Foundations of American Citizenship

Fourth of July parade, New York City
Be and Active Citizen

Find out the purposes of government firsthand. Contact a government leader, such as a state representative, a city council member, or a school board member, and ask how the government he or she represents serves American citizens.
Making Connections

Learn It!

As a reader, you are constantly making connections between what you are reading and what you already know. The more connections you make, the better you are able to comprehend. You may make connections between the text and an experience you have had in your life (text-to-self), the text and another text (text-to-text), or the text and something that happened in school, your community, or the world (text-to-world).

- Read the paragraph below.
- Which statements in the paragraph create a connection in your mind?
- Think about any connections related to the text, such as the examples given below.

Conflicts are unavoidable when people live together in a community. Governments make laws to prevent conflicts and to settle those conflicts that do arise.

—from page 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement from text</th>
<th>Connection</th>
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<tr>
<td>Conflicts are unavoidable when people live together in a community.</td>
<td>Our neighbors got into a big argument once about loud music.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governments make laws to prevent conflicts.</td>
<td>My uncle once went to court to settle a conflict he had with a company.</td>
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Reading Tip

Be an active reader by seeking connections through the people, places, things or events that make up your own background experiences.
2 Practice It!

Read the following paragraph from this unit.
• Draw a graphic organizer like the one shown below.
• In the left-hand column, write at least three statements from the paragraph with which you can make a connection. You do not need to copy the entire sentence.
• In the right-hand column, write your connections beside each statement.

Throughout our nation’s history, people still in their teens have bravely fought for our country. By law, however, they were not old enough to vote for the leaders who sent them into battle. Although the Constitution did not specify, or mention, a minimum age for voters, most states set the minimum at 21.

That standard finally changed in 1971, a year when many young Americans were fighting in the Vietnam War.

—from page 137

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<th>Statement from text</th>
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3 Apply It!

Your mind will be busy making connections as you read the chapters in this unit. At the end of each chapter, create a graphic organizer such as the one above to help you tie your connections to an important concept from the chapter. Use your organizer to help you remember important facts as you study for tests.
Why It Matters

Our Declaration of Independence proclaims that “all men are created equal.” This does not mean that everyone is born with the same wealth, intelligence, strength, or ambition. Each one of us has a unique combination of qualities and characteristics. The words of the Declaration mean that all people should have equal rights, which is the cornerstone of the democratic ideal.
Section 1: The Diversity of Americans

As American citizens, we make a commitment to the nation and to the values and principles that are part of United States democracy. In addition to the common values and civic unity, the United States benefits from its rich diversity.

Section 2: Who Are America’s Citizens?

Citizens possess certain rights. With citizenship, there are also certain responsibilities expected of all Americans. In the United States, there are two ways to become a citizen: by birth and by a process called naturalization.

Section 3: Government and the People

People form governments to establish order, provide security, and accomplish common goals. Democratic governments perform necessary functions so citizens can live together peacefully.

Comparing Information Study Foldable

Make the following Foldable to help you compare information about citizenship and government in a democracy.

Step 1 Use one sheet of paper folded in half the long way.

Step 2 Fold in half again to create cutting lines.

Step 3 Cut the folded top sheet in half to create two tabs.

Step 4 Label the tabs as shown.

Reading and Writing

As you read the chapter, note details about the processes of becoming a citizen from birth or by naturalization.
The Diversity of Americans

Real World Civics  Does your vote count? Enthusiastic young people like those pictured volunteered for the America Votes National Day of Action in May of 2004 to help register new voters. Both political parties worked in 2004 to register as many citizens as possible to vote, especially minorities and immigrants who might not feel that their voice matters. Why? When you do not vote, you let others speak for you.

Stacey Brayboy and Alvin Anderson prepare to canvass a neighborhood in Miami, Florida.
What Is Civics?

Main Idea  Civics is the study of the rights and duties of citizens.

Civics & You  As an American citizen, did you know you have certain rights as well as responsibilities? Read to find out what it means to be a citizen of a country.

When Americans vote or serve on a jury, their actions are based on ideas that people had in the fourth century B.C. In examining how people act, Greek philosopher Aristotle wrote:

“If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.”

—Aristotle, Politics

Ancient Roots

Civics is the study of the rights and duties of citizens. The concept of citizenship dates back more than 2,500 years to ancient Greece and Rome. In those days, only a few people could be citizens. Only men with property possessed the right to vote and to take part in government.

Today gender and wealth are no longer requirements for citizenship. Indeed, most people are citizens of the country in which they live. Citizens have certain rights and duties. They are community members who owe loyalty to the government and are entitled to protection from it.

However, being a citizen means much more than just living in a country. American citizens who live abroad are still citizens of the United States. Citizens are a part of a country. They may share a common history, common customs, or common beliefs. They agree to follow a set of rules and to accept the government’s authority.

