



# LAW WISE

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KANSAS BAR ASSOCIATION  
www.ksbar.org

Greetings from the Kansas Bar Association (KBA).  
Welcome to this edition of *Law Wise* and the second edition of the 2012-2013 school year.

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## WELCOME

This edition of *Law Wise* focuses on citizenship and naturalization, as part of a general emphasis this year on civics education. This year’s *Law Wise* should help teachers meet the Kansas high school civics-government standard:

“The student uses a working knowledge and understanding of governmental systems of Kansas and the United States ... with an emphasis on the United States Constitution, the necessity for the rule of law, the civic values of the American people, and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of becoming active participants in our representative democracy.”

## BRING YOUR CLASS TO A NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

[www.ksd.uscourts.gov/naturalization-1](http://www.ksd.uscourts.gov/naturalization-1)

Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen or national after he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

The United States District Court for the District of Kansas holds more than 20 naturalization ceremonies a year, admitting an average of 2,400 petitioners as naturalized U.S. citizens. The ceremony typically lasts for about an hour. For specific questions regarding the Naturalization ceremony, please contact the clerk’s office nearest you. Kansas City Clerk (913) 735-2200; Topeka Clerk (785) 338-5400; Wichita Clerk (316) 315-4200. The Naturalization Ceremony Schedule for the rest of this year is:

## CALENDAR OF EVENT

Sept. 17, 2012 Constitution Day



October 26	1:30 p.m.	500 State Avenue Kansas City, KS 66101 Courtroom 655
November 16	10:30 a.m.	444 S.E. Quincy Topeka, KS 66683 Courthouse Atrium
November 16	11:00 a.m.	225 W Douglas Ave. Wichita, KS 67202 Mary Jane Teall Theater
November 30	1:30 p.m.	500 State Avenue Kansas City, KS 66101 Courtroom 655
December 21	1:30 p.m.	500 State Avenue Kansas City, KS 66101 Courtroom 655

[www.ksbar.org](http://www.ksbar.org)

## LESSON PLAN

# JUST THE FACTS

### DESCRIPTION

Students learn about the status of citizenship in the United States. As a foundation for studying the rights and responsibilities of citizens, students learn what it means to be a citizen and how citizenship is obtained. Students also examine the dynamic nature of citizenship over time.

### OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- define citizenship as it applies in the modern US on a graphic organizer by pulling information from a text.
- describe the process of becoming a US citizen (naturalization) by examining the Oath of Allegiance and recording information from a text onto a graphic organizer.
- analyze the dynamic nature of citizenship over time through word problems about the amendments covering suffrage.



### LESSON PREP

**PRINT** all student and teacher materials:

- [Citizenship Just the Facts.pdf](#)

### STEP BY STEP

**ANTICIPATE** with your students by asking the question: “What does it mean to be a member of something?” Write down key words from their answers on the board.

**DISTRIBUTE** the Reading and Graphic Organizer.

**READ** the Reading with the class, pausing to fill out the Graphic Organizer with your students as you go.

**REVIEW** the Graphic Organizer as a class.

**COMPLETE** the Mini-Quiz using choral or T/F responses as a check for understanding of the material. If using T/F responses, copy and cut out T/F Cards.

**DISTRIBUTE** the Worksheet activity.

**REVIEW** instructions for the first section on the Worksheet, and have students fill out the worksheet.

**CLOSE** the class by reviewing pieces of the Worksheet.

This lesson plan is provided by <http://www.icivics.org/teachers/lesson-plans/just-facts>. iCivics has an entire curriculum unit on Citizenship and Participation!

## RECENT STUDY FINDS ONE IN THREE AMERICANS FAILS NATURALIZATION CIVICS TEST

Immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship are required to pass a 10-question civics test which asks basic questions about American history and government. The ten questions are asked orally, and are taken from a list of 100 questions, with suggested answers, provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. More than 97 percent of immigrants applying for citizenship pass the test by answering 6 out of ten questions correctly.

