



We the People

TERMS & NAMES

- immigrant
- Anasazi
- equal opportunity
- citizenship
- democracy
- republic
- political process
- patriotism

MAIN IDEA

Citizens of the United States come from many cultures and share the same rights and responsibilities.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The ideas and values of U.S. immigrants have helped shape the success of the country in the world today.

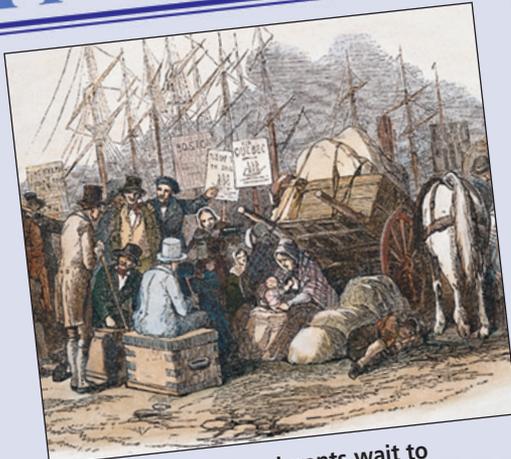
EXTRA

DATELINE

NEW YORK CITY, 1849

Ships docked today, bringing more people from their Irish homeland to live in the United States. These immigrants have suffered through four years of a deadly potato famine. A blight, or disease, has almost completely destroyed the potato crop every year since 1845. The Irish, especially those who are

poor, depend on this crop to survive. The failure of the potato crop has resulted in the deaths of more than 1 million people—12% of the population of Ireland—from starvation and disease. Today's arrivals join more than 1 million Irish people who are already in the United States.



Movement • Irish immigrants wait to board a ship that will bring them to the United States. ▲

One Country, Many Cultures

Immigrants, such as the Irish, have brought unique contributions to the United States from their homelands all over the world. The United States is sometimes called a “melting pot,” a “salad bowl,” or a “patchwork quilt” to illustrate how U.S. society combines aspects of many cultures. Some features may blend into the culture of the United States, while others retain their original characteristics.

TAKING NOTES

Use your chart to take notes about the United States today.

<i>The United States Today</i>	
History	
Government	



BACKGROUND

The motto *E Pluribus Unum*, Latin for “out of many, one,” is on the Great Seal of the United States and many U.S. coins.

For example, settlers from Great Britain brought English, the most widely spoken language in the United States. Spanish is often spoken in the Southeast and the Southwest, where people from Spain and Mexico settled. French is heard in Louisiana, which was once held by France. People in the United States enjoy the influence of different groups on their foods, music, sports, and other areas of their lives.

Why People Immigrate An **immigrant** is someone who chooses to move to a new country. They come to the United States for different reasons. Some are escaping from discrimination, persecution, or war. Others leave their homelands because of drought, earthquake, or other natural disasters. Often, people come hoping to improve their economic or educational opportunities.

People from Many Lands

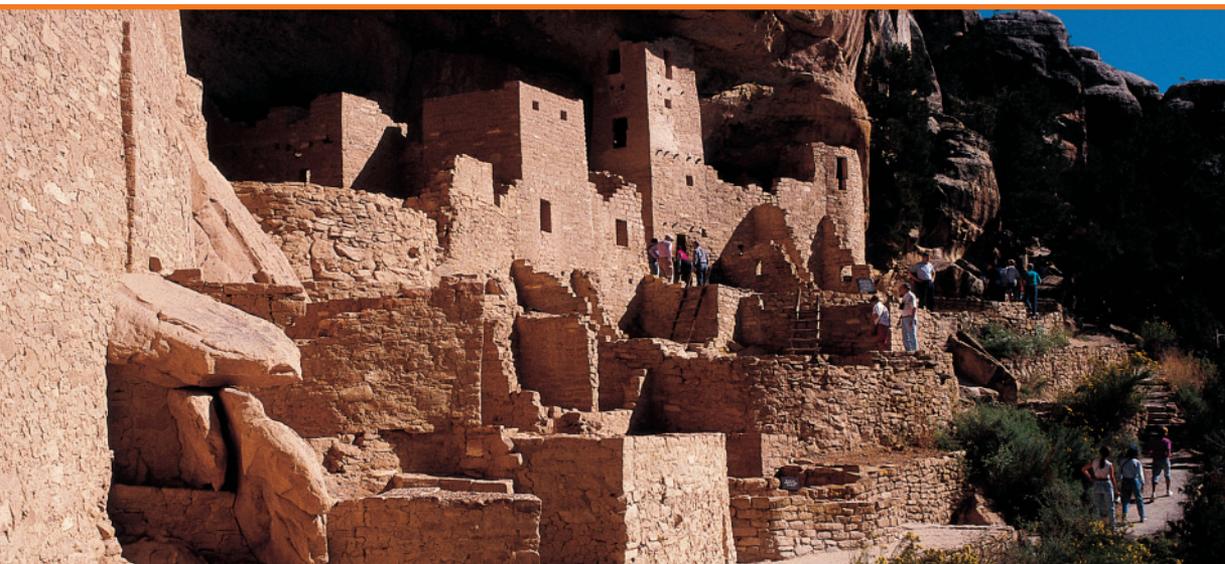
Over the past 500 years, millions of immigrants have come to the land that is now the United States and Canada. However, this land was inhabited long before they arrived. In fact, people have lived in North America for thousands of years.

The First Americans Native Americans were the first people to inhabit the Western Hemisphere. They came to North America from Eastern Asia, 12,000 to 35,000 years ago. Some groups, such as the Mississippians and **Anasazi** (Navajo for “Ancient Ones”), developed complex civilizations.

