the National Archives.

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

World War II

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1945. Courtesy of the National Archives.
During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

Communism

Germans from East and West stand on the Berlin Wall in front of the Brandenburg Gate in this November 10, 1989, photo, one day after the wall opened. The Berlin Wall was a symbol of the tyranny that restrained freedom throughout the Communist bloc of Eastern Europe during the Cold War.

AP Images/STF.

What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

civil rights (movement)

What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?*

- fought for civil rights
- worked for equality for all Americans

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

Terrorists attacked the United States.
Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

- Cherokee
- Navajo
- Sioux
- Chippewa
- Choctaw
- Pueblo
- Apache
- Iroquois
- Creek
- Blackfeet
- Seminole
- Cheyenne
- Arawak
- Shawnee
- Mohegan
- Huron
- Oneida
- Lakota
- Crow
- Teton
- Hopi
- Inuit


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

- Missouri (River)
- Mississippi (River)

The Mississippi River near Minneapolis, MN.
What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

Pacific (Ocean)

View of the Pacific Ocean from Big Sur, CA, near Bixby Creek Bridge.

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

Atlantic (Ocean)

Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth, ME.
Name **one** U.S. territory.

- Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- American Samoa
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Guam


Name **one** state that borders Canada.

- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Ohio
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- North Dakota
- Montana
- Idaho
- Washington
- Alaska
Question 93

Name one state that borders Mexico.

- California
- Arizona
- New Mexico
- Texas

Question 94

What is the capital of the United States?*

Washington, D.C.

A view of Washington, D.C., from Virginia, across the Potomac River. The view shows the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the U.S. Capitol.
Where is the Statue of Liberty?*

- New York (Harbor)
- Liberty Island

[Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]

Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

- because there were 13 original colonies
- because the stripes represent the original colonies
Why does the flag have 50 stars?*

- because there is one star for each state
- because each star represents a state
- because there are 50 states

What is the name of the national anthem?

The Star-Spangled Banner

In “The Star-Spangled Banner,” by Percy Moran, Francis Scott Key reaches toward the flag flying over Fort McHenry.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-6200.
When do we celebrate Independence Day?*

July 4
Patriotic celebration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Name two national U.S. holidays.

* New Year's Day
* Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
* Presidents' Day
* Memorial Day
* Juneteenth
* Independence Day
* Labor Day
* Columbus Day
* Veterans Day
* Thanksgiving
* Christmas

Atlantic Pavilion at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. © Richard Latoff.