Learn About the United States:

Quick Civics Lessons

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

M-638

Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons

To become a United States citizen, you need to learn about the history of the United States and how its government works. Knowing about your new country is a very important part of being a good citizen.

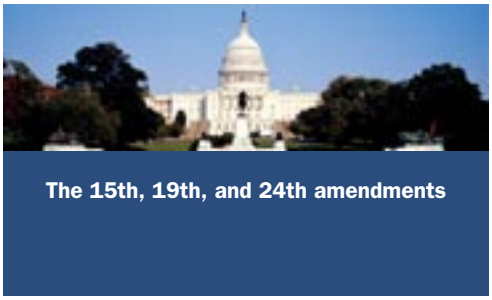
Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons will help you learn more about U.S. history and government as you prepare for citizenship. This booklet provides short lessons, based on each of the civics questions that you must study for your naturalization exam. As you study the Questions and Answers you can learn more about the topic by reading the paragraph. To help you learn words that may not be familiar, a glossary is provided at the end.

The United States has a rich, interesting history and a unique system of government. Learning more about the United States as you prepare to naturalize will help make your journey toward U.S. citizenship more meaningful.

During your naturalization interview, you will not be tested on the additional information in the short lessons. You will only be asked the Questions and Answers.

Another Option to Help You Study: Civics Flash Cards

The USCIS Civics Flash Cards are a useful study tool for those preparing to take the naturalization exam. These colorful, easy-to-use cards present each of the questions that can be asked during the exam. The Civics Flash Cards are available for free online at http://uscis.gov/graphics/citizenship/. Hard copies can be ordered from the Government Printing Office (GPO) by calling 1-866-512-1800 or by going online to http://bookstore.gpo.gov/ and searching for "flash cards."



Quick Civics Lessons

Question 1: What are the colors of our flag?

Answer 1: Red, white, and blue

We call the American flag the "Stars and Stripes." Congress chose the "Stars and Stripes" design for our flag on June 14, 1777. Because of this, Americans celebrate June 14th of every year as Flag Day. Much later, Congress explained the colors: red stands for "*hardiness* and *valor*," white for "purity and innocence," and blue for "*vigilance*, *perseverance*, and *justice*."

Question 2: What do the stars on the flag mean?

Answer 2: One for each state

The white stars on the flag represent the United States as being like "a new *constellation*" in the sky. The nation was seen as a new constellation because the *republican* system of government was new and different in the 1770s. Very few other countries were republics at that time. In the republican U.S. system, leaders work to help all of the country's people. They do not act to help only a few special citizens. Since the people themselves choose these leaders, the people hold the power of government.

Question 3: How many stars are there on our flag?

Answer 3: There are 50 stars on our flag.

Each star represents a state. This is why the number of stars has changed over the years from 13 to 50. The number of stars reached 50 in 1959. In that year, Hawaii joined the United States as the 50th state.

Question 4: What color are the stars on our flag?

Answer 4: The stars on our flag are white.

The stars represent the *Founding Fathers*' view of the American "experiment" in democracy. To them, the goal of a republic based on individual freedom was a *noble*, *lofty* idea. Stars are considered a symbol of the heavens and the high, ambitious vision that our Founders were trying to reach.

Question 5: How many stripes are there on our flag?

Answer 5: There are 13 stripes on our flag.

For 18 years after becoming an independent country, the United States had only 13 states. In 1794, Kentucky and Vermont joined the United States, making the number of states 15. At first, Congress increased the number of stars **and** stripes on the flag from 13 to 15. The number of stripes was not reduced to 13 again for many years.

Question 6: What do the stripes on the flag represent?

Answer 6: The first 13 states

In 1818, Congress decided that the number of stripes on the flag should always remain at 13. This would honor the original states, no matter how many new states would join the United States later. These original 13 had been *colonies* of Great Britain before America's independence.

Question 7: What colors are the stripes on the flag?

Answer 7: The stripes on the flag are red and white.

The pre-independence American flags also had stripes. The "Boston Liberty" flag, for example, was flown in the early part of the *American Revolution*. This flag was flown by a famous group of patriots called the Sons of Liberty. This group and others felt that British laws treated the American colonists unfairly. They were also angry at being taxed by the British while having no say, or "representation," in the government.

Question 8: How many states are there in the Union (the United States)?

Answer 8: 50 states

There are 50 states in the Union. The first 13 states, which were the original 13 colonies, are Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Georgia, Delaware, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The last state to join the Union was Hawaii. Hawaii became a state in 1959.

Question 9: What do we celebrate on the 4th of July?

Answer 9: Independence Day

Congress voted for the United States to become independent from Great Britain on July 2, 1776. However, we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. This is because it took two more days for Congress to vote to accept an official *Declaration* of Independence. This Declaration was written by Thomas Jefferson and edited by Congress. It explained why the American colonies were separating from their British ruler.

★ For definitions of words that are in italics, please see the Civics Glossary in the back. ★

The 4th of July is now considered to be the birthday of America. We celebrate with parades, fireworks, the playing of patriotic songs, and live readings of the Declaration of Independence.

Question 10: Independence Day celebrates independence from whom?

Answer 10: Independence from England

If you are asked this question on the exam, you should answer "England." However, England is actually just one part of the kingdom of Great Britain. Scotland and Wales are also part of Great Britain.

Fireworks on the 4th of July

Question 11: What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?

Answer 11: We fought England in the Revolutionary War.

The American colonists' anger had been building for years before the Revolutionary War began. The Americans fought this war because they wanted freedom from colonial rule. The fighting of the war ended in 1781, after the Battle of Yorktown. The Americans, with French help, won this battle. However, only in 1783 did the British fully accept United States independence.

Question 12: Who was the first president of the United States?

Answer 12: George Washington

We honor George Washington as the first President of the United States. After leading the fight to win American independence, Washington played an important role in the new nation's formation. He was the elected leader of the meeting, or convention, that was held to create the Constitution. Later on, Washington's service as the first U.S. President set a tradition for future presidents to follow. For example, he refused to try to become President more than twice. This began the very *democratic* tradition of a President not serving more than two *terms*. This limit is now required by a Constitutional Amendment.

George Washington

Question 13: Who is the President of the United States today?

Answer 13: George W. Bush

President Bush

George W. Bush is the 43rd President of the United States. He was the Governor of Texas before winning the presidential election of 2000. Four years later, Bush won election to a second term as President. The name of the President's wife, called "the First Lady," is Laura. President Bush's father was the 41st President of the United States. His name was also George. He served as President from 1989 until 1993.