The Anasazi civilization developed around A.D. 100 and reached its height in the 11th to 13th centuries. The Anasazi were experts at irrigation. They built homes called cliff dwellings that had from 20 to 1,000 rooms. Remains of these structures survive in the Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado and in other places in the Southwestern United States.

Reading Social Studies

A. Summarizing
Why have people immigrated to the United States?



Human-Environment Interaction • The remains of Anasazi cliff dwellings, such as Cliff Palace in Mesa Verde National Park, are found in the Southwestern United States. ◀

North American Settlement, 1750

INTERACTIVE

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

- 1. Movement** • Which three European countries had settlers in North America by 1750?
- 2. Region** • Which country had settlements along most of the East Coast?



The Europeans Arrive European exploration of the Americas began in the late 1400s. Colonists soon followed the explorers. The British settled along the Atlantic coast, in what is now southeastern Canada and the Northeastern United States. Spaniards settled in Florida and came north from Mexico to build towns in the Southwest. Often, the settlers' ways of life and needs for resources conflicted with those of the Native Americans. As the European population grew, competition for land intensified. Europeans often took land from Native Americans. Cultural differences and land disputes led to distrust and war.

Slaves in the Colonies European settlers began to plant and harvest crops and started businesses and towns. This created a demand for cheap labor, so Europeans forced some people to migrate to America.

They had been buying people from slave traders in Africa since the 1500s. Beginning in 1619, enslaved Africans were shipped to the American colonies under such harsh conditions that many died during the journey. Those who survived were bought and sold as property and forced to work for free all their lives. Their children were born into slavery. Although these Africans did not arrive by choice, their labor helped build the country, and their influence is seen in our culture today.

Connections to History

Indentured Servants Indentured servants were immigrants who agreed to work in the colonies for a certain number of years in exchange for passage to America. Their indentures, or contracts, could be bought and sold by employers.

Indentured servants were often forced to work long hours and were sometimes treated very badly. Many did not live long enough to gain their freedom. Most, however, settled in the colonies after completing their contracts.



From Far and Near In the second half of the 1800s, many Chinese immigrants entered the United States. Some worked in mines, while others helped build the transcontinental railroad. In the 1880s and the 1920s, new laws limited the number of U.S. immigrants from various countries. In 1952, legislation again allowed immigrants of all nationalities to become citizens.

Rights of Citizens

Although the United States is among the world's leaders in protecting individual freedom, many U.S. citizens have struggled for their rights. Even after African Americans were freed from slavery in 1865 by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, they were denied their rights. Women could not vote in the United States until 1920. Native Americans, as well as Hispanics, Asians, the Irish, and other immigrants, have fought against discrimination.

The guarantee of **equal opportunity** in education, employment, and other areas of life has expanded over the years. Today, it is illegal for the government or private institutions to discriminate because of race, gender, religion, age, or disability.

Responsibilities of Citizenship

U.S. citizens' rights come with responsibilities. Citizens should help decide who will run their government and what actions it will take.

Reading Social Studies

B. Making Inferences Do you think citizens of a democracy have greater responsibilities because they have more rights? Explain.

Citizenship IN ACTION

Americans Join Together On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four U.S. planes. They flew two into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and one into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Both towers collapsed, and one wing of the Pentagon was damaged. Thousands of people were killed, and hundreds more were injured or trapped under debris. The fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers struggled with the hijackers.

During the crisis, Americans like these rescue workers showed their patriotism and heroism. Hundreds of firefighters, police officers, and medical personnel worked tirelessly, risking their own lives to save others. Citizens and companies across the country donated time, blood, supplies, and millions of dollars to the victims and their families through organizations such as the Red Cross and the United Way. Americans came together in response to the attack on their nation.



Duties of Citizens



Pay Taxes

Pay for the benefits and services that they receive from the government

Cast an Informed Vote



Learn about candidates and issues to make informed decisions when they vote



Serve on Juries

Serve on juries to decide court cases



Serve in the Military

Serve in defense of their country, if called upon to do so

Volunteer for Activities that Promote the Common Good



Work to protect the environment, support communities, and help the underprivileged

Obey Laws

Live within the laws



Citizenship is a combination of the duties and rights of a citizen. Good citizenship means doing more than the minimum required by law to secure the good of the people.

The Political Process in a Democracy and a Republic In a democracy, government receives its power from the people. **Democracy** is a Greek word that means “rule of the people.” In a **republic**, the people also hold power, but they rule through elected representatives. The United States is a republic. The citizens of a democracy or a republic have the responsibility to take part in the political process. The **political process** refers to those legal activities through which citizens can change public policy. By becoming involved, citizens demonstrate their **patriotism**, or love for their country.

Vocabulary

public policy: Actions that a government takes to carry out its responsibilities, such as making laws and creating rules and regulations.

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

1. Explain the significance of: (a) immigrant (b) Anasazi (c) equal opportunity (d) citizenship (e) democracy (f) republic (g) political process (h) patriotism

Using Graphics

2. Use a chart like this one to list five groups that immigrated to America. List the approximate date they began arriving.

Group	First Arrived

Main Ideas

3. (a) Why do people immigrate to the United States?
 (b) What are some of the rights guaranteed to U.S. citizens by the Constitution?
 (c) What are some responsibilities of U.S. citizens?

Critical Thinking

4. Draw Conclusions

In what ways do the rights and duties of U.S. citizens reflect the ideas of the writers of the Constitution?

Think About

- ♦ reasons people immigrated to the colonies
- ♦ the way a democracy works

ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Think about one of the immigrant populations described. Write and illustrate a **magazine article** about the contributions this group has made to the culture of the United States.