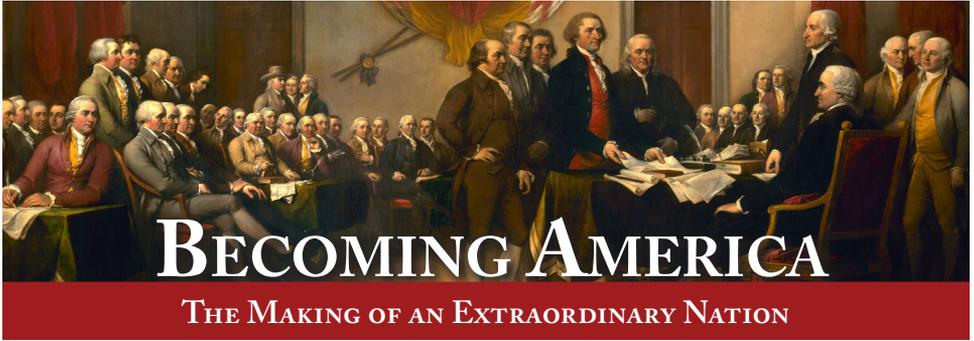


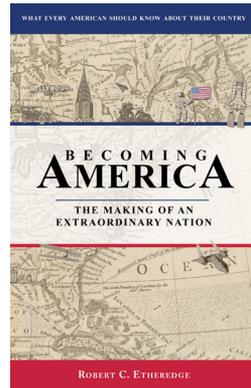
## BOOK GROUP GUIDE



### Are You Able to Pass the U.S. Citizenship Test?

*“The country’s future is imperiled by our ignorance.” - Newsweek*

The challenge is for you to know enough to pass the same Citizenship Test that all new naturalized citizens have to pass. Various studies have shown that almost half the country is unable to pass this and similar American civics tests. Our country needs an educated electorate to survive, and knowledge of our history helps us make better decisions in the future. *Becoming America* covers all aspects of American history, culture, and civics in a concise format. It even includes the complete U.S. Citizenship Test with cross-references for all the answers.



Make sure your reading group is informed about our great country and can make intelligent voting decisions. This study guide has questions from the test, as well as discussion questions and other trivia about America. See how well your group does on these questions--Can you answer all of them? The discussion questions should help further your knowledge about our constitutional form of government. The complete U.S. Citizenship Test is available on the website [www.miravista.com/extra](http://www.miravista.com/extra).

### A Challenge to all Citizens

1. Register to vote.
2. Volunteer to help your political party, and help out at your polling place on election day.
3. Read *Becoming America* and other books about American history, civics, and culture.
4. Learn how the Constitution and its amendments are critical to governing this country.
5. Read newspapers, magazines, and Internet sites, and watch TV news programs to stay informed about the issues confronting this country, and the candidates running for political offices.
6. Vote!

# U.S. CITIZENSHIP TEST

The government has prepared a 100-question Citizenship Test. New citizens only have to answer 6 out of a random selection of 10 questions, asked in person. Natural-born citizens should be able to answer them. Try to answer this random selection of questions. There is also an online test at [www.NewAmericanChallenge.com](http://www.NewAmericanChallenge.com)

3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution.  
What are these words? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment? \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have? \_\_\_\_\_
  
14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful? \_\_\_\_\_
  
19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years? \_\_\_\_\_
  
22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years? \_\_\_\_\_
  
31. If the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President? \_\_\_\_\_
  
36. What are two Cabinet-level positions? \_\_\_\_\_
  
66. When was the Constitution written? \_\_\_\_\_
  
91. Name one U.S. territory. \_\_\_\_\_
  
93. Name one state that borders Mexico. \_\_\_\_\_
  
96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes? \_\_\_\_\_

## EXTRA QUESTIONS

Here are some extra questions that are not on the Citizenship Test, but are based on material in *Becoming America*.

1. How many Presidents have been elected without receiving the most popular votes? \_\_\_\_
2. The Declaration was signed on July 4, 1776. When did the colonials start fighting the British? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where and when was the first permanent English settlement in America? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When were submarines first used in America? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does our Veteran's Day commemorate? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How long did it take to build the Empire State Building? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The 1935 Social Security Act set a retirement age of 65. What was the average American life expectancy in 1935? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is the average life expectancy today in America? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which President won the most electoral votes in history? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What two Presidents died on July 4, 1826? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Which President was never elected to the office? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What initially set the procedure for admitting new states to the union? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What is needed to pass a new amendment to the Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_
13. In the federal budget, how do Medicare/Social Security/Medicaid compare to the Department of Defense budget? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Why were presidential elections set to be held in November and why on Tuesday? \_\_\_\_
15. How many stripes were on the Star-Spangled Banner in 1814? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Which disaster in the U.S. was responsible for the greatest loss of life? \_\_\_\_\_
17. In what year did an American astronaut first set foot on the moon? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What is the leading cause of death in American? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What is the nation's highest military award? \_\_\_\_\_
20. How many electors in the Electoral College? \_\_\_\_\_

## NAME OUR 50 STATES

Can you name and place all the states? Draw a border around the 13 original states.