Question 14: Who is the Vice President of the United States today?

Answer 14: Dick Cheney

Richard B. Cheney is the 46th Vice President of the United States. Vice President Cheney grew up in Wyoming. He later *represented* the people of Wyoming in the U.S. Congress. As Vice President, Cheney is President of the U.S. Senate and a top advisor to the President. Also, the Vice President is first in line to become President if the current President dies.

Question 15: Who elects the President of the United States?

Answer 15: The Electoral College

The Electoral College is not a place or a school. It is a process that was designed by the writers of the Constitution to select presidents. It came from a *compromise* between the President being directly elected by the people and the President being chosen by Congress. Combining these ideas, the people vote for a "college" of electors, who then meet to choose the President. In modern times, the people of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia vote for the electors in November. The electors then, in December, select the President.

Question 16: Who becomes President if the President dies?

Answer 16: The Vice President

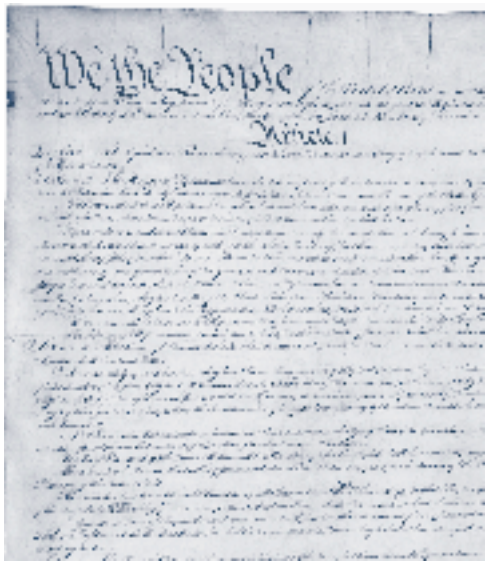
The Vice President is first in line to take over as President. This has happened eight times throughout U.S. history.

William Henry Harrison died in office in 1841. Zachary Taylor died in office in 1850. Abraham Lincoln was killed in office in 1865. James Garfield was killed in office in 1881. William McKinley was killed in office in 1901. Warren Harding died in office in 1923. Franklin Roosevelt died in office in 1945. John F. Kennedy was killed in office in 1963.

Question 17: What is the Constitution?

Answer 17: The supreme law of the land

The U.S. Constitution has lasted longer than any other country's constitution in human history. It is the basic legal framework establishing the U.S. government. Every person and every agency and department of government must follow the Constitution. This is why it is called the "*supreme* law of the land." Under this system, the powers of the national government are limited to those written in the Constitution. The guiding principle behind this system is often known as the "rule of law."



The Constitution of the United States

Question 18: What do we call changes to the Constitution?

Answer 18: Amendments

It is not easy for the Constitution to be changed, or amended. First, two-thirds of the Senate and two-thirds of the House of Representatives must vote for an Amendment. Then, the states must act. Three-fourths of the states must approve the Amendment. This process is called "ratification." Six times an Amendment has passed the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, but was not approved by enough states to be ratified.

Question 19: How many changes, or amendments, are there to the Constitution?

Answer 19: Twenty-seven amendments

The first Amendments to the Constitution were added in 1791. These original ten Amendments are called the Bill of Rights. Since the Bill of Rights passed, 17 more Amendments have been added. The 27th Amendment is the most recent one. It was added in 1992 and addresses how Senators and Representatives are paid. Interestingly, Congress first discussed this Amendment back in 1789.

Question 20: What are the three branches of our government?

Answer 20: Executive, Judicial, and Legislative

The Constitution divides the government's power among three *branches*. These branches operate under a system of "checks and balances." This means that each branch can block, or threaten to block, the action of another branch. This way, no one branch can grow too powerful and harm the *liberties* of citizens. For example, the Senate can block a *treaty* signed by the President, or the U.S. Supreme Court can reject a law passed by Congress. In the first example, the *legislative* branch is "checking" the executive, and in the second, the judicial branch is "checking" the legislative.

Question 21: What is the legislative branch of our Government?

Answer 21: Congress

The main job of Congress is to make national laws. By dividing Congress into two parts, the Constitution put the "checks and balances" idea to work within the legislative branch. Each part of Congress, the House of Representatives and the Senate, makes sure that the other does not become too powerful. These two "check" each other because both must agree for a law to be made. A Congress divided into two parts is known as a "bicameral legislature."

Question 22: What makes up Congress?

Answer 22: The Senate and the House of Representatives

Specific powers are assigned to each of these chambers. Only the Senate has the power to reject a treaty signed by the President or a person chosen to serve on the Supreme Court. Only the House of Representatives has the power to begin considering a *bill* that makes Americans pay taxes. Also, only the House has the power to make a President go to trial for a crime against the United States. This is called impeachment.

The Capitol in Washington, DC, where Congress meets to make the federal laws

Question 23: Who makes the Federal laws in the United States?

Answer 23: Congress

A *federal* law is a rule that all Americans must follow. Every law begins as a proposal made by a member of Congress. Tax proposals must begin in the House. Other types of proposals can be made by any Senator or Representative. When the Senate or House begins to *debate* the proposal, it is called a bill. If the President signs the bill, it becomes a federal law.

Question 24: Who elects Congress?

Answer 24: The citizens of the United States

The nation is divided into 435 Congressional "districts." The people of each district are represented by a member of the House of Representatives. At the same time, the people of each state vote for two U.S. Senators. The term of office for members of the House of Representatives is two years. The term for Senators is six years. The people of a state have directly elected their two Senators only since 1913. Before then, that state's legislature elected the U.S. Senators to represent that state.

Question 25: How many Senators are there in Congress?

Answer 25: There are 100 Senators in Congress, 2 from each state.

One reason that the Senate was created was to give states with few people *equal* power to states with many people. With two Senators representing each state, states with small populations have the same Senate representation as states with large populations. In contrast, in the House, states with more people have more Representatives and therefore more power.

Question 26: For how long do we elect each Senator?

Answer 26: 6 years

The writers of the Constitution wanted Senators to be independent from public opinion. A longer, six-year term would give them this protection. They also wanted the Senate to "balance" the two-year term of the members of the House, which would more closely follow public opinion. Following these ideas, the Senate became known as the "upper house." The Constitution puts no limit on the number of terms a Senator may serve.