Explaining  As a citizen, what do you agree to do?

Diversity  Native Americans from Taos, New Mexico, perform a dance that represents one of their cultural traditions. Discussing  How do you think diversity has influenced our nation and its culture?
A Changing Society

Main Idea  American society has undergone many changes in the past, and these changes continue today.

Civics & You  What would make you want to move to a new place? Read on to find out why people immigrated to the Americas.

On the back of every American coin, you will find the Latin words *E pluribus unum*, meaning “Out of many, one.” This phrase reminds us that the many diverse, or different, citizens of the United States have joined together to make a single, strong nation. For all our differences, we are linked by shared values and experiences. More than 300 million people live in the United States today. All of us are descendants from families that immigrated at one time or another. Most scholars believe that even the first Native Americans arrived here thousands of years ago by crossing over a “land bridge” that once connected Asia and North America.

A Nation of Immigrants

Until the mid-1900s, most immigrants came from Europe. The first Europeans to settle permanently in North America arrived from Spain during the 1500s. They lived in what is now Florida, California, and the Southwest. By the time the United States won its independence from England, the Spanish had founded Tucson, Albuquerque, San Antonio, and San Diego.

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**U.S. Foreign-Born Population, 1850–2005**

See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

**Analyzing Graphs**

1. **Calculating**  In what year did the foreign-born population reach its all-time highest number?
2. **Calculating**  In what year did the foreign-born population reach its all-time percentage low?

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Urban Institute.
**Early Immigration** Beginning in the 1600s, people from France and England came to North America. The French settled primarily in Canada, but they also clustered around the Mississippi River. English immigrants settled mainly along the east coast of North America, creating the thirteen colonies that became the United States. During the late 1600s and the 1700s, immigrants from Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Scotland, and Sweden joined these English settlers.

**After Independence** After the United States gained its independence, it became known throughout Europe as a land of promise. The number of immigrants grew from 600,000 in the 1830s to more than 2 million by the 1850s. Between 1860 and 1890, more than 10 million Europeans—many of them from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden—streamed into this country.

**A Shift in Immigration** Another flood of immigrants—about 22 million—reached our shores between 1890 and 1924. Most of them came from southern and eastern Europe, from countries such as Italy, Greece, Poland, and Russia.

During the past 50 years, immigration from Europe to the United States has lagged far behind immigration from the rest of the world. Latin America now accounts for the largest share of foreign newcomers, followed by Asia.

**Enslaved Africans** Among the early immigrants to America were some who did not come willingly. Western and central Africans were taken by force from their homes, shipped across the Atlantic Ocean, and sold as slaves in the Caribbean Islands and North and South America. Between 1619 and 1808, before it became illegal to bring enslaved persons into the United States, some 500,000 people were brought to the country in this way. Most African Americans today are descendants of enslaved persons. Others are immigrants from various countries in Africa and the Caribbean region.

**Immigration Patterns** Until the mid-1900s most American immigrants came from Europe. Today the largest numbers of immigrants, like these girls taking part in the Latino celebration of Cinco de Mayo in New York City, have come from Spanish-speaking countries. Speculating Why do people from other countries want to live in the United States?

**A Diverse Population**

The American population is extraordinarily diverse in terms of ethnic, or racial, backgrounds. Many Americans today do not identify themselves as members of a single ethnic group. However, whites of European descent number more than 234 million. There are about 37 million African Americans, over 12 million Asians and Pacific Islanders, and almost 2.8 million Native Americans. More than 39 million people are Latinos—people of any race who trace their ancestry to the Spanish-speaking countries of the Western Hemisphere.

**Religious Diversity** Our ethnic diversity is matched by religious diversity. More than 200 million people practice some form of Christianity. Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and many other religious groups are also free to worship according to their conscience. Those who do not practice any religion are equally at home here.
Many Traditions  As people with different beliefs and backgrounds have made lives for themselves in the United States, many of their “old country” traditions have become part of the American culture. The American culture is a rich blend of varied influences.

Transforming America

Between 1830 and 1930, the nation’s population grew from about 12 million people to about 120 million people. About 40 million of those new Americans were immigrants.

Over the years, the American population has changed in many ways. In the mid-1800s, for example, people began moving from rural areas to cities. The higher wages paid in the cities attracted workers. Many of those moving to the cities found work in newly opened factories. These workers became known as blue-collar workers. Others found jobs in offices, schools, stores, and other nonfactory settings and were called white-collar workers. By 1920 more than half of all Americans lived in towns or cities.

Another significant change was the shift to service industry jobs. In the past few decades, manufacturing has lost ground to what we call the “service economy.” Many Americans now earn a living by providing services—practicing law or medicine, programming computers, teaching, and so forth. There are also more women and at-home workers in the labor force than ever before.

