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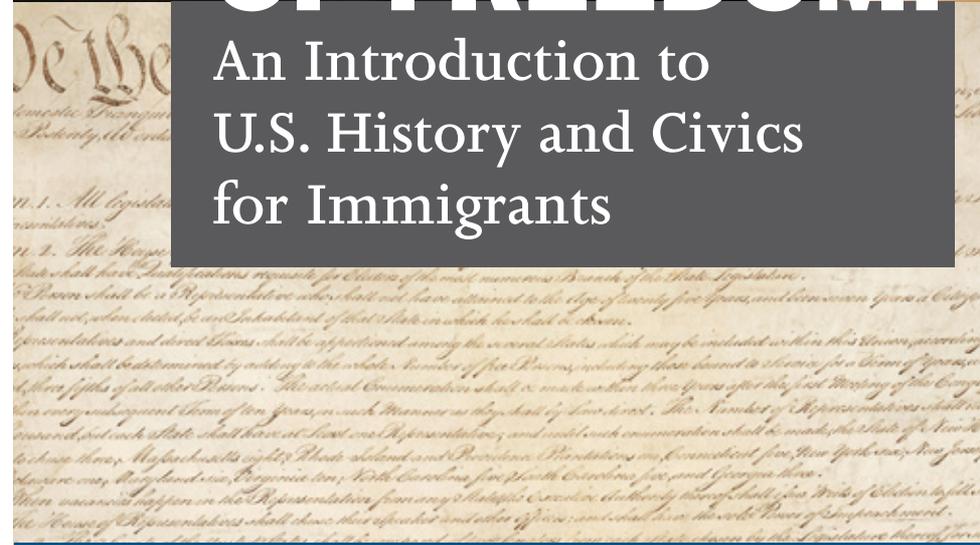
Please note that it does not fold as a booklet. Staple the pages together as you would a normal document.

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# A PROMISE OF FREEDOM:

An Introduction to  
U.S. History and Civics  
for Immigrants



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services





# ACT 1

## Choosing a Promise of Freedom

### “We the People...”

the first three words of the United States Constitution, a document that is the foundation for the freedoms and responsibilities of U.S. citizens. In the United States, a country with people of many different backgrounds, the principles of our Constitution unite all of us as a nation.

### The Declaration of Independence

announced that the colonies were free and independent states. It stated that all men are created equal and are born with the natural right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

What unites us as Americans?

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What did the Declaration of Independence do?

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# ACT 2

## Creating a Promise of Freedom

**A Convention was called in 1787,** and delegates from the American states met in Philadelphia. They felt that power must come from the people.

**This is what no country had ever done** —control power by dividing it, putting it under the limits of a written constitution, and then placing the final authority with the people, who govern themselves through elected representatives.

The delegates wanted the power of government to come from whom?

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How do “We the People” have final authority over the government of the United States?

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Why did the delegates divide power?

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# ACT 3

## A Promise of Freedom

### **The Constitution has changed**

through what are called amendments. The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights, and establish some very basic rights of citizens.

### **For more than 200 years,**

the U.S. Constitution has had daily impact on the lives of citizens, and over time its promise of freedom has included more and more people. Many groups of people were denied certain freedoms in the past, but have gained equality through amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

### **With freedoms and rights**

come important responsibilities: make a commitment to be part of your community, get to know and help your neighbors, discuss the issues that affect your community, learn English and learn about the U.S. government, respect the law, vote, and serve on a jury if called to do so.

What is the Bill of Rights?

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How has the Constitution changed to expand the definition of “We the People?”

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How can you use your freedoms to improve your community?

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## **Acknowledgments:**

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## **System Requirements:**

*A Promise of Freedom: An Introduction to U.S. History and Civics for Immigrants* may be played in a standard DVD player connected to a television or in a computer with a DVD drive.

## **Local Information:**



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