Question 27: Name two Senators from your state.

Answer 27: The answer to this question depends on where you live.

For a complete list of United States Senators and the states they represent, go to http://www.senate.gov.

Question 28: How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

Answer 28: There are 435 voting members in the House of Representatives.

The House has had 435 members since 1912. Since that year, however, the distribution among the states of those 435 members has changed. This is because the number of Representatives from each state is re-calculated every ten years. New information from the *National Census* is used in this re-calculation. If one state gains many residents while another state loses many, the first state could get one or more new Representatives, while the other state could lose one or more. But the overall number of U.S. Representatives does not change.

The House of Representatives meeting room in the Capitol

Question 29: For how long do we elect each member of the House of Representatives?

Answer 29: For 2 years

People living in a Representative's home district are called "*constituents*." Each Representative tends to reflect the views of most of these constituents. If Representatives do not do this, they may be voted out of office. The writers of the Constitution believed that short two-year terms and frequent elections keep Representatives closer to their constituents and public opinion. The Constitution puts no limit on the number of terms a Representative may serve.

Question 30: Who is the head of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government?

Answer 30: The President

The President is both the head of state and the head of government. Presidential powers include the ability to sign treaties with other countries and select *ambassadors* to represent the United States *abroad*. As head of the executive branch, the President names the top leaders of the federal departments. However, the Senate has the power to reject the President's choices. This limit on the power of the President is another example of checks and balances.

Question 31: For how long is the President elected?

Answer 31: The President is elected for 4 years.

Early American leaders felt that the head of the British government, the king, had too much power. Because of

The President's home, the White House

this, they limited the powers of the head of the new U.S. government. They decided that the President would have to be elected by the people every four years.

Question 32: What is the highest part of the Judiciary Branch of our Government?

Answer 32: The Supreme Court

Many different federal courts make up the judiciary branch. The Constitution directly created the Supreme Court, but gave Congress the right to create lower federal courts. District and appellate courts are two examples of types of lower courts. Decisions made by these courts can be reviewed and overturned by the higher-ranking Supreme Court. The lower courts are spread throughout the country, in various districts and circuits.

Question 33: What are the duties of the Supreme Court?

Answer 33: To interpret and explain the laws

The Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court makes sure that laws are consistent with the Constitution. If they are not, the Court can declare them "unconstitutional" and therefore not valid. In this case, the laws are rejected. The Court has the last word on all cases that have to do with federal law and treaties. It also rules on other cases, such as those between states.

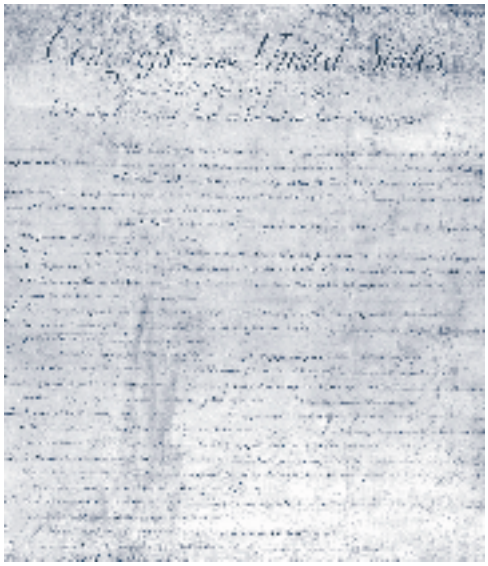
Question 34: What is the supreme law of the United States?

Answer 34: The Constitution

The government set up by the Constitution is based on the consent, or agreement, of the governed. The introduction to the Constitution reflects this idea. This introduction is called the Preamble. It states that "We the People" establish the Constitution. The actual system of the U.S. government is a representative democracy. It also reflects the idea of "consent of the governed." The "governed"—all U.S. citizens—choose representatives to make the nation's laws and a president to lead the executive branch.

Question 35: What is the Bill of Rights?

Answer 35: The first 10 amendments to the Constitution



The Bill of Rights

When the Constitution was first written, it did not focus on individual *rights*. Its goal was to create the system and structure of government. Many Americans, including a group called the Anti-Federalists, wanted a specific list of things the government could **not** do to Americans. James Madison responded with a list of rights of individuals and limits of government. Some of these included citizens' rights to practice their religion freely, to speak and publish freely, and to complain publicly about anything they wanted. The list was in the form of changes, or Amendments, to the Constitution. These Amendments were ratified in 1791. They soon became known as the Bill of Rights.

Question 36: What is the capital of the state you live in?

Answer 36: The answer to this question depends on the state where you reside. To learn the capital of your state, go to http://www.firstgov.gov and select the state government link.

Question 37: Who is the current Governor of the state you live in?

Answer 37: The answer to this question depends on where you live. To learn the name of the Governor of your state, go to http://www.firstgov.gov and select the state government link.

Question 38: Who becomes President if both the President and Vice President die?

Answer 38: The Speaker of the House

The answer to this question has changed throughout history. At first, following a 1791 law, the *Senate President Pro*

Tempore was second in line to become President after the Vice President. Later, Congress passed a law making the *Secretary of State* next in line if the President and Vice President died. However, in 1947 Congress returned to the original idea of a Congressional leader being next in line. This time, though, the *Speaker of the House* was chosen to be the next in line after the President and Vice President.

Question 39: Who is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

Answer 39: This position is vacant.

William Rehnquist, who was the Chief *Justice*, passed away September 3, 2005. President George W. Bush has nominated Judge John Roberts for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Rehnquist became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1972. President Richard Nixon chose him for this position. Fourteen years later, President Ronald Reagan chose Rehnquist to replace Warren Burger as Chief Justice.

Question 40: What were the original 13 states?

Answer 40: Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Georgia

These 13 had been colonies before the United States became an independent country. The British king ruled the 13 colonies, but Great Britain was very far away and focused on *domestic affairs* or wars in Europe, not on the colonies. Therefore, even before their independence, the colonies largely governed themselves. This was done partly through colonial legislatures. These legislatures were elected by the colonists. Until the American Revolution, though, most colonists did think of the British king as their true ruler.

Question 41: Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death"?

Answer 41: Patrick Henry

American patriot Patrick Henry

Patrick Henry was a *fiery* leader of the American Revolution. Before U.S. independence, he spoke out for colonial rights within the legislature of Virginia. Henry represented Virginia in both the First and, briefly, the Second Continental Congress. He helped push the colonies toward independence. In 1775, when the Revolutionary War began, Henry convinced Virginia to join the colonists' side. Later he became the first governor of the state of Virginia.