But a 2012 survey by the Center for the Study of the American Dream at Xavier University recently found that one out of three U.S. citizens failed the civics portion of the immigrant naturalization test. More than 1,000 voting-age Americans were asked 10 random questions from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics exam, which is administered as part of the immigration process. The poor showing by native-born citizens may be attributed, in part, to the fact that they were unprepared, in comparison to immigrants who study for the test. Eighty-two percent of college graduates passed the test, but only forty-four percent of those with only a

high school education or less passed. The lack of basic understanding about civics is particularly concerning in an election year.

Native-born citizens struggled most with questions about the function of government. Many were confused about powers granted to the federal government and those granted to individual states. 85 percent could not define “the rule of law.” 75 percent did not know the function of the judicial branch. 71 percent were unable to identify the Constitution as the “supreme law of the land.” 63 percent could not name even one of their state’s Senators. 62 percent could not identify the Governor of their state, and 57 percent could not define an “amendment.”

For actual test results see <http://bit.ly/PZwIMw>

Facts used in this article were based on the following reports: Brian Greene, <http://bit.ly/VAUXnw> (accessed August 30, 2012); and <http://usat.ly/R0ZCLj>

# THE FEDERAL COURT'S NEW EXHIBIT ABOUT IMMIGRATION IN KANSAS

Check out the U.S. District Court's new exhibit about immigration and naturalization in Kansas. It's called "Americans by Choice: The Story of Immigration & Citizenship in Kansas." The exhibit was commissioned by the United States District Court for the District of Kansas in 2011 in conjunction with its 150th anniversary and to commemorate its role in the naturalization process.

Most Kansans can trace their heritage to another part of the world. Some came in search of a better life for themselves or their children. Many came to join families or friends. Between 1865 and 1880, Kansas attracted immigrants at a faster pace than anywhere else in the United States. The state's population grew from 107,205 in 1860 to 1,428,108 in 1890 thanks to the irresistible promise of a better life through land and jobs. In 1870, 13% of Kansas' total population was foreign-born. Today, 6% of all Kansans are foreign-born.

This is the unique story told in Americans by Choice: The Story of Immigration & Citizenship in Kansas, a new permanent exhibit at the Robert J. Dole Courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas. In this exhibit, ten large multi-dimensional graphic panels with maps, photographs, documents, text and quotes convey the personal struggles, sacrifices and accomplishments along the path to U.S. citizenship for many Kansans. Take an interactive "citizenship test" and see a documentary video where new citizens describe what it means to be an American. To view the documentary video, "The American Dream in Kansas: In Their Own Words," go to <http://1.usa.gov/R17jRx>.

The Kansas City exhibit location is 6th Floor, Robert J. Dole United States Courthouse, 500 State Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101. It's open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except for federal holidays. To schedule a group tour contact Kim Leininger at [Kim\\_Leininger@ksd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Kim_Leininger@ksd.uscourts.gov).

Or visit the traveling version of the exhibit, which is now touring Kansas:

## University of St. Mary's, Leavenworth

<http://www.stmary.edu/>

October 10 – December 16, 2012

## Salina Public Library, Salina

<http://www.salinapubliclibrary.org/>

November 1 – Dec. 15, 2012

## Forsythe Library, Ft. Hays State Univ., Hays

<http://www.fhsu.edu/library/geninfo/contacts/>

January 2 – Feb 20, 2013

## Reno County Historical Society, Hutchinson

<http://www.renocomuseum.org/>

March 1 – May 19, 2013

## Leonard Axe Library,

## Pittsburgh State University, Pittsburg

<http://axe.pittstate.edu/>

March 20 – May 12, 2013

## Ft. Scott Historic Site, Ft. Scott

<http://www.nps.gov/fosc/index.htm>

May 24 – July 7, 2013

## Riley County Museum/Library/Town Mall

<http://www.rileycountyks.gov/index.aspx?nid=328>

May 30 – July 9, 2013

<http://1.usa.gov/R17jRx>



## LAW-RELATED EDUCATION CLEARING HOUSE ... WHERE?

**This is no longer a mystery!** The Kansas Bar Association's Law-Related Clearinghouse is located in the Teachers College Resource Center, Room #224 of Visser Hall, on the campus of Emporia State University. Packed on the shelves are a wide variety of civics resources for Kansas educators. A brief scan of the collection shows that there are booklets, books, games and kits, mock trial simulations, videos, DVDs, and more.