United States Immigration, 2004

[Map showing immigration from different regions to the United States]


Analyzing Maps

1. Analyzing  What is the percentage of immigrants coming to the United States from South America?

2. Identifying  Which region accounts for the smallest percentage of immigrants?
The places where we live are changing too. For example, shortly after the Civil War, African Americans, freed from slavery, headed for northern cities, seeking jobs and a new way of life. The result was a migration, or mass movement, of African Americans from the South to the North. For much of our history, the Northeast was the most populous part of the country. Today, the South claims that distinction, and the population there and in the West is growing faster than in any other regions.

The population is changing in other ways, including the following:

- The average age of citizens is climbing upward as people live longer and have fewer children.
- Record numbers of Americans are now earning college and graduate degrees.
- Latinos, commonly referred to as Hispanic Americans, are the fastest-growing ethnic group.

Indeed, if current patterns continue, Latinos and other minority groups, taken as a whole, will soon be in the majority.

American Values and Institutions

Main Idea Americans share key values, and these values are reflected in the important institutions of American life.

Civics & You What do you think makes a person an American? Read to find out about the values we share and how they have shaped the character of the American people.

Even though American society is more diverse than ever, certain shared ideas help unite Americans of different backgrounds. Two of these important ideas are our values and our institutions.

What Are Values?

Do you agree with most of your classmates on what is good and what is bad? The general principles, or beliefs, you use to make these judgments are your values. Values are broad ideas about what is good or desirable, and are shared by people in a society. Values are important because they influence the way we act.
Basic American Values

Everyone’s list of basic American values will include different ideas. However, some values would appear on almost every list. These include freedom, equality, opportunity, justice, democracy, unity, respect, and tolerance. Some of these values, such as equality and opportunity, and respect and tolerance, are linked. Can you think of other values to include on this list?

Shared Values Unite Americans

Another important effect of having a set of shared values is the unity it builds among Americans. For example, one very important source of American unity is a common civic and political heritage based on the country’s founding documents. These key documents include the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution of 1787, and the Bill of Rights of 1791. American ideals of individual rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” are in these founding documents. So are such values as **popular sovereignty** (government by consent of the governed) through

- fair, free, and regular elections;
- equal justice under the law;
- majority rule through the people’s representatives in government.

A second significant source of unity is a single language, English, which generally is accepted as the primary means of communication in education, government, and business. Americans are free to speak any language. However, some people think that the United States is strengthened by the common and public use of one language, which can be used by diverse groups of Americans to communicate freely with one another. Can you think of other values that have helped unite Americans throughout history?
American Institutions

Each society has its own social institutions. These are not buildings or places but sets of ideas that people have about relationships, obligations, roles, and functions. As in every society, the most important institution in American life is the family. The family is the core of social life: it produces new generations, socializes the young, offers care and affection, and provides economic support. Parents and caregivers are also transmitters of values, both personal and national, to their children.

Other important institutions in American life, which also reflect our nation’s shared values, are religious, educational, and social. Religious institutions, such as churches, temples, and mosques, can promote social unity and provide a sense of meaning and belonging. Educational institutions at all levels reflect our society’s culture, history, and learning, create a common identity, and promote personal growth and development. Social institutions, such as clubs and volunteer service organizations, can be another way we share our common values.

The different parts of our government are also institutions. Governmental institutions were created, and have developed over time, based on important shared American values. As Abraham Lincoln explained in his first Inaugural Address in 1861:

“This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember, or overthrow it.”

—Abraham Lincoln, First Inaugural Address

With these words, Lincoln underscored the most important concept of American government: the people, not the government, are in control.

Identifying What are some types of important American institutions?
Who Are America’s Citizens?

Real World Civics What does your U.S. citizenship mean to you? The aircraft carrier USS Midway set the scene for Navy sailor Hugston Brooks from Liberia and 80 other Marine and Navy service members from 25 countries to become U.S. citizens on Veterans Day in 2004. The San Diego ceremony was held during a military celebration of Veterans Day. For many people around the world, becoming a U.S. citizen is a lifelong dream. With nearly 12,500 noncitizen active-duty sailors, the Navy now provides a streamlined route to naturalized citizenship for many recruits.

\[ U.S. \text{ Navy sailor Hugston Brooks} \]
Path to Citizenship

Main Idea In the United States, there are two ways to become a citizen: by birth and by a process called naturalization.

Civics & You What should people who want to become U.S. citizens know about our country? Read to find out about the process of becoming a citizen.

You learned that citizens are community members who owe loyalty to the government and are entitled to protection from it. Every country has rules about how people gain citizenship. The U.S. Constitution establishes two ways to become a citizen: by birth and, for foreign-born people who choose to become citizens, by a legal process called naturalization.