Question 42: Name some countries that were our enemies during World War II.

Answer 42: Germany, Italy, and Japan

World War II airplanes

The United States officially went to war on December 8, 1941. President Franklin Roosevelt, as Commander-in-Chief of the military, obtained an official *declaration of war* from Congress. This was one day after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, an American naval base in Hawaii. Japan's partners in the *Axis*, Italy and Germany, quickly declared war on the United States, Great Britain, and their *Allies*. The Allies fought against the German Nazis, the Italian Fascists, and Japan's military empire. This was very difficult for the United States, which had to fight wars in both the Pacific Ocean and Europe.

Question 43: What was the 49th state added to our Union (the United States)?

Answer 43: Alaska

In 1867, the U.S. government bought the land of Alaska from Russia, paying $7,200,000. Secretary of State William Seward made the decision to buy Alaska. 92 years later, in 1959, Alaska finally became a state. The people of Alaska now honor Seward for his commitment to their state. They celebrate Seward's Day every March.

Question 44: How many full terms can a President serve?

Answer 44: Two full terms

The first U.S. President, George Washington, only ran for President twice. Washington felt that one person should not serve as President for a very long time. Following this tradition, no future President served for more than two terms until Franklin Roosevelt. Roosevelt was elected to four terms. Not long after he died, the Constitution was amended so that a President could only serve two terms.

Question 45: Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Answer 45: A civil rights leader

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister and *civil rights* hero. During his short life he did much to make America a more fair, tolerant, and equal nation. He was the main leader of the *civil rights movement* of the 1950s and 1960s. Because

of this movement, civil rights laws that protected voting rights and ended *segregation* were passed. King believed in the *ideals* of the Declaration of Independence. He advanced the idea that every citizen deserves America's promise of *equality* and justice.

The civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

Question 46: What are some of the requirements to be eligible to become President?

Answer 46: A candidate for President must
- **be a native-born, not naturalized, citizen,**
- **be at least 35 years old, and**
- **have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years.**

The writers of the Constitution wanted the President to be an experienced leader with a strong connection to the United States. The eligibility requirements try to make sure that this happens. In Federalist Paper #64, John Jay wrote that the President should be a man "of whom the people have had time to form a judgment." This, Jay explains, is one main reason for the eligibility requirements. The youngest person in American history to become President was Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt entered the White House when he was 42 years old.

Question 47: Why are there 100 Senators in the United States Senate?

Answer 47: Each state elects 2 Senators.

The writers of the Constitution wanted the two parts of Congress to have different characters. By giving each state only two Senators, the writers made sure that the Senate would be small. This would keep the Senate more orderly than the larger House of Representatives. As James Madison wrote in Federalist Paper #63, the Senate should be a "*temperate* and respectable body of citizens" that operates in a "cool and *deliberate*" way.

Question 48: Who nominates judges for the Supreme Court?

Answer 48: The President nominates judges for the Supreme Court.

The process of nominating a Supreme Court Justice is an example of checks and balances. The executive branch has the power to choose the members of the judicial branch of the federal government. The legislative branch can check this power, since the Senate must *confirm* the President's *nominee*. However, once on the Court, the Justices have lifelong terms. Therefore, the judicial branch's power and independence is protected.

Question 49: How many Supreme Court justices are there?

Answer 49: There are 9 Supreme Court justices.

The number of Justices is not established in the Constitution. In the past, it has been as high as ten and as low as six. Now, there are eight Associate Justices and one Chief Justice. The current Associate Justices are Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David Souter, Clarence Thomas, Stephen Breyer, Antonin Scalia, John Paul Stevens, Anthony Kennedy, and Sandra Day O'Connor. The Chief Justice, William Rehnquist, passed away September 3, 2005. Judge John Roberts has been nominated to succeed Rehnquist as Chief Justice. Justice O'Connor recently announced that she will retire as soon as a successor is confirmed.

Question 50: Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

Answer 50: To gain religious freedom

In the early 1600s, the *Pilgrims* left their homeland of England. They first went to Holland, where they lived for a few years, then America. Many English settlers sailed across the ocean to the American colonies during the 17th Century. Many came for political freedom or, like the Pilgrims, the right to practice their religion. Others came because of economic opportunity. These freedoms and opportunities often did not exist in the home countries of these settlers. For them, the American colonies meant a new chance in life and the freedom to live as they wanted.

Pilgrims

Question 51: What is the executive of a state government called?

Answer 51: The Governor

The position of governor is not the same in every state. For example, the number of years that a governor is elected to serve—called a "term"—may differ from state to state. The governor's job within a state government is similar to the President's job within the federal government. However, the state laws that a governor carries out are different from the federal laws that the President carries out. The Constitution says that certain issues are covered by federal, not state, laws. All other issues are covered by state laws. This system is

known as federalism. Federalism forces states and the federal government to share power on many issues.

Question 52: What is the head executive of a city government called?

Answer 52: The Mayor

Like a Governor or the President, a mayor usually shares power with a legislative body. In city government, this is often called the City Council. Cities in the United States are located within larger regions called counties. Usually, each county has its own government.

Question 53: What holiday was celebrated for the first time by American colonists?

Answer 53: Thanksgiving

The first Thanksgiving *feast* was held in Massachusetts in 1621. The Pilgrims who had traveled to this colony gave thanks for a successful fall *harvest*. They learned from local Native Americans, or Indians, which crops would grow and how best to grow them. The Indians' lessons helped the Pilgrims to grow enough food to survive the winter. In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill that officially made the last Thursday of November Thanksgiving Day.

Question 54: Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?

Answer 54: Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson

Jefferson was a Virginia lawyer and *planter* when he wrote the Declaration in 1776. He would become a very important political leader and thinker. Before becoming President, he was the governor of Virginia and the first U.S. Secretary of State. Jefferson strongly supported individual rights, especially freedom of religion. Because he wanted to protect these rights, Jefferson opposed a strong national government. Instead, he argued for states' rights. He wanted America to be a nation of small farmers who actively participated in their democracy.

