

# HOW IMMIGRANTS BECOME U.S. CITIZENS

*Could you pass the citizenship test?*

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), more than 537,000 immigrants were welcomed as new citizens in the United States during 2004. At the end of 2005, almost 8 million immigrants were eligible for citizenship. Approximately 11.3 million naturalized citizens already call this country home.

“USCIS naturalizes more than 2,100 new Americans each day, and every citizen application requires the scrutiny and special attention of many dedicated men and women at USCIS,” said USCIS Director Emilio T. Gonzalez at a naturalization ceremony last May.

The general naturalization requirements include: a period of continuous residence (five years for permanent residents, three years for permanent residents married to a U.S. citizen) and physical presence in the United States; an ability to read, write and speak English; good moral character; attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution; and a favorable disposition toward the United States. Plus, applicants must pass a written exam that tests their knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government.

Could you pass the test? Here’s a sampling of the questions asked on the U.S. Naturalization Exam. For more information, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

- 1) What is the date of Independence Day?
- 2) What do we call a change to the Constitution?
- 3) What are the three branches of our government?
- 4) What is the legislative branch of our government?
- 5) How many senators are there in Congress?
- 6) Can you name the two senators from your state?
- 7) What is the Bill of Rights?
- 8) Who becomes President of the United States if the President and the Vice President should die?
- 9) Who said, “Give me liberty or give me death”?
- 10) Who selects the Supreme Court justices?
- 11) How many Supreme Court justices are there?
- 12) What is the head executive of a state government called?
- 13) Who wrote “The Star-Spangled Banner”?
- 14) Name one right guaranteed by the First Amendment.
- 15) Can you name the 13 original states?

## Answers:

1) July 4th 2) Amendments 3) Legislative, Executive and Judiciary 4) Congress 5) 100 6) Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr (N.C.) 7) The first 10 amendments of the U.S. Constitution 8) Speaker of the House of Representatives 9) Patrick Henry 10) Appointed by the President 11) 9 12) Governor 13) Francis Scott Key 14) Freedom of speech, press, religion, peaceable assembly, and requesting change of the government 15) Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Rhode Island and Maryland