## Civics Dictionary

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We the People
CHAPTER
Focus

Have you ever heard the term American Dream?
The United States is built on this dream—the hope of a better life for everyone. This dream has been shared by millions of people who have believed that in this nation all men and women could truly be free.

It is a dream that began in colonial times and continues to draw thousands of people to the United States each year. For many people the American Dream has meant freedom from religious persecution. For others it has meant freedom from political upheavals and wars. For still others it has meant freedom to achieve economic success.

As an American, you have the freedom to pursue your own American Dream, whatever it may be. But the American Dream will remain a reality only as long as you, and all Americans, work to protect our precious heritage of freedom. This is your responsibility as an American citizen—a member of our nation.

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STUDY GUIDE

- What does it mean to be a U.S. citizen, and what ideals guide the American way of life?
- Who were the early immigrants to America, and how do people become U.S. citizens today?
- What is the purpose of the census, and how is the American population changing?

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The Meaning of Civics

Civics is the study of what it means to be an American citizen. The word civics comes from the Latin civis, meaning “citizen.” The meaning of this word has changed since the ancient Romans first used it many hundreds of years ago. At that time, only a small group of wealthy people who owned property could be Roman citizens. Today almost everyone is a citizen of a nation.

The rights and responsibilities of being a citizen also have changed over time. Moreover, they differ from nation to nation. They depend on a nation’s type of government. Government is the authority, or power, that rules on behalf of a group of people. Under the American system of government, citizens have many rights and responsibilities. Your civics course will help you discover the most important ones.

You will discover that American citizenship means more than being a responsible member of the nation. It includes being a productive and sharing member of society. Almost all Americans belong to a family, go to school for several years, and work with other people. Americans also are members of their communities—villages, towns, and cities—and of states. Being an effective citizen of the United States means fulfilling your duties and

1 Civics in Our Lives

What is civics? Why do we study this subject in school? What does civics have to do with my life? These are some of the questions you may be asking as you begin your civics course.

Many of the subjects you study in school teach you about the American way of life and the priceless rights you enjoy as an American. The civics course you are about to begin will explain how you, as a citizen of the United States, can help to keep this heritage alive.

The Statue of Liberty
responsibilities as a member of each of these groups and communities.

**American Ideals**

The importance of being a responsible citizen cannot be stressed too much. As a citizen of the United States, there are many different reasons to take pride in your nation. It is a land of great natural beauty and of hardworking, creative people. Even more important are the ideals, or beliefs, that form the basis of this great nation.

The American government and way of life are based on the ideals of freedom and equality. As a citizen of this nation, each one of us is guaranteed the same rights and freedoms. These rights and freedoms are protected by laws and cannot be taken from any citizen. As a U.S. citizen, you must be willing to do your share to protect this great heritage of freedom, or liberty. It has been handed down from one generation of Americans to the next for more than 200 years.

**A Heritage of Freedom**

One important American freedom concerns you directly as you read this. It is the freedom to learn. Americans believe that every young citizen should have the opportunity to learn about our nation and the world by receiving a well-rounded education. To that end, our states and communities spend billions of dollars each year to provide free public schools for all young citizens. Each state also has public and private colleges and universities for those who wish to continue their education.

Another important freedom is the freedom to choose a job or career. Americans believe that all persons qualified for a job should have an equal opportunity to secure it.

Americans are fortunate to have many other freedoms as well. We may live as we wish as long as we respect the rights of others. We are free to own a house, marry the person of our choice, and raise a family. We may start our own business, travel, and live anywhere in the nation. We are free to speak and write what we wish.

**Government**

The leaders of our nation created a system of government. The form of government remains the same, but the form of government varies according to the official.

These officials are elected by the people. The officials at one level do their job and are removed from office in terms if not. The people are able to the officials of this country, our government.

**The Role of the Citizen**

As a U.S. citizen, you can be a citizen of our nation as well. Voting is one of the most important of its functions.

You can also be a good citizen by working for a political party, who answers questions and helps prepare the candidates who is playing a role in our government.

It is also important for a good citizen to support the candidates. If you disagree with a candidate you can do this by not voting for them. You can also write to newsmen and the government workers about your duties and responsibilities.