Question 55: When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

Answer 55: July 4, 1776

In 1774, representatives from 12 of the colonies met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the First Continental Congress. They *protested* British laws that treated them unfairly. They also began to organize an army. After fighting began between the colonists and the British army, a Second Continental Congress met. This group appointed Jefferson and others to create the Declaration of Independence. This document stated that, if a government does not protect the rights of the people, the people can create a new government. Following this idea, the colonists broke from their British rulers and formed a new country.

Question 56: What are some of the basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?

Answer 56: That all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

The Declaration is based on ideas about freedom and individual rights. For Jefferson and the Founding Fathers, people are born with natural rights that no government can take away. Government exists only to protect these rights. Because the people voluntarily give up power to a government, they can take that power back. The British government was not protecting the rights of the colonists, so they "took back their power" and separated from Great Britain.

Question 57: What is the national anthem of the United States?

Answer 57: The Star-Spangled Banner

During the War of 1812, British soldiers *invaded* the United States. On the night of September 13, 1814, British warships bombed Fort McHenry. This fort protected the city of Baltimore. An American named Francis Scott Key watched the fierce bombing, and thought that the fort would fall. As the sun rose the next morning, Key looked toward the fort. He saw that the American flag above the fort was still flying, proving that the United States had not been defeated. Key immediately wrote the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Question 58. Who wrote The Star-Spangled Banner?

Answer 58. Francis Scott Key

Key first wrote the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" as a poem. He named this poem "The Defence [sic] of Fort M'Henry." Many years later music was added to the words of the poem. This music came from a piece called "Anacreon in Heaven." The combination of the poem with the music created the song that is now so well-known. It was not until 1931 that Congress passed a law naming "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official national anthem.

Question 59: What is the minimum voting age in the United States?

Answer 59: 18 is the minimum voting age.

For most of U.S. history, Americans had to be at least 21 years old to vote. By the 1970s, many people thought that if someone was old enough to fight in a war, he or she should be old enough to vote. So, in 1971 the 26th Amendment changed the minimum voting age to 18.

Question 60: Who signs bills into law?

Answer 60: The President

A bill is a proposed law being considered by Congress. Both parts of Congress—the Senate and the House of Representatives—must pass the same version of the bill. When they do so, the bill goes to the President to be signed into law. The President does, however, have veto power. This means that the President can reject a bill passed by Congress. If two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate vote to pass the bill again, though, the bill becomes a law. This process is called overriding the President's veto.

Question 61: What is the highest court in the United States?

Answer 61: The Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court exercises complete authority over all federal courts. It has the final word on cases heard in federal court. The Supreme Court's interpretations of federal laws and of the Constitution are final. The Supreme Court is limited, though, in its power over states. It cannot interpret state law or state constitutions. The Court can, however, decide that a state law conflicts with federal law or the U.S. Constitution and is, thus, invalid.

Question 62: Who was President during the Civil War?

Answer 62: Abraham Lincoln

The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC

We honor Abraham Lincoln because he led the nation during the Civil War, a very difficult time. The war began when a group of southern states, known as the Confederacy, tried to separate from the United States. They wanted to preserve slavery and their farm-based economic system. This system was threatened by the northern states. Lincoln was a lawyer, legislator, and celebrated speaker before he was President. He became nationally famous for his debates with Senator Stephen A. Douglas. These took place when Lincoln and Douglas ran against each other for Illinois' U.S. Senate seat in 1858.

Civil War Engineers in the Union Army

Question 63: What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Answer 63: The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves.

President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in the middle of the Civil War, in 1863. It freed the slaves in the rebelling Confederate states. In 1865, the northern soldiers, known as the Union soldiers, defeated the soldiers from the South, known as the Confederate soldiers. The bitter, bloody Civil War was over, and the Union had been preserved. Soon afterwards, the 13th Amendment made the abolition of slavery part of the Constitution.

Question 64: What special group advises the President?

Answer 64: The Cabinet advises the President.

The Constitution says that the leaders of the executive departments should advise the President. These department leaders, most of them called "Secretaries," make up the Cabinet. Throughout history, Presidents have been able to change who makes up the Cabinet. For instance, when Congress created the Department of Homeland Security, President George W. Bush added the leader of this department to his Cabinet.

A meeting with the President in the Oval Office

Question 65: Which President is called the "Father of our Country"?

Answer 65: George Washington

Washington was a brave military general, a respected leader of the American Revolution, and our first President. His leadership was very important during America's transition from war and revolution to stability under the new government. After his victory over the British army, Washington retired. He reluctantly left this retirement when problems arose with the new country's system of government. Washington helped lead the effort to create a new Constitution for the United States.

Question 66: Which President was the first Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army and Navy?

Answer 66: George Washington

The writers of the Constitution argued over how much power the new President should have. They decided that the President should be limited in many ways, but that the President should be Commander-in-Chief of the military. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington had been supreme commander of the military. From this position, he led the U.S. forces to victory. This helped make him a *unanimous* choice to be the first President and Commander-in-Chief.

Question 67: What was the 50th state to be added to our Union (the United States)?

Answer 67: Hawaii

Hawaii is the only state completely separated from the continent of North America. There are six major islands and many smaller ones in this state. Hawaii is located in the Pacific Ocean, about 2,400 miles from Los Angeles, California. The islands officially became a U.S. *territory* in 1898. For many decades after this, Hawaiians pushed for Congress to make the territory a state. This finally happened in 1959.

Question 68: Who helped the Pilgrims in America?

Answer 68: The American Indians/Native Americans

At the time of the Pilgrims' arrival, great Indian tribes such as the Navajo, Sioux, Cherokee, and Seminoles lived in America. When the Pilgrims came to America, they settled in an area where a tribe called the Wampanoag lived. The Wampanoag taught the Pilgrims important skills, such as how to grow corn, beans, and squash. As more Europeans moved to America, relations with the Indians were not always peaceful. Eventually, after much *bloodshed*, the settlers would defeat the Indian tribes and take much of their land.

Question 69: What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?

Answer 69: The Mayflower

The Mayflower left from Plymouth, England, on September 6, 1620. After 65 days crossing the ocean, the ship landed in what is now the state of Massachusetts. Soon after, the Pilgrims signed an agreement. This was later called the Mayflower *Compact*. In it, the Pilgrims agreed to unite into a "civil body politic." The Compact did not set up a governing system, as the Constitution later would. It did, however, contain the idea that the people freely agreed to live under the government. The power of this government came directly from the people themselves.

Question 70: What were the 13 original states of the United States called before they were states?

