

Citizenship Terms & Definition Worksheet

Term	Definition	Examples
Citizen	A person born in US or who comes (immigrates) to US and becomes a citizen through the Naturalization process.	Like a member of a family or a member of a school. Member of group. Individuals from other countries visiting the U.S. are not citizens. Individuals who have entered the country without permission are not citizens.
Citizen Action	Small act or action citizens can do that helps keep our democracy strong and thus free.	Types of Citizen Actions included those acts that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ remind us of our Heritage ▪ involve us in the Democratic Process ▪ support Special Groups with a responsibility for keeping the country strong, ▪ help us understand our Government, ▪ promote a sense of Community and ▪ strengthen Individuals and Families.
Citizenship	The conduct of a citizen	
Constitution	Document that describes how U.S. government will be organized and the basic laws of the country. Set of rules for living and behaving.	The government will have three branches - executive, judicial, and congressional. We have freedom of expression.
Country/society	Geographical area where the people have a single government.	United States is a country. Canada is a country, Mexico is a country, England is a country. California is not a country.
Democracy	Country where government is made up of regular citizens and elected by citizens.	The U.S. is a democracy. Iran is a dictatorship. Cuba is a dictatorship.

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	<p>A country with a government run by an individual or small group not elected by the citizens is called a dictatorship.</p> <p>A country run by a King or Queen is called a Monarchy.</p>	Denmark is a type of Monarchy.
Diversity	Individuals	
Freedom/Liberty	The ability to act, to speak, and to think without externally imposed restraints.	Freedom doesn't mean one can do or say anything. There are laws that do limit acts that are not acceptable within a country.
Government	Part of society/country responsible for 1) creating and enforcing laws, 2) providing services to its citizens, and 3) keeping the country safe.	The role of the U.S. government is described in the constitution.
Heritage	The accomplishments, events, and traditions from past generations that have resulted in the country as it is today.	
	Leadership Set example	
Leader	Someone who influences a group to accomplish a goal.	
Responsibility	Duty or obligation to do something.	As a citizen, a responsibility to do things like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obey and help enforce laws ▪ Pay taxes ▪ Vote when they are 18 years old.

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		At home, a responsibility to keep ones room clean. At school, a responsibility to be quiet in class.
Rights	Certain things that are allowed or owed or given to citizens by the Constitution and other laws.	The right to say what we want. The right to be safe. The right to an education.
SIGocracy	A country where special interest groups, instead of the citizens, have the most influence on our government.	A SIGocracy exists when the citizens of a democracy aren't involved.
Special interest groups	A group whose members have a common interest and that tries to influence laws in their favor.	The Republican and Democrat political parties. Unions are SIGs. Individual companies can be SIGs.
State	Area of the country with its own government.	The U.S. has 50 states. California, Arizona, Hawaii, and New York are states.
Vote	When a citizen learns about the candidates running for office and then casts a secret ballot for those he or she wishes to represent them.	The actual casting of ballots is done either by mail or at a polling location.