Chapter 1

We the People

Section 1: Civics in Our Lives
Section 2: Who Are U.S. Citizens?
Section 3: The American People Today
Section 1: Civics in Our Lives

The Main Idea
As a U.S. citizen, it is your duty to help preserve freedom and to ensure justice and equality for yourself and all Americans.

Reading Focus
◆ Why do we study civics?
◆ What are the values that form the basis of the American way of life?
◆ What are the roles and qualities of a good citizen?
Civics is the study of citizenship and government. Citizenship includes:

- Being a productive member of society
- Fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of a citizen
Ideals of the U.S. government and the American way of life:

- Freedom and equality are protected by laws.
- Citizens share in protecting liberties.
- Citizens are guaranteed an education and equal opportunity of employment.
- Citizens must respect the rights of others.
Some roles and qualities of a good citizen:

- Voting
- Government or political participation
- Informing officials of needs or disagreements
- Studying civics to understand the government
- Respecting the rights of others
- Responsibly using natural resources
Question: What ideals form the basis of the U.S. government and the American way of life?

American Ideals

- Freedom
- Equality
Section 2: Who Are U.S. Citizens?

The Main Idea
Throughout history, immigrants have brought their languages, ideas, beliefs, hopes, and customs to the United States. Their ways of life are constantly mixing with and influencing the culture of Americans who came before.

Reading Focus
◆ Who are “Americans,” and from where did they come?
◆ What changes have occurred in U.S. immigration policy since the early 1800s?
◆ How does a person become a U.S. citizen?
North America’s earliest inhabitants:

- People from Siberia settled in North America 12,000–40,000 years ago.
- A.D. 1000—Vikings arrived but did not settle in North America.
- 1492—Christopher Columbus claimed land for Spain.
- Spanish, French, British, Dutch, Swedish, and Africans (slaves) settled in America.
Changes in U.S. immigration policy:

- **1880s**—restrictions placed on immigration in response to wage issues
- **1920s**—Limits on yearly immigration; *quotas* set for particular countries
- **Immigration Act of 1990**—cap set at 675,000 immigrants per year
- **Refugees** are not subject to the immigration cap.
- **1986**—Immigration Reform and Control Act
Section 2: Who Are U.S. Citizens?

How U.S. citizenship benefits people:

- Freedom is protected by laws.
- Citizens are eligible for government services.
Question: What are the benefits of U.S. citizenship?

Benefits of Citizenship:
- Voting rights
- Right to hold public office
- Freedom of job choice
The Main Idea
The U.S. population continues to grow and change today.

Reading Focus
◆ Why is the census important?
◆ In what ways does population grow and change?
◆ What has changed about the American population over the years?
◆ For what reasons have Americans moved and settled in new areas over the course of U.S. history?
Section 3: The American People Today

Census Information

- Determines how many people each state has in the House of Representatives
- Shows population growth and decline for different areas
- Reports how many children each family has
- Helps government, businesses, and individuals plan for the future
## Question:
Why is census information important?

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<th>How They Use It</th>
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<td>government</td>
<td>to plan the budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>businesses</td>
<td>to fill the needs of the market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individuals</td>
<td>to write books and reports</td>
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Section 3: The American People Today

Populations grow by:

- Natural increase
- Adding new territories
- Immigration
Section 3: The American People Today

Changes in the demographics of Americans:

◆ **CHANGING HOUSEHOLDS (Shrinking Families)**
  - An increase in divorces has created more one-parent households
  - Some couples are deciding to have fewer children
  - Some people choose not to marry at all
  - People are able to live by themselves longer.

◆ **CHANGING WOMEN’S ROLES**
  - More careers open to women.
  - Majority of women work outside the home.
  - More women than men now enter college and graduate.
Changes in the demographics of Americans:

- **AN OLDER POPULATION**
  - Healthier lifestyles and better medical care are allowing people to live longer. (Causing Problems for Social Security)

- **A MORE DIVERSE POPULATION**
  - The number of Americans with mixed heritage has grown.
Changes in the movement of Americans:

- The first census found the majority of Americans living on farms and rural areas.
- 1830—urban areas were growing faster than rural areas.
- 1920—more Americans lived in cities than in rural areas.
- Mid-1900s—suburbs developed around crowded cities.
- Today there are more people living in suburbs than in cities.
- Migration to the Sunbelt increased during the 1980s–1990s.
### Minority Group | Conditions / Concerns
---|---
**African Americans** | making gains toward equality, but statistics still show members are lagging in education, employment, and income; becoming more politically active
**Hispanics** | rapidly growing population; trailing in income and education; diverse population
**Asian Americans** | contrast between first-generation immigrants, who are often poor, and second-generation, many of whom succeed educationally and financially; viewed as "model minority," although this term is resented
**American Indians** | often live on reservations; high poverty and poor education; encouraged to assimilate; taking steps to establish sources of income and better schools
**White Ethnics** | includes some who assimilate quickly and others who remain victims of prejudice and discrimination; making gains in religious tolerance; good education level
Chapter 1 Wrap-Up

1. Why do people study civics?
2. What principles and ideals form the foundation of the American system of government?
3. How has U.S. immigration policy changed since the early 1800s?
4. What benefits do people derive from being a citizen of the United States?
5. Identify three ways that the populations of countries increase.
6. How have migration patterns shifted from the 1800s to the present?