Studying the basics of these works, you will learn about the structure and function of our system.
we wish as long as our words do not harm another person. We may not be arrested or imprisoned without just cause.

**Government by the People**

The leaders who planned our government created a system that would guarantee freedom. The form of government that they established remains strong today. Under the American form of government, the people rule through the officials they elect.

These elected officials are responsible to the people. Citizens are free to vote for new officials at election time if those in office do not do their jobs properly. Officials also can be removed from office before the end of their terms if necessary. By making officials answerable to the people they represent, the founders of this country made sure that our system of government would continue to serve the American people.

**The Role of the Citizen**

As a U.S. citizen, you have many freedoms. Being a citizen involves many responsibilities as well. Voting in elections is one of the most important of these responsibilities.

You can also help in other ways to choose the men and women who will govern. You can work for a political party, for example. Anyone who answers telephones, stuffs envelopes, or helps prepare for meetings of a political party is playing a part in the American system of government.

It is also your responsibility as a thoughtful citizen to inform officials of your needs or disagreements with government actions. You can do this by taking direct action. For example, you can write or call public officials or write to newspapers. Knowing how your government works will help you carry out your duties and responsibilities as a citizen.

Studying civics is one key to understanding these workings of government—at the national, state, and local levels. As you study the structure and purposes of these governments, you will learn what an important part each of them plays in your life. You will also learn your role in government.

**Qualities of a Good Citizen**

As a U.S. citizen and a future voter, you will play a vital role in determining the future of the nation. Your participation in government is necessary for the American form of government to work.

How can you become an effective citizen? What qualities will you need? Here is a list of 10 characteristics of a good citizen. You probably can think of several more. Good citizens

- are responsible family members,
- respect and obey the laws of the land,

Like these baseball players, citizens in a free nation must act as members of a team. For government to work, everyone must obey the rules and cooperate.
• respect the rights and property of others,
• are loyal to their nation and proud of its accomplishments,
• take part in and improve life in their communities,
• take an active part in their government,
• use natural resources wisely,
• are well informed on important issues,
• believe in equality of opportunity for all people, and
• respect individual differences and ways of life that are different from their own.

The Importance of Civics
It is important for every American to understand how our system of government operates and why citizens must take part in it. Participation in government has always been a basic principle of the American form of government.

In your study of civics you will learn a great deal about American government. Your study also will include many other topics that concern all U.S. citizens. You will study how communities serve their people and some of the challenges these communities face.

You will also read about the nation’s free-economic system and how it provides opportunities for all people. You will learn why citizens must pay taxes. You will study jobs and careers and learn what training and abilities they require. You will discover how the education system works and how you can get the most from your school years. You will read about America’s relations with other nations and learn how over the years the United States has taken a position as a world leader.

Being a U.S. citizen is something we often take for granted. To become a responsible and effective citizen, however, requires effort and training, just as becoming a good athlete or a good musician does. The nation needs citizens who are well informed and who are willing to take part in determining how the nation acts. Meeting the obligations of citizenship is an important challenge. This textbook was written to help you meet that challenge.

SECTION 1 REVIEW

1. Define or identify the following terms: citizen, civics, government, ideal.
2. What obligations do you have as a U.S. citizen?
3. What ideals form the basis of U.S. government and the American way of life?
4. Identify three ways that citizens can become involved in government.
5. Identify 10 qualities of a good citizen.
6. THINKING CRITICALLY You head a committee to encourage good citizenship in your community. Create a chart showing five goals you want your committee to achieve and suggestions for achieving each goal.

Early Americans
As you read the first chapter of American history, you learned that the first Americans were Native Americans. Scientists believe many cultures came to the Western Hemisphere from Southeast Asia over 60,000 years ago. In the next 50,000 years, these cultures moved to Central, Northeastern, and Southwestern locations.
The Native Americans lived off the land. They harvested crops and grew vegetables to build villages. They also hunted deer. They set up permanent or seasonal camps in America. These included Maine, Wisconsin, Texas, and New Mexico.
The Native Americans mostly lived in the Eastern woodlands. They built homes from other parts of the country. They traded with American Indians in Pennsylvania, the Ohio River, and the Middle Atlantic states. The Delaware Indians traded with the American Indians. They sold blankets, guns, and food. As slaves, they also had to live in these homes.
America's heritage of freedom and equality was formed bit by bit as groups from various parts of the world settled here. Today all Americans can be proud of the background we share. For we are all immigrants—people who came here from other lands—or descendants of immigrants.