Citizenship by Birth

If you were born in any of the 50 states or the District of Columbia, you automatically became an American citizen at birth. The same is true if you were born outside the country but in American territory, such as Puerto Rico or Guam, or on a U.S. military base overseas. Even if you were born elsewhere, you could still claim American citizenship if your parents are both citizens or if one is a citizen who has lived in the United States. Children born on American soil to non-U.S. citizens also acquire U.S. citizenship at birth.

Americans may hold dual citizenship. This means that they enjoy rights in the United States and in another country. For example, a child born abroad to American parents may be both a U.S. citizen and a citizen of the country of his or her birth.

Shared Opportunities Both native-born and naturalized citizens can vote in America. In his room at Camp Eagle in Baghdad, Iraq, U.S. Army Sergeant George Scheufele fills out an absentee ballot for a presidential election. Defining U.S. citizens are encouraged to vote. Is this more a right or responsibility of citizenship? Explain.
**The Naturalization Process**

Several million noncitizens, or **aliens**, live in the United States. Some come to study, to work, or to visit relatives. They remain citizens of their own countries and eventually return home. Other aliens plan to settle here and become naturalized citizens. More than half a million **immigrants**—people who move permanently to a new country—gain American citizenship each year.

**Beginning the Process** Aliens who want to become United States citizens must first sign a statement saying just that. This Declaration of Intention is then filed with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), an agency of the national government. For most aliens, the next step comes after living in the United States at least five years. (Aliens who are married to citizens wait only three years.) During this time, many immigrants take special classes to prepare for citizenship. Then, if they are at least 18 years old and have lived for at least three months in the state where they seek naturalization, they may file an application for citizenship.

**Interview and Examination** After the paperwork is checked, the alien has an interview with a USCIS official. Agency officials want to be sure the alien meets the necessary requirements and is of good moral character. The applicant must also take a citizenship exam that consists of questions about reading, writing, and speaking English and basic facts about the history and government of the United States. Afterward, the USCIS makes its decision.

**Oath of Allegiance** If the application is granted, the final step in naturalization is attending a ceremony and pledging an oath of allegiance. The alien swears to be loyal to this country above all others, to obey the Constitution and other laws, and to perform military or other duties if needed. Then the person signs a document and is declared a citizen of the United States. If he or she has children under 18, they automatically become naturalized citizens, too.

**Native Americans** For a long time, most Native Americans were excluded from citizenship. A few groups became citizens through treaties with the federal government. Later, Congress offered citizenship to individual Native Americans who gave up their traditional culture. Not until 1924 did Congress make all Native Americans citizens of the United States.
A Lifelong Privilege

Whether they are naturalized or native-born, most Americans keep their citizenship forever. Only the federal government can both grant citizenship and take it away. State governments can deny, or refuse, a convicted criminal some of the privileges of citizenship, such as voting, they do not have the power to deny citizenship itself.

The government may strip naturalized citizens of citizenship if it was improperly obtained, or gained. Citizens can lose citizenship in three ways: through denaturalization, through expatriation, or by being convicted of certain crimes. Native-born U.S. citizens can lose citizenship only through their own actions and cannot be denaturalized.

Denaturalization The loss of citizenship through fraud or deception during the naturalization process is called denaturalization. For example, former Nazis who engaged in war crimes during World War II and later lied about their wartime activities were denaturalized after they entered the United States or when they applied for citizenship.

Expatriation The simplest way to lose citizenship is through expatriation, or giving up one’s citizenship by leaving one’s native country to live in a foreign country. Expatriation may be voluntary or involuntary. For example, a person who becomes a naturalized citizen of another country automatically loses his or her American citizenship. Involuntary expatriation would occur in the case of a child whose parents become citizens of another country.

Punishment For a Crime A person may lose citizenship when convicted of certain federal crimes that involve extreme disloyalty. These crimes include treason, participation in a rebellion, and attempts to overthrow the government through violent means.

Summarizing Describe the two methods of obtaining U.S. citizenship.
Aliens in America

Main Idea Even though the United States controls the admission of aliens to this country, each year millions of people enter America illegally.

Civics & You Why do you think so many people want to come to the United States? Read to find out why our country is such a magnet to people around the world.

The United States restricts the number of immigrants who can enter the country. Millions apply, but only about 675,000 are accepted each year. Traditionally, the relatives of U.S. citizens and people with needed job skills received the highest priority, or first consideration. Family members still get special consideration, but because of the Immigration Act of 1990, emphasis has shifted toward welcoming “those who want to work and produce and contribute,” as one member of Congress put it. The new policy benefits people with particular skills, talents, or the money to invest in our economy.