Answer 70: Colonies

European countries began taking control of areas of America in the 1500s. These European-controlled areas were called colonies. England's first successful American colony was Virginia. Virginia began in 1607 as a small camp at Jamestown. Later in the century, Pennsylvania was founded as a home for a religious group, the Quakers. This group opposed war and rejected all rituals and *oaths*. The Dutch colony of New Netherlands was captured by British forces in 1664 and renamed New York. The 13 American colonies would later unite into one country, but the history of each one was quite distinct.

Question 71: What group has the power to declare war?

Answer 71: Congress has the power to declare war.

Congress has formally declared war eleven times. The Senate vote for war was very close two of these times. These close votes took place before the War of 1812 and the Spanish-American War. Congress has not declared war since the United States entered World War II, in 1941. However, seven times since then Congress has authorized military action. This step reflects the democratic tradition of the legislative branch approving the President's use of troops.

Question 72: Name the amendments that guarantee or address voting rights.

Answer 72: The 15th, 19th, and 24th amendments

The 19th Amendment gave women the ability to vote. It was a result of decades of hard work by the women's rights movement. This was also known as the women's suffrage movement. The 15th

Suffragette parade in New York City in 1912

Amendment was written after the Civil War and the end of slavery. It allowed all American men of all races to vote. Some leaders of southern states were upset that the 15th Amendment allowed African-Americans to vote. These leaders designed fees called "poll taxes" to stop them from voting. The 24th Amendment made it illegal to stop someone from voting because he or she did not pay a poll tax.

Question 73: In what year was the Constitution written?

Answer 73: The Constitution was written in 1787.

Before the U.S. Constitution, the Articles of Confederation was the document that established the U.S. system of government. The Articles were ratified in 1783. By 1786, many American leaders had become unhappy with this document. The national government it set up was simply too weak. In 1787, Congress decided that a convention would meet in Philadelphia to revise the Articles. At this meeting, the leaders quickly decided to go beyond revising the Articles. Instead, they wrote a whole new governing document—the Constitution.

Question 74: What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?

Answer 74: The Bill of Rights

The first ten Amendments to the Constitution, ratified in 1791, became known as the Bill of Rights. The Bill, using principles from the Declaration of Independence, guarantees the rights of individuals and limits government power. The first eight Amendments set out individual rights, such as the freedom of expression, the right to bear arms, freedom from search without warrant, freedom to not be tried twice for the same crime, the right to not testify against yourself, the right to trial by *jury* of peers, right to an attorney, and protection against excessive fines and unusual punishments. The last two Amendments in the Bill of Rights are concerned with the rights of the people in their relationship with the state and federal governments.

Question 75: Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

Answer 75: All people living in the United States

One reason that millions of immigrants have come to America is this guarantee of rights. By the 5th Amendment, everyone in the United States is guaranteed equal protection under the law. This is true no matter what color your skin is, what language you speak, or what religion you practice. The 14th Amendment, ratified after the Civil War, expanded this guarantee of rights. No state would be able to abridge, or block, the rights of any of its citizens.

Question 76: What is the introduction to the Constitution called?

Answer 76: The Preamble

The preamble says: "**We the People** of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our *Posterity*, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." This means that our government has been set up by the people, so that it can be responsive to them and protect their rights. All power *to govern* comes from the people, who are the highest power. This idea is known as "popular sovereignty."

The Preamble of the Constitution

Question 77: Who meets in the U.S. Capitol building?

Answer 77: Congress

In 1791, an area between Maryland and Virginia was chosen to be the new capital city. French engineer Pierre L'Enfant was hired to plan the city. While L'Enfant chose the hill on which to build the Capitol building, he was not the one to actually design the building. A doctor, William Thornton, sent in the successful plan for the Capitol. President Washington approved this design in 1793. Congress first met in the Capitol building in November of 1800.

Question 78: What is the name of the President's official home?

Answer 78: The White House

The White House was built between 1792 and 1800. President George Washington helped choose its exact location and supervised its construction, but never actually lived there. America's second President, John Adams, was the

The White House in Washington, DC

first to live in the White House. Fourteen years after it was built, the White House was burned by British troops during the War of 1812. Another destructive fire took place there in 1929, when Herbert Hoover was President.

Question 79: Where is the White House located?

Answer 79: Washington, DC

When the Constitution established our nation in 1789, the city of Washington did not exist. At that time, the capital was New York City. Congress soon began discussing the location of a permanent capital city. Within Congress, representatives of northern states fought bitterly against representatives of southern states. Each side wanted the capital to be in their region. Finally, with the Compromise of 1790, the north agreed to let the capital be in the south. In return, the north was relieved of some of the *debt* that they owed from the Revolutionary War.

A view of Washington, DC, from Virginia, across the Potomac River. The view shows the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the Capitol.

Question 80: Name one right or freedom guaranteed by the first amendment.

Answer 80: The rights of freedom of speech, of religion, of assembly, and to petition the Government

These 1st Amendment rights are all part of a citizen's freedom of expression. Protecting free expression promotes open dialogue and debate on public issues, which is at the heart of democracy. Similarly, the free flow of ideas facilitates peaceful change and advances knowledge. Also in the 1st Amendment, freedom of religion has two parts. It blocks Congress from setting up an official U.S. religion, and it protects citizens' rights to hold any religious belief, or none at all.

Question 81: Who is Commander-in-Chief of the United States military?

Answer 81: The President

Making the President the Commander-in-Chief shows the Founding Fathers' commitment to democratic ideals. This is because the head of the armed forces is a civilian chosen by the people, rather than a professional military leader. By 1973, many in Congress felt that the President was using his power as Commander-in-Chief wrongly. They thought that the legislative branch was being ignored, which harmed checks and balances. So Congress passed the War Powers Act, which strengthens the role of Congress in the use of U.S. troops. President Richard Nixon vetoed this bill, but Congress overrode his veto.

Question 82: In what month do we vote for the President?

Answer 82: November

The Constitution did not set a standard national election day. There was no specified day until 1845. Even then, Congress did not set an exact date for elections. Rather, Congress set the Tuesday after the first Monday in November as Election Day. They chose Tuesday so that voters had a full day after Sunday to travel to the polls. At that time, for religious reasons, many Americans considered Sunday to be a strict day of rest. Travel on this day was not allowed.

Question 83: In what month is the new President inaugurated?