From their countries of origin, immigrants brought different languages, ideas, beliefs, customs, hopes, and dreams. These different ways of life mixed with the ideas and ways of life of those already present in America. This multicultural heritage has given a special energy and richness to American society that would not be possible otherwise.

**Early Americans**

As you know from your study of American history, the first people to settle in America were Native Americans. Archaeologists—scientists who study the remains of past cultures—estimate that the ancestors of modern-day Native Americans came here from Siberia in Asia between 12,000 and 60,000 years ago. Gradually, over thousands of years, they moved into many parts of North, Central, and South America.

The Vikings came next but did not stay long. The Spaniards were the first Europeans to build lasting settlements in the Americas. They settled in Mexico, Central and South America, and what are now Florida, California, Texas, and the southwestern United States.

The original 13 colonies were settled mostly by people from England. Colonists from other countries included German settlers in Pennsylvania, the Dutch along the Hudson River, and the Swedes in New Jersey and Delaware. Many black people also came to America from Africa. Unlike other immigrants, most of them were brought to America as slaves. They and their children were forced to live in bondage for many years.

**The Americas**

As you know, citizens of the United States are called Americans. What you may not know is that our neighbors to the north and south could be called Americans, too. After all, the two continents that make up the Western Hemisphere are North America and South America. Why, then, do the people of Canada, or Mexico, or Brazil not call themselves Americans?

The reason is that the United States was the first independent nation in the hemisphere. By the time Mexico and the other nations achieved independence in the 1800s, the “American” label already had a specific meaning. It meant a citizen of the United States.

**U.S. Immigration Policy**

Over the years, the United States has been settled and populated by people from all over the world. During its early history, the new American nation struggled to survive. As a result, most immigrants were welcomed to the United States. Agricultural workers and factory laborers, for example, were needed as the nation expanded from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. As a result, during the first half of the 1800s, the U.S. government adopted an “open-shore” policy. This policy allowed unlimited immigration to the United States. The only persons who were not admitted to the country were criminals and those who had certain diseases.
The faces of America show the many lands from which our citizens have come. Though our backgrounds may be different, we are all Americans.

As America began to fill and land and jobs became less available, however, some Americans wanted to change the immigration policy. Slowly the United States began to limit the number of people who were allowed to immigrate to this country. During the 1880s the government placed some restrictions on immigration. It was not until the 1920s, however, that a quota, or limit, was established on the number of immigrants who could be admitted to the nation each year.

U.S. immigration policy today is guided by the Immigration Act of 1990. Under this act the cap on immigration for 1995 and beyond was set at 675,000 immigrants a year—up considerably from the annual limit of 270,000 that existed until 1992. Preference is given to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and to persons who have valuable employment skills. Refugees, or persons fleeing persecution in their home countries, are not subject to this annual quota.

In recent years the majority of immigrants to the United States have come from Asia, Latin America, and Europe. Many of these people immigrated to the United States to escape wars, political conflicts, and other crises in their home countries.

Citizenship by Birth
Millions of immigrants have become U.S. citizens. Some citizens belong to families that have lived here for many generations. Other Americans were born in foreign countries. All citizens, regardless of their heritage, have the same legal rights and responsibilities.

Americans gain their citizenship either by birth or by a special legal process. Most of us became citizens of the United States by birth. If you were born in any one of the 50 states or in any U.S. territory, you automatically became a native-born citizen. If one or both of your parents were U.S. citizens, you were a citizen by birth.

What about those whose parents have never been citizens? Are they, then, foreign-born citizens? Are they illegal immigrants? What about the children born to citizens? Are they citizens by birth? Are they legal immigrants? Are they illegal immigrants? What about all of those born to noncitizen parents who immigrated here or are legal immigrants? Are they citizens by birth? Are they illegal immigrants? What about those who are legal immigrants and are not citizens by birth? Are they illegal immigrants? Are they legal immigrants? What about those who are illegal immigrants? Are they legal immigrants? Are they citizens by birth? Do they have the same legal rights and responsibilities as citizens?
citizen by birth even if they were living in a foreign land when you were born. Citizenship, then, can be acquired by the place of birth or through one's parents.

