



1) What do you see in the cartoon?  
Describe it.

2) What do you think it means?

3) Why do you think the artist created it?

**Citizen: A legally  
recognized member of a  
country.**

What does being a citizen  
mean to you?

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A  
CITIZEN?**



**The Constitution** is like a rule book for government: it outlines the structure and function of our government and names some of the rights of the people.

**WHAT DOES THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES SAY ABOUT CITIZENSHIP?**

# The Fourteenth Amendment

Defines citizens as “all persons  
born or naturalized in the United  
States”



Who is a natural born  
citizen of the United  
States?

**NATURAL BORN CITIZENS**

# Natural Born Citizenship is based on two “laws”:

## 1. “Law of Blood”

- Children born to a parent or parents who are United States citizens.

## 2. “Law of Soil”

- Children born in the United States or Territories/Possessions

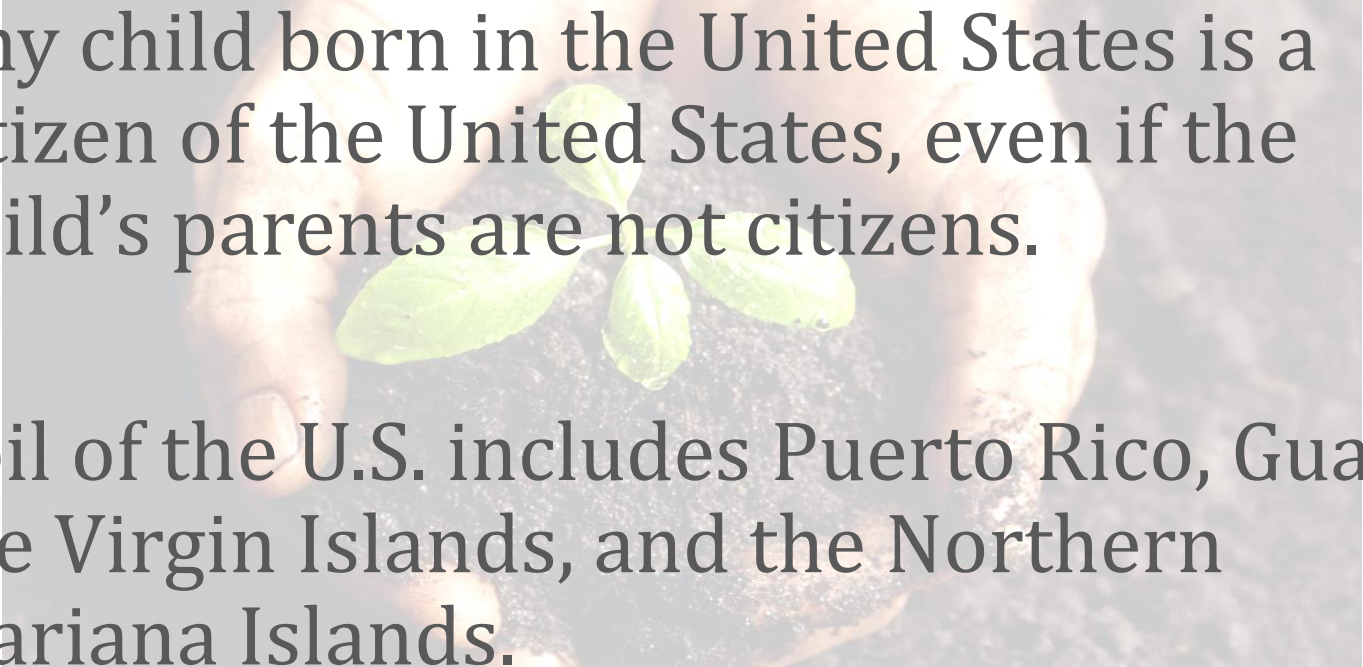




# “Law of the Blood”

- Principle in which citizenship is determined by parentage rather than by place of birth.
- The U.S. recognizes children born abroad to American citizens as citizens.

# “Law of the Soil”

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- Any child born in the United States is a citizen of the United States, even if the child’s parents are not citizens.
  - Soil of the U.S. includes Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.



# To Sum It Up...





- Law of Soil – ***WHERE*** you are born (must be **within** the United States or territory/possession)
- Law of Blood – ***WHO*** you are born to



How someone can  
become a citizen of the  
United States.

**NATURALIZATION**

# To Become a Naturalized Citizen...

<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	 <b>Time as Permanent Resident</b>	 <b>Good Moral Character</b>	 <b>English &amp; Civics Knowledge</b>	 <b>Attachment to the Constitution</b>
<p><b>If you are at least 18 years old and:</b></p> <p>Have been a Permanent Resident for the past 5 years and have no special circumstances.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Over 90% of applicants fall into this category.</i></p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>Required</p>	<p>Required</p>	<p>Required</p>
<p><b>If you are at least 18 years old and:</b></p> <p>Are currently married to and living with a U.S. citizen; <b>and</b> Have been married to and living with that same U.S. citizen for the past 3 years; <b>and</b> Your spouse has been a U.S. citizen for the past 3 years.</p>	<p>3 years</p>	<p>Required</p>	<p>Required</p>	<p>Required</p>

There are special considerations for those who serve in the military or served during times of war/conflict.

# Defining Immigrants, Residents, and Aliens

## Immigrant

- A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

## Resident

- A **resident** is someone who has been legally allowed to live in the United States, but is not a citizen

## Alien

- Any person not a citizen or national of the United States.