Answer 83: January

Before 1933, Presidents were *inaugurated* on March 4th. This meant that there were four months between when new Presidents were elected and when they took office. This gave the new President enough time to make the long journey to Washington, DC. By the 1930s, with the invention of automobiles and *speedy* trains, it was much faster to travel. The 20th Amendment officially changed the date of inauguration to January 20th. Franklin Roosevelt was the first President inaugurated on this date.

Question 84: How many times may a Senator or Congressman be re-elected?

Answer 84: There is no limit.

Several states, such as California, have *term limits* for members of their state legislature. Also, several states have considered limiting the number of terms that their U.S. Senators and Representatives can serve. In 1995, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that no state can do this. The Court stated that such a practice would weaken the national character of Congress. The only way that Congressional terms could be limited is through an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

A session of the Senate

Question 85: What are the two major political parties in the United States today?

Answer 85: The Democratic and Republican parties

The Constitution did not establish political parties, and President George Washington specifically warned against them. Still, a split between two political groups, the Democratic-Republicans and the Federalists, appeared early in U.S. history. The current Democratic Party was created from the old Democratic-Republicans by President Andrew Jackson. The Republican Party took over from the *Whigs* as a major party in the 1860s. Abraham Lincoln, who was first elected in 1860, was the first Republican President. Throughout U.S. history, other parties, such as the Know-Nothing, Bull-Moose (also called "Progressive"), Reform, and Green Parties, have played various roles in American politics.

Question 86: What is the executive branch of our government?

Answer 86: The President, the Cabinet, and departments under the cabinet members

The job of the executive branch is to carry out, or *execute*, the laws of the nation. While the Constitution does discuss the Cabinet, it does not say what each federal department or agency should do. Throughout U.S. history, Congress has established the specific functions of these organizations. The State Department, Department of Homeland Security, and Environmental Protection Agency are three examples.

Question 87: Where does freedom of speech come from?

Answer 87: The Bill of Rights

Freedom of speech is a very important *civil liberty*. The very first section of the Bill of Rights, the 1st Amendment, guarantees this freedom. "Speech" can mean writing, performing, or other ways of expressing yourself. Americans have the basic right to express their views on any subject. This is true even if the government disagrees with these views. However, in certain very specific situations, freedom of expression is limited. For example, no one can shout "fire!" in a theater and cause panic.

Question 88: What U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services form is used to apply for naturalized citizenship?

Answer 88: Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization)

The Constitution did not clearly set up a *naturalization* process. It gave Congress the power to create "a uniform Rule of Naturalization." Beginning in 1790, Congress passed laws to govern naturalization. Since then, Congress has changed this process many times. The naturalization exam is a very important part of the current process.

Question 89: What kind of government does the United States have?

Answer 89: A Republic

In a republic, the power that the government exercises comes from the people themselves. Government is therefore responsible for protecting the rights of all persons, not just a few special people. The way this happens in the United States is through a system of representative democracy. The people freely choose who will lead them and represent their interests. President Abraham Lincoln said our republican government is "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Question 90: Name one of the purposes of the United Nations.

Answer 90: For countries to discuss and try to resolve world problems or to provide economic aid to many countries

The United Nations, often called the U.N., was established in 1945, soon after World War II ended. The Charter of the United Nations names the main functions of the U.N.: "to maintain international peace and security…to develop friendly relations among nations…(and) to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems." The two best-known parts of the U.N. are the General Assembly, made up of over 190 countries, and the Security Council, with only ten countries. The United States is one of five countries that is a permanent member of the Security Council. The President has the power to choose the Ambassador of the United States to the United Nations. The Senate must then confirm this choice.

Question 91: Name one benefit of being a citizen of the United States.

Answer 91: To obtain Federal government jobs, to travel with a U.S. passport, or to petition for close relatives to come to the United States to live

Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren once said citizenship is "nothing less than the right to have rights." Some of the most important of these are the rights to choose your job, speak freely about your beliefs, and even disagree with government policies, if you so desire. At the same time, citizen responsibilities include obeying the law, voting, and serving on *juries*. Responsible citizens also take

part in their communities. This can mean joining the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) of your child's school, running for a position on the local school board, or volunteering to help at a *polling station*.

Question 92: Can the Constitution be changed?

Answer 92: Yes, the Constitution can be changed.

One of the great things about the U.S. Constitution is that it is flexible, and can be changed. It is changed through an addition called an Amendment. This is why we often refer to it as the "living Constitution." The Constitution's writers wisely decided that Amendments should be rare. Because of this, the Amendment process is difficult. Still, the Constitution has been changed 27 times, with the most recent Amendment added in 1992.

Question 93: What is the most important right granted to United States citizens?

Answer 93: The right to vote

No American is required by law to vote, but exercising your right to vote is a very important part of citizenship. This is the case in any democracy. Only by voting can your voice be heard. By voting, you actively commit yourself to the democratic process. Citizens vote to be represented by leaders who share their ideas and stand up for their interests. Constitutional Amendments such as the 15th (former slaves can vote) and 19th (women can vote) greatly improved our democracy. They did this by allowing more groups of citizens to vote.

Question 94: What is the White House?

Answer 94: The President's official home

The building was not officially known as the White House until 1901, when Theodore Roosevelt was President. Before then, it was also called the "President's Palace," the "President's House," and the "Executive Mansion." The current look of the White House comes from a renovation that happened when Harry Truman was President.

Question 95: What is the United States Capitol?

Answer 95: The place where Congress meets

When Congress moved into the Capitol in 1800, much of the construction of interior rooms had not been finished. It took two more years before Congress set aside funding to complete the construction. Soon after, when British troops invaded Washington during the War of 1812, they set fire to the Capitol. Luckily, a heavy rainstorm saved the building from being burnt all the way down. Rebuilding of the massive Capitol was not completed until 1829.

Question 96: How many branches are there in the United States government?

