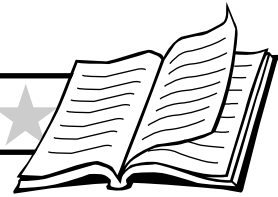


Study Guide



Chapter 1, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 14–17

The Path to Citizenship



KEY TERMS

naturalization a legal process in which foreigners become citizens (page 14)

alien a noncitizen (page 15)

immigrant a person who moves permanently to a new country (page 15)

deport to expel from the country (page 17)

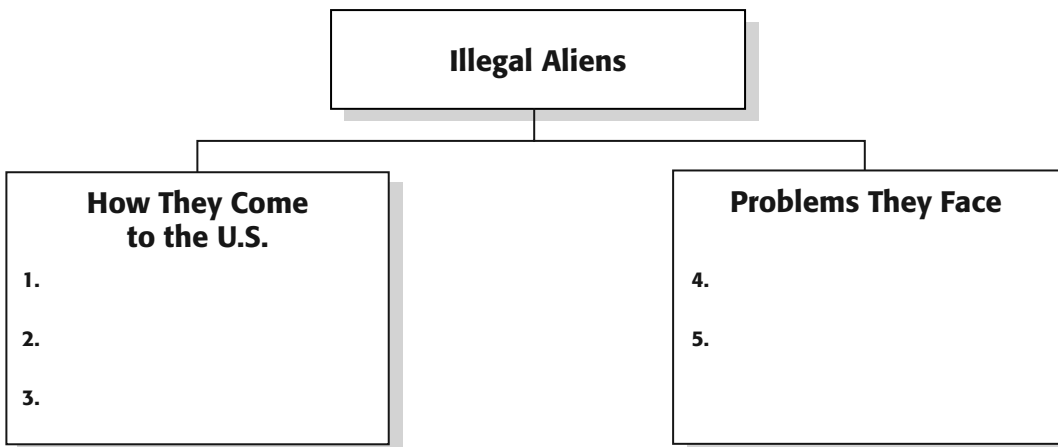
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

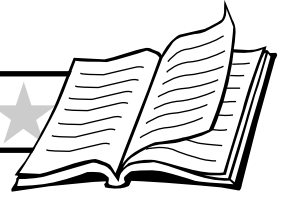
Who are immigrants? Why do you think many people from other parts of the world immigrated to America?

The last section described the functions of government and the characteristics of a democratic government. This section discusses how people become citizens.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Explain how illegal aliens come to the United States and the problems they often face.



Study Guide**Chapter 1, Section 2 (continued)****READ TO LEARN****• Who Are America's Citizens?** *(page 14)*

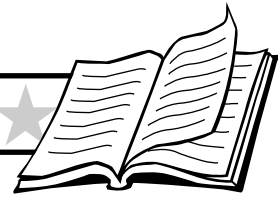
Every country has rules about how people become citizens. The **Fourteenth Amendment** of the United States Constitution states that **people in the United States can become citizens in two ways. One way is by birth. The other way for foreigners to become citizens is by a legal process called naturalization.**

People who are born in any of the 50 states or in a U.S. territory automatically become American citizens. People who are born elsewhere but whose parents are both citizens also become citizens. In addition, people also become citizens if they have one parent who is a citizen and who has actually lived in the United States. Children who are born on American soil to parents who are not citizens also become citizens at birth. This is not true, however, for children born to foreign diplomats living in the United States. These children take the citizenship of their parents. Sometimes, a person may have **dual citizenship**. This can happen when a child is born in another country to American parents. That child may be both a U.S. citizen and the citizen of the country in which he or she was born.

Several million **aliens**, or noncitizens, live in the United States. Some aliens stay in the United States for a short while. They remain citizens of their own country. Other aliens, however, plan to stay in the United States and become naturalized citizens. More than half a million **immigrants**, or people who move permanently to a new country, become U.S. citizens each year.

Those who want to become citizens have to sign a statement that **says just that. Aliens then have to wait five years before becoming naturalized. Those who are married to a U.S. citizen have to wait only three years.** During this time, aliens take classes to prepare them for citizenship. If they are at least 18 years old, they may file an application for citizenship. They then have an interview with an official of the **Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)**. They also take a citizenship exam. Then the INS makes its decision. Once the application is approved, the aliens take part in a citizenship ceremony. At the ceremony, they promise to be loyal to the country and to obey the Constitution and other laws. Then they are declared citizens of the United States. **If they have children under 18, those children automatically become naturalized citizens, too.**

Study Guide



Chapter 1, Section 2 (continued)

Once people become U.S. citizens, most keep their citizenship forever. Only the federal government can both grant and take away citizenship. Generally **the only way to lose U.S. citizenship is to give it up.** This is done in a foreign country with an oath signed before an American official. **Once citizenship is given up, it cannot be regained.**

6. In what two ways can people become citizens of the United States?

• Aliens in America (page 16)

Although millions of people apply for entry into the United States, only about 675,000 are accepted each year. The people who are relatives of U.S. citizens and those who have needed job skills have the highest priority. After the Immigration Act of 1990 was passed, the **people who had certain job skills or money to invest in the economy received top priority.**

About 5 to 6 million aliens are living in the United States illegally. They come to the United States in a variety of ways. Some come as temporary visitors but never leave. Some illegally cross the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada. Some are foreigners who have stayed in the United States after their legal permits have expired. Illegal aliens often have a difficult life in the United States. **Because it is illegal to hire illegal aliens,** those who find work usually receive little pay and no benefits. They also live with the fear that government officials will find them and **deport** them, or send them back to their own country.

The lives of **legal aliens** in the United States are much like those of American citizens. **They can hold jobs, attend public schools, and receive government services. They pay taxes. However, aliens do not have full political rights. They may not vote or serve on juries. They also may not hold most government jobs.** They must carry identification cards at all times.

7. What groups of immigrants are given priority to enter the United States?