So why is this collection so unknown? For me *that* is a huge mystery! Any time that I can find valuable materials in my content area, ready to use with students, I consider that a resource that I will call upon again and again. I think that this collection may have been overlooked in the search for effective materials for students because of the variety of other resources offered here at the Teachers College Resource Center. I have excellent reason to believe that this non-use will change! The Kansas Bar Association, steered by their Public Services Manager, Kelsey Schrempp, has put their valuable dollars to work for educators! New, timely audio-visual materials have been ordered and will soon invigorate this collection. Now, all you will need to do is be first in line to check out these brilliant new additions to the collection. The new additions will be available in mid-December and some are listed in the above Clearinghouse Resources.

The hours at the Center are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. For more information, call (620) 341-5292 or email me at [jromeise@emporia.edu](mailto:jromeise@emporia.edu).

Janice Romeiser  
Director Teachers College Resource Center/Instructional Materials Center  
Emporia State University

## TERRIFIC TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHERS



These sites related to immigration or citizenship provide interactive games or web quests for students. The iCivics games are playable in one class period, and have a detailed printable report at the end for grading purposes. iCivics games are best played with students on individual computers, but they can also be played on a single computer with the help of a smart board or projector. iCivics games don't require prior knowledge -- they teach you everything you need to know to play!

<http://www.icivics.org/games/immigration-nation>

**Immigration Nation** - This web quest will help students understand the history of immigration in the United States and define the different stages of becoming a citizen. It will also give them a chance to take the test given to those applying for citizenship. Students will also learn about current immigration issues, including amnesty and children of immigrants.

<http://www.icivics.org/games/activate>

Do you have a great idea about how to make positive change in your community? In Activate, you campaign for an issue of your choice. Manage your resources well and grow your organization from a few friends to a national movement!

Engage the community and elected leaders to raise awareness and support for your cause. Good luck!

<http://www.icivics.org/games/responsibility-launcher>

Have you ever wanted to knock some civic sense into someone? In Responsibility Launcher, you can ... You'll remind citizens that their civic duties aren't just responsibilities, they help get things done!

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/citizenship>

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has many resources for teachers, including lesson plans and activities related to citizenship through naturalization.

*The Kansas Bar Association Law-Related Education Clearinghouse Inventory catalog is available. To request a new copy, please call Kelsey Schrempp, KBA Public Services Manager, at (785) 234-5696 or email her at [kschrempp@ksbar.org](mailto:kschrempp@ksbar.org).*

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## CAN YOU PASS THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES CIVICS EXAM?

Here are the first twelve questions and suggested answers provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to immigrants seeking to be naturalized. Can you answer them correctly? Can your students? For a complete list of the questions and suggested answers, go to <http://www.800citizen.org/sampleQuestion.htm>.

### PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What does the Constitution do?
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
4. What is an amendment?
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
10. What is freedom of religion?
11. What is the economic system in the United States?
12. What is the “rule of law”?



# CAN YOU PASS THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES CIVICS EXAM?

(Suggested Answers)

## PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

### 1. What is the supreme law of the land?

- the Constitution

### 2. What does the Constitution do?

- sets up the government
- defines the government
- protects basic rights of Americans

### 3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

- We the People

### 4. What is an amendment?

- a change (to the Constitution)
- an addition (to the Constitution)

### 5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

- the Bill of Rights

### 6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

- speech
- religion
- assembly
- press
- petition the government

### 7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

- twenty-seven (27)

### 8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

- announced our independence (from Great Britain)
- declared our independence (from Great Britain)
- said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)

### 9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

- life
- liberty
- pursuit of happiness

### 10. What is freedom of religion?

- You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.

### 11. What is the economic system in the United States?

- capitalist economy
- market economy

### 12. What is the “rule of law”?

- Everyone must follow the law.
- Leaders must obey the law.
- Government must obey the law.