Answer 96: There are 3 branches

The writers of the Constitution believed that no one group in government should have total power. They thought that any person or group that has total power over government normally abuses it. In creating the U.S. system, they followed the idea of separation of powers. Along with checks and balances among the parts of government, the separation of powers into three branches prevents concentration of power. This means that the rights of citizens are better protected. The powers to make laws, to execute laws, and to interpret the laws are given to different branches. These are the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

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Photos of Engineers of the 8th New York State Militia, 1861, No. ILL-B-499, and "TBF (Avengers) flying in formation over Norfolk, Va." (World War II airplanes) Attributed to Lt. Comdr. Horace Bristol, September 1942. 80-G-427475 are courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Civics Glossary

1) **The Allies—**The formal partnership of countries that first opposed Germany during World War I and then formed once again to oppose the Axis countries during World War II.
2) **Ambassador—**A person who officially represents a country somewhere outside that country.
3) **American Revolution—**The struggle by which the United States won independence from Great Britain. It took place from 1775 to 1783.
4) **Abroad**—Outside of one's home country; in a foreign country.
5) **The Axis**—The partnership, or alliance, of Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II. The Axis opposed the Allies, which included the United States.
6) **Bill**—Legislation that has formally been introduced in Congress.
7) **Bloodshed**—Violence that causes injuries or death; carnage.
8) **Branch**—A section or division of something; a part.
9) **Civil liberty**—A freedom that involves limiting the power of the government over people. The individual freedoms mentioned in the Bill of Rights are often known as civil liberties.
10) **Civil rights**—Idea that all people of a nation or society should be treated equally.
11) **Civil rights movement**—An organized effort that promoted equality, political rights, and fair treatment for all Americans, no matter what their skin color was.
12) **Colonies**—Areas of land controlled by a foreign country.
13) **Compact**—A formal agreement between two (or more) groups, which often is signed.
14) **Compromise**—When two groups of people with opposing views on some issue come to an agreement; a deal.
15) **To confirm**—When the Senate approves the President's choice for an important government position.
16) **Constellation**—A group of stars in the night sky.
17) **Constituents**—People who are represented by an elected official.
18) **Debate**—When people argue by presenting their different opinions about something.
19) **Debt**—Money that someone, or some government, owes to someone else.
20) **Declaration**—A statement of some idea or argument.
21) **Declaration of war**—Official statement by one country that it is at war with another country (or countries).
22) **Deliberate**—Careful and methodical; taking time to think.
23) **Democratic—**Having to do with government by the people or the idea of political equality for all.
24) **Domestic affairs**—Things that go on within a country, or political issues that affect one country and its people; having nothing to do with foreign or international affairs.
25) **Equal**—The exact same; identical.
26) **Equality**—The idea that all humans have the same rights, and that none are worse or lower than others simply because of their skin color or ethnic background.
27) **To execute**—To carry out; to turn a written rule into an action.
28) **Feast**—A big, special meal, which is often held to celebrate something; banquet.
29) **Federal**—Having to do with the national, or central, government, rather than the government of a specific state.
30) **Federalist Papers**—85 essays that were printed in New York newspapers while that state was deciding whether or not to support the U.S. Constitution. The essays were written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison in 1787 and 1788 and explained why New Yorkers should support the Constitution.
31) **Fiery**—Intense and forceful; passionate.
32) **Founding Fathers**—The men who wrote the U.S. Constitution. They created, or "founded," our system of government.
33) **To govern**—To set rules that people have to follow; to use political power to lead or to administer.
34) **Hardiness**—Ability to survive difficulties and keep going.
35) **Harvest**—The food that farmers get from the crops they have been growing during the summer.
36) **Ideals**—Basic principles or morals, which often discuss how a society should operate.
37) **Inaugurated**—To have gone through the ceremony of becoming President, known as "inauguration."
38) **Invade**—To enter somewhere by force, using the military; to march into a place that belongs to your enemy.
39) **Jury**—Group of citizens that listens to a case in court and makes a decision about the case; each U.S. citizen is called from time to time to serve on a jury.
40) **Justice** [1]—Fairness; the state of being morally good.
41) **Justice** [2]—Another word for a "judge," used especially for the judges who are members of the Supreme Court.
42) **Legislative**—Having to do with making laws; often refers to the group of elected officials, such as the U.S. Congress, who get together to make laws.
43) **Liberties**—Special freedoms or rights.
44) **Lofty**—Very high or elevated; grand.
45) **National Census**—An official count of the number of persons living in a country.
46) **Naturalization**—The process by which a foreigh-born person can become a United States citizen.
47) **Noble**—Having very good qualities, excellent.
48) **Nominee**—A person who is selected—or "nominated"—for an important government position.
49) **Oath**—A promise or vow; a pledge.
50) **Perseverance**—Never giving up and always going ahead.
51) **Pilgrims**—English settlers who came to America long ago and set up communities.

52) **Planter**—A farmer, especially one who operates a large farm called a "plantation."

53) **Polling station**—Where people go to vote in elections.

54) **Posterity**—Future generations.

55) **To protest**—To publicly oppose or complain about something; to object to something.

56) **To represent**—To serve within government as the voice of the people who elected you.

57) **Republican**—When a country's political power comes from the citizens, not the rulers, and is put into use by representatives elected by the citizens.

58) **Rights**—Basic things that people can freely do; freedoms and privileges.

59) **Secretary of State**—The government official in charge of directing and supervising the foreign relations of the United States. He or she leads the main foreign policy agency of the United States, the Department of State. The Secretary of State is the highest-ranking head of a department in the President's Cabinet.

60) **Segregation**—Separation of citizens of different races.

61) **Senate President Pro Tempore**—The Senator who, when the Vice President is not present, "presides over" the Senate. This means that he or she chooses which Senators can speak to the Senate. The President Pro Tempore is the Senator from the majority political party—the party which has the most Senators—who has served in the Senate for the longest time.

62) **Speaker of the House**—The most powerful member of the House of Representatives, who always comes from the majority party—the party with the most Representatives. The Speaker "presides over" the House by deciding which Representatives can speak during debate and usually plays a very visible role in public.

63) **Speedy**—Fast; done quickly.

64) **Supreme**—Highest; cannot be challenged; ultimate.

65) **Temperate**—Calm, composed, and reasonable; self-controlled.

66) **Term**—Length of time that a government leader serves before he or she must be elected once again.

67) **Term limits**—A limit on the number of terms that a leader can be elected to serve. A term is the length of time that a government leader serves before he or she must be elected once again.

68) **Territory**—New land controlled by a government; many states were U.S. territories before officially becoming states.

69) **Treaty**—A formal agreement between two (or more) countries; a pact.

70) **Unanimous**—When everyone in a group that is deciding something decides the same way.

71) **Valor**—Bravery in facing great danger, especially in battle.

72) **Vigilance**—The state of being alert and watching out for danger.

73) **Whigs**—American political party of the 1800s. The party stood for business and banking interests and opposed Andrew Jackson and his Democratic Party. Four Presidents, all serving in the 1840s and 1850s, were Whigs.

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