Illegal Aliens

Despite immigration limits, approximately 12 million aliens are living in the United States illegally. Some were refused permission to immigrate; others never applied for permission because they feared a long, slow process or being turned down.

Illegal aliens come to the United States in a variety of ways. A few enter the country as temporary visitors but never leave. Others risk arrest by illegally crossing our borders with Mexico and Canada. Other illegal aliens are foreigners who have stayed in the United States after their legal permits expired.

Whatever the method, the reason is usually the same. “I came for work and for a better life,” explained one Mexican immigrant. Yet illegal aliens often have a difficult time in the United States. Many have no

Border Security A U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service agent searches a Mexican fishing boat for people who may be entering the country illegally. Discussing Why do people enter the United States illegally?
Chapter 1

Vocabulary
1. **Explain** how each of the following terms relates to citizenship in the United States: *naturalization, alien, immigrant, deport.*

Main Ideas
2. **Explaining** What is dual citizenship? How can an American obtain dual citizenship?
3. **Analyzing** Why do you think the United States puts a limit on the number of immigrants who may enter the country?

Critical Thinking
4. **Synthesizing** If you were a government official, how would you prevent illegal aliens from entering the United States?

5. **BIG Ideas** On a chart like the one below, list the sequence of steps in the naturalization process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Naturalization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Step 1</td>
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<td>Step 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 3</td>
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Activity
6. **Descriptive Writing** Interview an American who became a citizen through the naturalization process. Write a one-page paper in which you answer these questions: What reasons brought him or her to the United States? Why did he or she want to become an American citizen?

Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Legal Aliens

United States law classifies aliens into different categories. A resident alien is a person from a foreign country who has established permanent residence in the United States. Resident aliens may stay in the United States as long as they wish without becoming American citizens. A nonresident alien is a person from a foreign country who expects to stay in the United States for a short, specified period. A Turkish journalist who has come to report on a presidential election is an example of a nonresident alien. Refugees are another category. Refugees are people fleeing their country to escape persecution.

Aliens who have entered the United States legally lead lives much like those of American citizens. Aliens may hold jobs, own property, attend public schools, and receive other government services. They pay taxes and are entitled to legal protection.

Aliens do not have full political rights, however. They may not vote in elections or run for office. They may not serve on juries or work in most government jobs. In addition, unlike U.S. citizens, aliens must carry identification cards at all times.

Contrasting How do the rights of legal aliens differ from those of U.S. citizens?
Guide to Reading

Big Idea
People form governments to establish order, provide security, and accomplish common goals.

Content Vocabulary
- government (p. 21)
- public policy (p. 22)
- budget (p. 22)
- democracy (p. 23)
- direct democracy (p. 23)
- representative democracy (p. 24)
- republic (p. 24)
- monarchy (p. 24)
- majority rule (p. 25)
- authoritarian (p. 25)
- totalitarian (p. 26)

Academic Vocabulary
- community (p. 21)
- enforce (p. 21)
- constrain (p. 25)

Reading Strategy
Organizing
Create a chart like the one below. Then list the different types of government and a brief description of each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Government</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Democracy</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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Real World Civics
Curious teens scramble over rocks as they near the spectacular Fiery Furnace in Arches National Park and are careful to leave the park the way they found it. This park is one of nearly 400 national parks in 49 states to which lawmakers are considering cutting services. About 118 million people visit these precious gems for fun, recreation, inspiration, and renewal. However, rising costs for maintenance and staffing, which is provided by the national government, may cause some national parks to reduce tours and public access, cut back on hours, and in some cases close parkland.

Ranger Clay Parcels leads a group through the Fiery Furnace of Arches National Park in Moab, Utah.

NORTH CAROLINA STANDARDS
Civics and Economics

1.08 Compare the American system of government to other forms of government.
4.06 Describe the benefits of civic participation.
4.08 Participate in civic life, politics, and/or government.
The Need for Government

Main Idea The different levels of government provide many different services.

Civics & You When was the last time a government provided you with a service? Read to find out how local, state, and national governments serve the public.

A government is the ruling authority for a community, or society. Any organization that has the power to make and enforce, or carry out, laws and decisions for its members acts as a government.

For hundreds of years, people have formed governments. The earliest Native Americans had tribal councils. Thomas Hobbes, an English political thinker during the 1600s, believed that without government, life would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." If each of us could do just as he or she pleased, fighting probably would be common, and survival would depend on strength and skill.

Think about trying to play basketball with no rules or referees. The game would probably be a chaotic free-for-all. Similarly, if there were no government to make and enforce laws, we would live in a state of confusion, violence, and fear. Government can make it possible for people to live together peacefully and productively.

What Governments Do

The most important purpose of a government is to provide laws, or rules of conduct. These laws help prevent conflicts between individuals, groups, or nations and help settle any conflicts that do occur.

