

#10565 WE ARE CITIZENS

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA, 2003
Grade Level: K-6
10 Minutes



CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

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- [#3420 WHAT IS AN AMERICAN?](#)
- [#9446 THIS IS YOUR GOVERNMENT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN?](#)

TEACHER'S GUIDE

We Become Citizens

(Primary Citizenship Series)

Grade Level: 1-3

Subject area: Social Studies, Citizenship, U.S. History

SYNOPSIS:

The young narrator, Matthew, introduces his soon-to-be stepfather, Vadim, a Russian immigrant who is becoming a naturalized citizen. As Matthew describes the process of becoming a citizen, he explains the rights and responsibilities associated with American citizenship. He reveals that the United States is a nation of immigrants and tells the story of the Pilgrims and the harvest feast they shared with the Wampanoag Indians. Vadim explains why he came to the United States and why he wants to be an American citizen.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1) Students will be able to explain how immigrants become naturalized citizens

of the United States

Objective 2) Students will be able to list the rights and responsibilities associated with American citizenship

Objective 3) Students will be able to recall the reasons the Pilgrims moved to America, the challenges they faced in Plymouth Colony, and their Thanksgiving celebration with the Wampanoag Indians

Objective 4) Students will appreciate the diversity of the United States that results from

being a nation of immigrants

PRE-VIEWING DISCUSSION OR ACTIVITIES:

1) What does it mean to be a citizen of the United States? What rights do American citizens have? What responsibilities do American citizens have?

2) Are you a citizen of the United States? How did you become a citizen? Do you know any citizens who were born in a different country? If so, how did they become citizens?

POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION

1) How do people from other countries become American citizens? What kinds of questions are on the citizenship test? Do you think you could pass this kind of test? What do you think naturalized citizens should know about the United States?

2) Why did Vadim move to the United States? Can you think of any other reasons people might want to move to the United States?

3) Why is the United States called a nation of immigrants? Do you know when your family came to America? Why did they come to America? Where were they born? Do your family members keep any traditions from their country or countries of origin?

4) Why did the Pilgrims come to America? Where did they settle in America? How did they celebrate their first year in Plymouth Colony? What do some historians believe was the Pilgrims' purpose in inviting Native Americans to their harvest feast?

5) What duties go along with being an American citizen? What rights do American citizens have? How did Americans get these rights?

6) What does Vadim like about America? What do you like about America?

FURTHER ACTIVITIES:

1) Have students investigate their heritage. When did their families immigrate to America? Where did they live before they immigrated? Why did they come to the United States? Have students cut out pictures in magazines to represent their heritages. Make a collage of these pictures, and discuss the diversity of your class.

2) If possible, invite a naturalized citizen to class. Ask your guest to describe life in his or her country of origin, why he or she moved to the United States, and how it felt to become a citizen. Also ask students to write down some questions they would like to ask your guest.

VOCABULARY:

citizen, naturalized citizens, immigrants, Pilgrims, colony, separatists, persecution, democracy, oath of allegiance, injustice, vote, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights

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