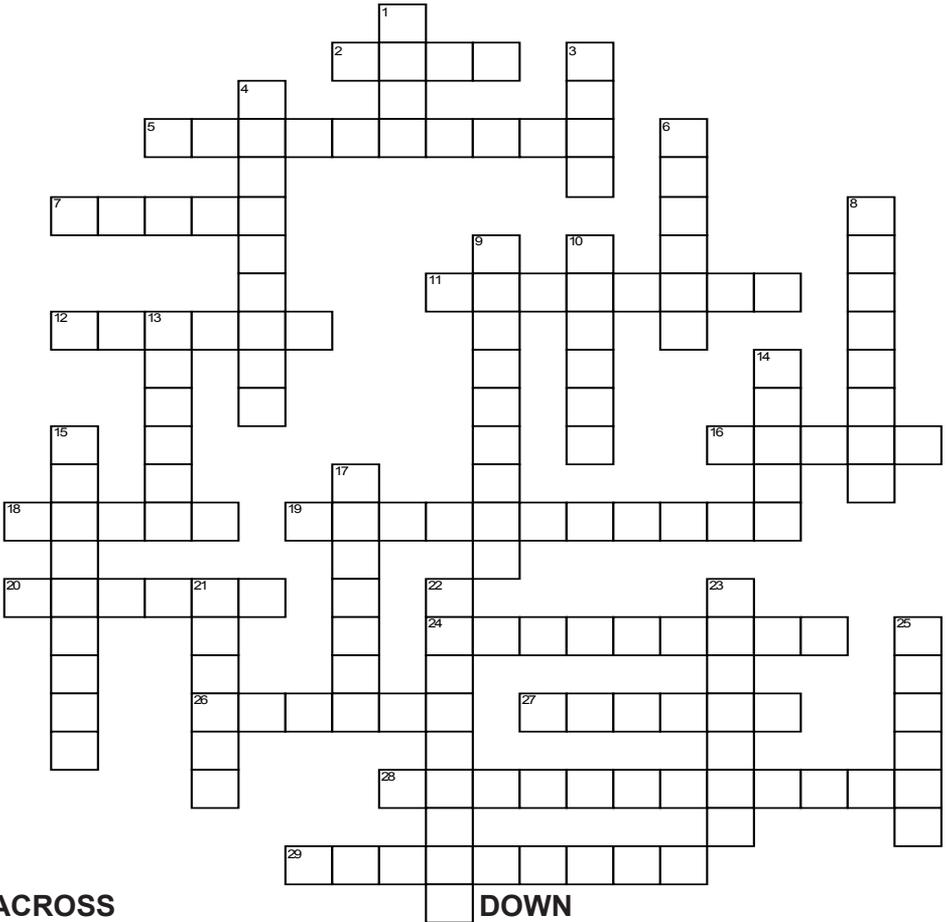


### MATCH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WITH THE SPEAKER OR DOCUMENT ON THE RIGHT

Try to identify the source of each statement. Each name in the list at the right is used once.

___ 1. ...all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.	a. U.S. Constitution
___ 2. Give me liberty, or give me death!	b. Nathan Hale
___ 3. We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union....	c. Declaration of Independence
___ 4. I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.	d. John Paul Jones
___ 5. Thomas Jefferson still survives.	e. Admiral Perry
___ 6. Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!	f. Douglas MacArthur
___ 7. I have not yet begun to fight!	g. Patrick Henry
___ 8. The world must be made safe for democracy.	h. Ronald Reagan
___ 9. We have met the enemy and they are ours!	i. Thomas Paine
___ 10. ...a date that will live in infamy...	j. Gettysburg Address
___ 11. ...ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country.	k. John F. Kennedy
___ 12. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!	l. Admiral Farragut
___ 13. I shall return!	m. John Adams
___ 14. These are the times that try men's souls.	n. Franklin Roosevelt
___ 15. ...that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.	o. Woodrow Wilson