Government Services This fire station protects the community and also serves as a place where these citizens can cast their votes in their neighborhoods. Identifying What other types of public services does government provide?
**Keep Order** Conflicts are unavoidable when people live together in a community. Governments make laws to help prevent conflicts and to settle those conflicts that do arise.

Governments have the power to enforce the laws. For example, to make sure that drivers obey traffic regulations, police officers are empowered to ticket or arrest violators. Courts decide whether those accused of crimes are guilty and how they should be punished if found guilty.

**Provide Security** Along with the need for law and order come concerns about community security—defending citizens and their land from enemies. For this reason, governments set up armed forces and agencies that watch for likely sources of trouble.

**Provide Public Services** Governments provide many services that would not be available otherwise. Governments create and manage libraries, schools, hospitals, parks, and recreation centers. Government workers build and repair streets, erect bridges, collect garbage, and deliver the mail.

Many government services are aimed at keeping the public healthy and safe. Local communities set up fire departments and ambulance services. States license drivers and doctors. Other government agencies protect us from dangerous medicines and spoiled food. Government inspectors check for safety problems in everything from factories to amusement park rides.

Governments also give help to needy people. For example, in each of the 50 states, poor families and people who are out of work can receive food, aid, or cash. Government agencies also supply affordable housing, health care, job training, and special programs for people with disabilities.

**Guide the Community** Another function of government is to formulate **public policy**, or a course of government action to achieve community goals. When government leaders decide they want to protect consumers, for example, or strengthen national security, they are setting public policy goals. When they pass laws or develop guidelines to reach these goals, they are making public policy.

Most public policy decisions involve financial planning. Governments have limited amounts of money, and they must use it wisely. Creating a **budget**, or a plan for collecting and spending money, is key to the success of the community.

Another part of guiding the community is developing relations with the community’s neighbors and other outsiders. Governments often take responsibility for communicating and cooperating with other governments on matters of trade, travel, and military agreements for the benefit of their citizens.
Levels of Government

Many levels of government exist, each representing a particular collection of people. Each of the 50 states has its own government; so do most counties, cities, and towns. The students in your school may have their own student government.

National Government

Although each of the above is a government, when most people talk about “the government,” they are talking about the national government—the government of an entire country. In the United States, the national government is made up of three branches of government. These branches are the legislative, the executive, and the judicial branches. A national government is different from other levels of government in two important ways.

First, a national government has the highest level of authority over its citizens. A city or state government cannot make any laws that would go against the laws of the national government. The national government, however, has the power to make whatever laws it feels would benefit the country. Second, a national government provides the basic framework for citizenship.

State and Local Government

The national government makes and enforces laws for the entire country. Each state decides matters for the people in that state.

The level of government closest to Americans is local government. Local governments include counties, cities, and towns. Your school may have a student government, and if you choose to belong to a club like Girl Scouts or 4-H, you respect that organization’s governing body, too.

However, state and local governments, as well as governments of organizations, cannot take actions that go against the laws and authority of the national government.

Types of Government

Main Idea  The people are the ultimate rulers of democratic countries, while in totalitarian states, a single person or small group holds all the power.

Civics & You  Did you know there is more than one type of democracy? Read to find out about other kinds of democracies.

Democratic Government

The foundations of democracy are more than 2,500 years old. Democracy began in the ancient Greek city of Athens. Athens had a direct democracy—all the citizens met to debate government matters and vote first-hand. Direct democracy is not practical for most countries today because of their large areas and populations.

Public Safety  Government inspectors regularly check amusement park rides to ensure that they meet safety requirements.  Identifying  In what other ways does the government protect your health and safety?
What Is a Republic? Many countries have a representative democracy instead. The citizens choose a smaller group to represent them, make laws, and govern on their behalf. For most Americans today, the terms representative democracy, republic, and constitutional republic mean the same thing: a system of limited government in which the people are the ultimate source of governmental power. The United States is the oldest representative democracy in the world.

Constitutional Monarchy Another kind of democracy is the constitutional monarchy. The word monarchy describes a government with a hereditary ruler—a king, queen, or other royal figure who inherits this position of power. In most countries with monarchs, the power of the hereditary ruler is limited by the country’s constitution and laws.

Modern constitutional monarchies generally follow democratic practices. The monarchs are heads of state only, presiding at ceremonies and serving as symbols of unity. The queen of Great Britain and the emperor of Japan are two examples of constitutional monarchs.

Democratic Principles

Abraham Lincoln described our democracy as a “government of the people, by the people, for the people.” His words make three important points. First, the power of the government comes from the citizens. Second, Americans themselves, acting through their representatives, run their government. Third, the purpose of the government is to make the United States a better place for those who live here.