What about children born in this country whose parents are citizens of a foreign country? Are they citizens of the United States? In most cases they are, if their parents were under the authority of the United States at the time the children were born.

What about children born here whose parents are officials representing a foreign country? They are not U.S. citizens because their parents are under the authority of another country. All cases involving claims of U.S. citizenship are handled by the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Aliens in the United States**

More than 21 million people living in the United States are citizens of other countries. These people are called aliens. Some of these people are here on a visit. Others live and work here or attend school but expect someday to return to their homelands. Many other aliens in the United States expect to live in the country permanently.

While in the United States, all aliens must obey the laws of this country. They are also entitled to be protected by its laws. Aliens enjoy most of the benefits of U.S. citizenship. They cannot, however, vote or hold public office. In addition, various state laws prohibit aliens from working at certain jobs, such as teaching in public schools.

All aliens living in the United States must register with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, an agency of the Department of Justice. They also must keep the agency informed of their current address.

**Illegal Aliens**

No one knows exactly how many aliens live in the United States illegally, but estimates range from 3.5 million to 4 million. In 1986 the Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed to legalize the status of illegal aliens who meet certain requirements, but the flow of illegal immigration remains high.

Nearly half of all illegal aliens come from Mexico. Most come to the United States to find work and a better life. Life is often difficult for illegal aliens, however. Many become migrant workers, moving from farm to farm picking crops. Illegal aliens often have to work for very low wages under harsh working conditions. Some citizens resent these aliens, who they believe are taking jobs away from U.S. citizens. Illegal aliens also face the danger of being caught and deported, or forced to leave, the United States.

By learning English, these aliens are taking an important step toward becoming U.S. citizens. What other steps must aliens take to become citizens of the United States?
Citizenship by Naturalization

Under certain circumstances, citizens of other countries may become U.S. citizens. The legal process by which an alien may become a citizen is called naturalization. The first part of the naturalization process is entering the United States legally.

To be eligible to enter the country, foreigners must prove that they can support themselves and that they can read and write. They must prove they do not have certain diseases or a mental illness and are not drug addicts or criminals. There are several other restrictions that bar people from entering the United States. One restriction bars persons who favor violent revolution, that is, the overthrow of the government by force.

Only immigrants or aliens admitted as permanent residents may become American citizens. This rule excludes foreign visitors and students and others who do not plan to stay in the United States. Although not required, immigrants may file a “declaration of intention,” stating that they plan to become citizens. Some employers ask for this document as evidence that the employee plans to stay in the country.

Aliens may apply for citizenship after they have lived in this country for five years. This period is reduced to three years for an alien married to an American citizen. Aliens must be at least 18 years old to apply for citizenship in the United States.

The first step is to fill out an application called a “petition for naturalization.” When immigration authorities receive this application, they set a date for the person to appear before a naturalization official for a hearing.

During the hearing the applicant must show that he or she is a person of good moral character who believes in the principles of the U.S. Constitution. The applicant also must prove that he or she can read, write, and speak English acceptably and is familiar with U.S. history and government. After the examination the applicant files the petition for naturalization in a naturalization court.

Before they become citizens, applicants may be investigated to check their qualifications. If they prove to have the background needed to become citizens, they are called to court for a final hearing. There they take an oath of allegiance to the United States and are granted a certificate of naturalization. Children automatically become citizens when their parents' naturalization is officially completed.

Naturalized citizens have the same rights and duties as native-born Americans. There is only one exception. Naturalized citizens are not eligible to vote in presidential elections.
not eligible to become president or vice president of the United States.

**SECTION 2 REVIEW**

1. Define or identify the following terms: immigrant, quota, refugee, native-born citizen, alien, deport, naturalization.

2. Who were the first immigrants to America and when did they come here?

3. How does U.S. immigration policy today differ from that of the early 1800s?

4. What are the two ways that a person becomes a citizen of the United States by birth?

5. What rights do U.S. citizens have that legal aliens do not?

6. What problems do illegal aliens face?

7. **THINKING CRITICALLY** You have just become a naturalized citizen of the United States. Write a letter to a friend in the country in which you were born explaining why and how you became a U.S. citizen.