# ANOTHER CHALLENGE



## ACROSS

- 2 World War I Medal of Honor sharp-shooter
- 5 Shuttle that blew up in 1986
- 7 Writer of Uncle Tom's Cabin
- 11 First state to ratify Constitution
- 12 Beantown
- 16 Only President to resign
- 18 First man to reach the North Pole
- 19 First National Park
- 20 Pilot who first broke the sound barrier
- 24 First person to walk on the moon
- 26 Secretary of State who purchased Alaska
- 27 City bombed by 'Candy Bomber'
- 28 Song played at surrender at Yorktown (2 words)
- 29 Leader of B-25 attack on Tokyo in 1942

## DOWN

- 1 Writer of the Battle Hymn of the Republic
- 3 Thomas Jefferson's Vice-President
- 4 1st permanent English settlement in America
- 6 President during Korean War
- 8 First Secretary of Treasury
- 9 President who purchased Louisiana Territory
- 10 50th state
- 13 Fort where Civil War started
- 14 Writer of 'Common Sense'
- 15 Only President to serve two separate terms
- 17 State settled by former convicts
- 21 Inventor of light bulb
- 22 National bird (2 words)
- 23 First Union ironclad
- 25 Scientist who studied peanuts

## DISCUSSION POINTS

The study of American history and civics is far more detailed than the simple questions in the Citizenship Test. You can pick topics from the questions below for further discussion. Most of the information can be found in *Becoming America*.

1. How are amendments to the Constitution passed into law? Do you think the process was made difficult on purpose? What do you think would happen if some states try to pass an amendment abolishing the Electoral College which favors small states?
2. What were the French and Indian Wars? When did they take place? Who fought against whom? What were the effects? How did they affect the attitude of the colonials towards the Indians?
3. What would happen if we abolished the Electoral College and just relied on the popular vote to elect the President? Do you think it would increase the demand for recounts across the country? Many elections could be reversed by only a small number of miscounted votes in each precinct. Remember the problems with “hanging chads” in the 2000 election?
4. Was the clause in the Constitution counting slaves as  $\frac{3}{5}$  of a person racist or not? Why was that clause inserted into the document and what did it accomplish?
5. Does the Constitution give people their rights such as free speech and freedom of the press? Or does it simply protect them? Which amendment also protects the rights of states and individuals?
6. What clause of the Constitution is involved in the 2012 case before the Supreme Court concerning the individual mandate of Obamacare? Explain the importance of states’ rights in the debate. How is this case related to the separation of powers as established by the Constitution?

7. Explain our form of government. Is it a democracy? What protects a simple majority of voters from passing any law they desire? What is the difference between a democracy and a republic?
  
8. What are “checks and balances” in our government? How did the Constitution set up our government to help preserve a balance of power and prevent abuses by any segment of the government?
  
9. If the President, Vice-President and Speaker of the House are killed or incapacitated, who becomes President? What person holds that position now?
  
10. What is the process whereas bills become laws? How are Presidential vetoes handled? Can they be overridden?
  
11. Which part of Congress initiates bills relating to raising revenue?
  
12. Why is the Supreme Court vital in our country’s system of passing laws? Who approves the President’s nomination of new Supreme Court justices? How long are Supreme Court justices terms?
  
13. How was slavery discussed during the creation of the Declaration of Independence? What were Jefferson’s views on the subject? What might have happened had the signers debated the subject for a few more months?
  
14. Describe the history of voting rights in America. When were voting rights given to the various minority groups? What process was used to guarantee their rights? How do our voting rights compare with those of other countries in the world today?

15. In view of demands by other countries for the United States to share or distribute her wealth now, describe what America has given to the world over the last 200 years in terms of money, security, military force during major wars, and economic innovation and products. If America had not spent money and resources building up her economy, industry, and military over the last 100 years, how might the world be different today?
16. What were the main causes of the American Civil War? What was Lincoln's goal at the start of the war? Did his goals change later in the war? Did the Southern states have the legal right to secede? Why did the South fight the war? What would North America be like today if the South had won the war?
17. Why was the Bill of Rights important in getting the U.S. Constitution ratified by all the states? What issues were involved in the struggle between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists?
18. How did the Constitution handle the division of federal and states' rights? What do the 9th and 10th amendments say about the rights that belong to individuals and states instead of the national government? How did states' rights figure as a cause of the Civil War?

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### **Do You Know Your Representatives?**

**Governor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Senators (2):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mayor of your city:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State Senator:** \_\_\_\_\_

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