Voting and Democracy All genuine democracies have free, fair, and competitive elections. Everyone’s vote must carry the same weight. This principle is often expressed in the phrase “one person, one vote.” All candidates have the right to express their views freely to the public, and citizens are free to support any candidate or issue.

The legal requirements for voting must be kept to a minimum. For example, our voting laws center on age, residence, and citizenship, while other factors, such as wealth, race, and ethnic and religious background, cannot be used to restrict voting. Finally, citizens may vote freely by secret ballot, without fearing punishment for their voting decisions.
Comparing Democratic and Authoritarian Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection of Leaders</th>
<th>Extent of Government Power</th>
<th>Means of Ensuring Compliance</th>
<th>Political Parties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Leaders are chosen in fair elections with universal suffrage</td>
<td>The government is limited in power by the constitution and laws; citizens’ rights and freedoms are protected</td>
<td>The government relies on the rule of law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authoritarianism</td>
<td>Rulers inherit their positions or take power by force</td>
<td>Rulers have unlimited power; the government may impose an official ideology and control all aspects of political, economic, and civic life</td>
<td>The government relies on state control of the media, propaganda, military or police power, and terror</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voters Have Choices  Competitive elections and competing political parties are an important element in democracies. A political party is a group of individuals with broad, common interests who organize to support candidates for office and determine public policy. Competing political parties give voters a choice among candidates. Also, parties out of power serve as watchdogs of parties in power.

Majority Rule  Another principle of our democracy is majority rule. French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau promoted this idea in the late 1700s. According to this principle, citizens agree that when differences of opinion arise, they will abide by what most people want. At the same time, they respect the rights of those in the minority.

Respect for minority rights is sometimes difficult, though, especially if society is under a great deal of stress. For example, after the terrorist attacks of 2001, President George W. Bush realized that many Americans might turn their anger against Muslims in the United States. He explained that Islam is a peaceful religion and urged Americans to treat Muslim Americans fairly.

Authoritarian Government  In democratic regimes, the people rule. In authoritarian regimes, power is held by an individual or a group not accountable to the people.

Absolute Monarchy  Until about the 1600s, monarchs were mostly absolute monarchs. That is, they had unlimited authority to rule as they wished. Many countries still have monarchs, but absolute monarchy is almost nonexistent today. In the Middle East, however, the king of Saudi Arabia and the emir of Qatar might still be considered “absolute.” Their power is technically unrestricted, although they do consult with advisers and are constrained, or bound, by Islamic law.
**Dictatorships** Another form of authoritarian government is a dictatorship. Dictators, like absolute monarchs, exercise complete control over the state. Unlike absolute monarchs, who usually acquire their power through inheritance, dictators usually take power by force. At times, when a crisis situation demands a strong leader, authorities may place them in charge. To stay in power, most dictators rely on the police and military. They often tamper with elections or refuse to hold them. They also limit freedoms of speech, assembly, and the press.

Scores of dictators have ruled throughout history. Those who seek only personal gain are often overthrown quickly. With the help of the United States, Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was overthrown in 1989. Other dictators endure for decades. Fidel Castro has been in power in Cuba since 1959. Saddam Hussein ruled Iraq from 1979 until he was overthrown in 2003. Hussein was convicted of crimes against humanity and executed in 2007.

**Totalitarianism** Many dictators impose totalitarian rule on their people. In a totalitarian state, the government’s control extends to almost all aspects of people’s lives. Totalitarian leaders ban political opposition. They regulate what industries and farms produce. They suppress individual freedom, dictating what people should believe and with whom they may interact. The people lack the power to limit their rulers.

To enforce their ideology, or ideas about life and society, totalitarian leaders control the media and use propaganda, scare tactics, and violence. Three of the most notorious totalitarian regimes arose in the 1920s and 1930s. They were Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler, Fascist Italy under Benito Mussolini, and the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. Today, the nations of China, Cuba, and North Korea are usually considered totalitarian states.

**Vocabulary**

1. **Write** complete sentences that demonstrate the meaning of each of the following terms: government, public policy, budget, democracy, direct democracy, representative democracy, republic, monarchy, majority rule, authoritarian, totalitarian.

2. **Identifying** Name three public services that governments provide.

3. **Comparing** What is the difference between rulers in a democracy and rulers in a totalitarian state?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **BIG Ideas** What do you think would happen if there were no governments anywhere in the world? Describe such a situation, then explain why governments are necessary.

5. **Organizing** On a diagram like the one below, write the functions of government.

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6. **Analyzing Visuals** Review the principles of American democracy on page 24. How does the American government carry out the principle of consent of the governed?

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7. **Descriptive Writing** In a one-page essay, explain how you think your life would be different if you were living in a country ruled by a monarch.