**The American People Today**

The leaders who planned the American government realized that they would need to know how many people—citizens as well as noncitizens—lived in the nation. They decided that every 10 years the national government would make an official count of the number of people living in the United States. This count is called a census. The most recent census was taken in 1990.

**What the Census Tells Us**

The main purpose of the census is to find out the size of each state’s population. This information is used for many purposes, including to determine how many people from each state will be elected to Congress. The census also tells us a great deal about the United States and the people who live here. For example, it tells us how many children there are in each family and how many people have moved and where. In addition, the census indicates the rate of population growth in the United States. This and other information gathered by census takers helps the government, businesses, and individuals plan for the future. It also helps us learn something about ourselves and our nation.

**Population Growth**

When the first census takers counted the nation’s population in 1790, they reported fewer than four million people living in the original 13 states. Since that time, the nation has grown in both size and population. Instead of 13 states, there are now 50. And, according to current projections, the nation’s population will exceed 275 million by the year 2000. How did the United States grow to its present size and population?

All nations grow in three ways. One way is by natural increase in population. A natural population increase occurs when the birthrate is greater than the death rate. The birthrate refers to the annual number of live births per 1,000 members of a population. The death rate refers to the annual number of deaths per 1,000 members of a country’s population.

The second way a nation grows is by adding new territory. The United States has gained new areas of land through war, purchase, and annexation. The people living in these new lands have added to the size of the country’s population.

The third source of population growth is immigration, or the arrival of people from (continued on page 14)
other lands. Since 1820 more than 60 million immigrants from all over the world have come to the United States. As you know, the United States has been called a nation of immigrants.

**How America’s Population Grew**

As the United States expanded from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast, it needed a rapidly growing population to settle the land. In the early years of the nation, however, the population grew relatively slowly.

Life was very difficult in those early pioneer days, and the death rate of Americans was high. Many infants and children died, disease was common, and there were few doctors. Little was known about diseases and how to cure them. Although some Americans lived to an old age, disease, poor diet, and the hazards of pioneer living made the average life expectancy short.

Between 1790 and 1830 the population of the nation more than tripled, reaching nearly 13 million. Almost all of this growth was the result of births in the United States. It was common for families to have large numbers of children. Large families were a necessity at this time. Most people lived on farms, and large families were needed to help work the farms. Thus even though many children died young and the death rate was high, the population grew significantly.

Beginning in the 1830s large numbers of immigrants started to arrive in the United States. Between 1831 and 1840 almost 600,000 immigrants came, many from Ireland. Over the next 10 years more than a million and a half new immigrants arrived. The population had exceeded 23 million by 1850.

By 1920 the nation’s population had risen to nearly 106 million. Immigrants from many lands, particularly the countries of southern and eastern Europe, accounted for a large part of this increase in total population. As you have read, however, after 1920 the United States began to limit the number of immigrants admitted into the country each year.

Most of the population growth after this time was due to natural increase.

**Today’s Population Growth**

Today the population of the United States continues to grow, although not as rapidly as in the past. In 1970, for example, 203 million people lived in the nation—nearly 24 million more than in 1960. By 1980, however, a new trend had appeared. Although the population increased by 23 million, this represented a change of only 11 percent since 1970. This was the second-smallest increase in any 10-year period since 1790.

Population projections indicate that the rate of increase will continue to drop, falling to 9 percent by the year 2000. One reason the U.S. population is growing at a slower rate is that many people are having smaller families.

**A People on the Move**

Where do the people of the United States live? The first census found most Americans living on farms, with a smaller number living in villages and in a few medium-sized cities. Over the years this changed. The farm population has become smaller every year. In 1993 fewer than 5 million Americans lived in households associated with farming operations.

Beginning in the 1800s many Americans began to move away from rural areas, or regions of farms and small towns. Most of them went to live in urban areas, or cities, where they worked in factories and offices. By 1830 the census showed that urban areas were growing faster than rural areas. With each census, the proportion of Americans living in or near cities continued to grow. By 1920 the census showed that more Americans lived in urban areas than in rural areas.

As the population continued to grow rapidly and people moved to the cities, urban areas became crowded. Many Americans could afford to buy automobiles, which made it possible to travel longer distances to work. As a result, beginning in the mid-1900s, people liv-
ing in cities started to move to surrounding areas—the suburbs.

They moved to the suburbs in search of better homes, schools, and communities. Sixteen of the 25 largest cities in the United States lost population between 1960 and 1970. Only nine showed a gain. Today the people who live in the suburbs outnumber those who live in the cities.

Taken together cities and their suburbs account for a vast majority of the nation’s population. Today more than three fourths of the U.S. population live in metropolitan areas, or areas made up of cities and their suburbs. More than half live in areas with populations of 1 million or more.

Another Population Shift
Throughout the nation’s history, Americans have been on the move. This movement continues today, with many Americans moving to different parts of the nation. Such large movements of people from region to region is called migration. The migration pattern in the United States in recent years shows people moving from the Midwest and the Northeast to the South and West.

States in the Midwest and older industrial areas in the Northeast are losing population. Americans from these areas are moving to states in the South and West. These states are known as the Sunbelt. People are moving to the Sunbelt because of the region’s warmer climate. Also, they are looking for better jobs and better opportunities.

California now has the largest population. Nevada, Arizona, Florida, and Alaska are among the fastest growing states, showing enormous increases in population since 1980. States such as Iowa, West Virginia, Rhode Island, and North Dakota, however, have shown losses in population in the past several years.

Because of the population shift to the Sunbelt, cities in the South and West are growing. Los Angeles, California, and Phoenix, Arizona, are now among the nation’s 10 largest cities. Mesa, Arizona, is one of the fastest growing cities. At the same time, cities in the North and East such as Newark, New Jersey; Detroit, Michigan; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, are losing population. Despite this population trend, New York City remains the nation’s most populous city.

A Diverse Population
The United States has been shaped by people from all over the world. Today’s Americans come from many different cultural backgrounds and represent a wide variety of ethnic groups. Despite this diversity, however, the people are united by a common bond—they are all Americans.

The 33 million African Americans living in the United States today make up 13 percent of the population, forming the largest minority group. Hispanic Americans are the country’s second-largest minority group—a group that has seen tremendous growth since
1980. Hispanic Americans today account for nearly 27 million Americans. The fastest growing minority group, however, is the third-largest group—Asian Americans. Since 1980, the Asian American population has increased an extraordinary 147 percent—to more than nine million. Much of this growth took place as a result of immigration.

**Smaller Families**
Recent statistics also show that other changes are taking place in the United States. The size of U.S. households has decreased since 1970. Many couples are having fewer children. Many people, too, now live alone. As a result, today there are more households with fewer people living in them. Since 1970 the total number of households increased from about 63 million to more than 97 million. The average number of persons living in a household, however, declined from more than three people to fewer than three people.

Another change taking place is the increase in the number of one-parent households. Since 1970 the number of one-parent families in the United States has more than doubled. As more couples divorce, a larger number of women are becoming heads of households. In general, women remain responsible for child care. Today less than 30 percent of the nation’s households include the traditional family of mother, father, and one or more children.

**Changing Roles**
Along with changes in the family have come changes in the roles of men and women. Perhaps one of the most significant changes has come about as more women have expanded their role from the traditional one of homemaker. In recent years more women than men have been entering and graduating from college. And, after receiving their education, more women than ever before have been entering the workforce.

In 1970 about 31 million women worked outside the home. Today more than 60 million women work outside the home. Estimates show that this number will reach nearly 72 million by the year 2005. Most women work for the same reason that most men do—economic necessity. Women who head households depend on their jobs as a source of income. So do many married women. Today more than 60 percent of the married women in the United States work outside the home. One result of the increased number of women in the workforce is that more women are entering professions that once were open only to men.

**An Older Population**
Statistics also show that the nation is “growing older” every year. In the early years of the
nation, when both birthrates and death rates were high, the country had a young population. In 1850, for example, half the population of the United States was under the age of 19. Until the 1980s half the population was under the age of 30.