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**Study Central™** To review this section, go to glencoe.com.
The American People

• Because of its heritage, the United States is often called “a nation of immigrants.”
• Until the mid-1900s, most immigrants came from Europe.
• Latin America now accounts for the largest share of immigrants to the United States.
• The United States is a diverse nation, reflecting the values of many groups.

American Values and Institutions

• Values are ideas about what is good or desirable that are shared by people in a society.
• Our basic values include freedom, equality, opportunity, justice, and tolerance.

Citizenship

• According to the U.S. Constitution, people can become American citizens by birth and through naturalization.
• Millions of illegal aliens live in the United States. Legal aliens have entered the country lawfully.

Government

• People need governments to make and enforce laws and to help us meet our needs.
The purposes of government include the following:
  • Providing order and security
  • Providing public services

Yosemite National Park

• Guiding the community
• Although all governments carry out the same basic functions, there are differences in the ways governments can be organized.
• The main types of government are democratic government and authoritarian government.
• In a democracy, the supreme political authority rests with the people.
Chapter 1

North Carolina End-of-Course Test
Civics and Economics Practice

TEST-TAKING TIP

Keep daily notes to review for tests and examinations. It often helps you retain information if you review your notes with a study partner.

Reviewing Vocabulary
Directions: Choose the word(s) that best completes the sentence.

1. _______ are broad ideas about what is good and desirable.
   A public policies  C values
   B institutions     D budgets

2. Government by consent of the governed is _______.
   A community       C naturalization
   B majority rule   D popular sovereignty

3. People from foreign countries who plan to stay in the United States for a short time are called _______.
   A citizens        C aliens
   B immigrants      D institutions

4. The people are the ultimate source of government power in a _______.
   A monarchy       C republic
   B dictatorship    D totalitarian state

Reviewing Main Ideas
Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

Section 1 (pp. 6–13)

5. Which is the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States today?
   A Native Americans
   B African Americans
   C European Americans
   D Latino Americans

6. Which value is part of Americans’ common civic and political heritage?
   A fair elections
   B volunteerism
   C caring parents
   D cultural education

Section 2 (pp. 14–19)

7. Which person is NOT a United States citizen?
   A a child born in Guam to Japanese parents
   B a girl born in Yemen to an American mother
   C a boy born in Illinois to Mexican parents
   D a child born in Great Britain to Irish parents

8. What is the primary responsibility of the National Border Patrol?
   A to deport aliens with expired visas
   B to prevent illegal entry of aliens
   C to naturalize resident aliens
   D to issue visas to legal aliens

Section 3 (pp. 20–26)

9. Which function of government do public libraries fulfill?
   A keeping order
   B providing public security
   C providing services
   D guiding the community

10. Which factor is a legal restriction on voting in the United States?
    A age
    B race
    C wealth
    D religion
Critical Thinking

Directions: Base your answers to questions 11 and 12 on the chart below and your knowledge of Chapter 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule of Law</th>
<th>Limited Government</th>
<th>Consent of the Governed</th>
<th>Individual Rights</th>
<th>Representative Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All people, including those who</td>
<td>Government is not all powerful—</td>
<td>American citizens are the</td>
<td>In the American democracy,</td>
<td>People elect leaders to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>govern, are bound by the law.</td>
<td>it may do only those things</td>
<td>source of all governmental</td>
<td>individual rights are</td>
<td>make the laws and govern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>that the people have given it</td>
<td>power.</td>
<td>protected by government.</td>
<td>on their behalf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the power to do.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Which principle of American democracy prevents a president from serving more terms than allowed in Amendment XXII of the Constitution?
   A rule of law
   B limited government
   C individual rights
   D representative government

12. Which practice best reflects the principle of representative government?
   A serving on a jury
   B voting for mayor
   C writing to the editor
   D polling public opinion

Document-Based Questions

Directions: Analyze the following document and answer the short-answer questions that follow.

The passage is from The Social Contract by Jean Jacques Rousseau, the eighteenth-century political theorist, who believed that real democracy was impossible.

Nothing is more dangerous than the influence of private interests on public affairs; and the abuse of the laws by the government is a lesser evil than the corruption of the legislator [lawmaker], which is the infallible result of the pursuit of private interests. For when the State is changed in its substance all reform becomes impossible. A people which would never abuse the government would likewise never abuse its independence; a people which always governed well would not need to be governed.

—Jean Jacques Rousseau

13. How might the corruption of a legislator who pursues his or her private interests endanger the democratic principle of majority rule? Give an example.

14. What do you think Rousseau means by a government’s independence?

Informational Writing

15. Many American citizens confuse legal and illegal aliens. Write a brief essay comparing and contrasting the situations of illegal aliens with that of resident aliens.

For additional test practice, use Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 1 on glencoe.com.