Today people between the ages of 25 and 64 make up the largest group in the population. In this group of almost 134 million people are most of the nation's wage earners and heads of families. They control much of business and government, and greatly influence the nation's values and actions.

An increasing part of the population consists of people who are 65 or older. This trend has resulted from a drop in both birthrates and death rates. The birthrate dropped steadily beginning in the 1960s before leveling off in the 1980s. Also, Americans are living longer. In 1920 the average American lived 54 years. Currently, the average life expectancy is around 76 years.

Today about 33 million Americans are 65 or older. This means that a large number of Americans are retired. Many older people, however, are eager to remain in the workforce. Some work part-time, and others have started new careers or returned to school.

Although most older citizens continue to be active and productive, many are troubled by the problems of low income and poor health. Using the experience and talents of older citizens offers both a challenge and an opportunity for the nation.

4. Describe the movement of the American people from the early years of the nation to the present.

5. What has been the migration pattern in the United States in recent years?

6. Why is it correct to say that the United States has a diverse population?

7. THINKING CRITICALLY It is the year 2020 and you are a history textbook author. Describe for your readers the U.S. population in the mid-1990s. Focus your description on population diversity, household and family size, changing roles, and the aging of the population.

CHAPTER 1 SUMMARY

Civics is the study of what it means to be a U.S. citizen. It teaches us our responsibilities and rights as members of our nation. As citizens, we must protect the ideals of freedom on which the nation was built. We also have important citizenship responsibilities as members of our local community and state.

U.S. citizenship is gained by birth or by naturalization. Naturalized citizens enjoy the same rights as native-born citizens except that naturalized citizens are not eligible to become president or vice president.

The national government has taken a census every 10 years since 1790 to determine how many people live in the United States. The information gathered by census takers tells us how the nation has grown and changed over the years. A nation of farms has become a nation of cities and suburbs.

Recent statistics reveal that Americans are living longer, having smaller families, and moving to the Sunbelt. The number of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans is increasing, as is the number of women in the workforce.

SECTION 3 REVIEW

1. Define or identify the following terms: census, birthrate, death rate, rural area, urban area, suburb, metropolitan area, migration, Sunbelt.

2. Why is the information gathered by census takers important?

3. In what three ways can a population grow?
Vocabulary Workshop

1. Identify the legal process by which an alien becomes a citizen.
2. What term refers to the authority that rules on behalf of a group of people?
3. What is the purpose of a census?
4. What is the difference between rural areas and urban areas?
5. What are ideals? Identify two ideals that form the basis of the American way of life.
6. What is the term for a person born in the United States or in any U.S. territory?
7. Define the term refugees.

Reviewing Main Ideas

1. How did U.S. immigration policy change from the early 1800s to the late 1800s?
2. By what two ways can a person become a citizen of the United States?
3. What are the main steps by which an alien becomes a U.S. citizen?
4. What are the three largest minority groups in the United States?
5. How has the American family been changing in recent years?
6. What changes have taken place in women's roles over the past few decades?
7. Why is it correct to say that the U.S. population is "growing older"?

Thinking Critically

1. The founders of the American government made elected officials answerable to the people so that government would continue to serve the people. Do you think the people of the United States today are being adequately served by government? Explain your answer.
2. Why do you think current immigration law gives preference to immigrants who are immediate relatives of U.S. citizens or who have certain employment skills?
3. Using photographs from magazines and newspapers, create a poster that illustrates the multicultural nature of life in the United States.
4. In what ways has the United States benefited from the diversity of its people?

Citizenship in Your Community

Individual Project

Investigate the beginnings of your community. Who first settled the community? From what countries or areas of the world did these immigrants come? What cultural influences brought by these immigrants are evident in your community? What are the ethnic and cultural backgrounds of the people who live in your community today? What languages do they speak? What foods do they enjoy? Create a poster showing how the ethnic and cultural mix of your community has changed over time.

Building Your Portfolio

The first step of your unit portfolio project (see page 67) is to conduct research to learn about the history of your school. Use this information to draw an illustrated time line showing how your school has changed over time, including changes in the number of students and teachers, changes in the ethnic makeup of the school population, curriculum changes, and how students have shown their school spirit. Title your time line "Our School: Then and Now." Place your time line in your individual portfolio for later use.

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