Becoming a US Citizen: Preparing for Your USCIS Interview



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INTRODUCTION

This recording and workbook are educational tools developed by HIAS in 1996 and updated through funding from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) FY 2010 Citizenship and Integration National Capacity Building Grant Program. These materials are designed to help you prepare for your naturalization interview. Follow along in this workbook as you work with the recording. Important information and instructions are included in the workbook but are not part of the recording.

After each question on this recording, there will be a pause to allow you time to answer. We recommend that you practice answering the questions aloud. Some of these questions may not apply to you. Sometimes, you will hear two or more questions asked for the same kind of information. This is to help you recognize the different ways an examiner may ask you questions about your naturalization application. For example, "When were you born?" and "What is your date of birth?" Practice answering all variations of a question.

Beware! There is no guarantee that the USCIS officer conducting your interview will ask you the same questions that you hear in this recording. The order in which you will be asked questions may be different. The sentences that you will be asked to write and to read and the US civics questions will most likely be different from those on this recording.

USCIS examiners speak with different accents. To help with these differences in pronunciation, we have included at the end of the recording 20 civics questions recorded by speakers with different accents. These questions can be found in Appendix 1, at the back of the workbook. The answers to the civics questions asked within the recording can be found in Appendix 2.

We left a blank space after each question. If you do not understand a question, we suggest that you translate it into your native language using a dictionary and write the translation into the space, then start by following the text closely in the workbook while you listen to the recording.

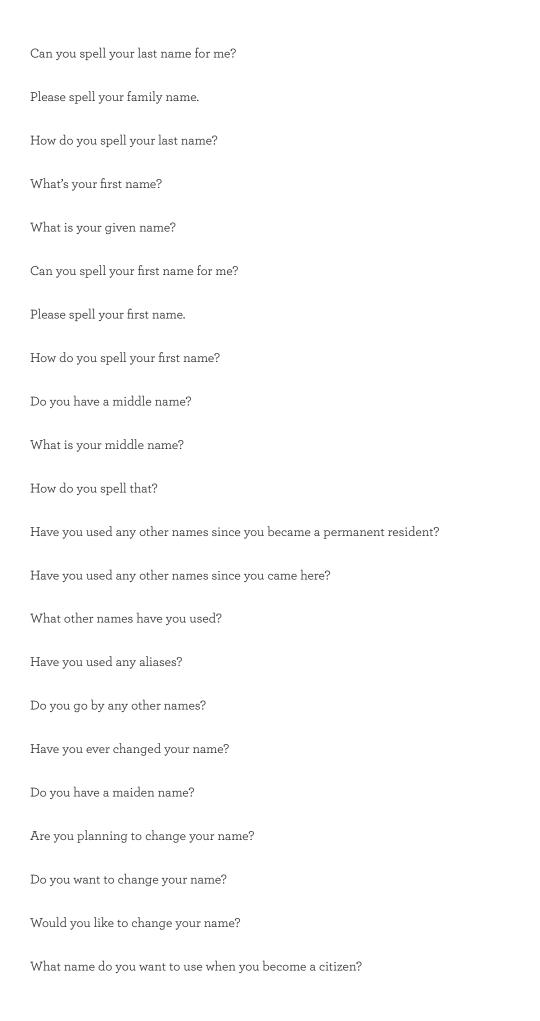
Some questions on this recording may be confusing. Please use this as an opportunity to practice asking the interviewer to repeat what they have just said or to rephrase it so that you understand.

We hope that this learning aid will be helpful to you and wish you good luck at your naturalization interview.

BECOMING A CITIZEN: PREPARING FOR YOUR USCIS INTERVIEW

Good morning! I am Officer Smith. I will be conducting your interview today.

Please follow me.
How are you today?
Did you find our office alright?
What is the weather like outside today?
Please remain standing so I can place you under oath. Raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?
Do you swear that everything you tell me in this meeting will be the truth?
Have a seat.
Please be seated.
May I have your passport, your green card, and your income tax returns? Thank you.
Why do you want to become a citizen?
Why are you applying for United States citizenship?
Why do you want to naturalize?
Please state your full legal name.
What is your current legal name?
State your full name, please.
What is your full name?
What is your last name?
What is your family name?



What name do you want on your naturalization certificate? What do you want your new name to be? What would you like your new name to be? Can you spell your new name for me? Now, I'd like you to write your full name along the borders of your pictures. If you are changing your name, write the new name, the one that will appear on your naturalization certificate. Write in script, please. Since you are going to change your name, please sign this form. How long have you been a lawful permanent resident? When did you become a permanent resident? How many years have you had your green card? How long have you had your permanent residence card? When did you get your green card? Can you tell me the date you became a permanent resident? (If you came to the United States as a refugee, the date you became a permanent resident is the same as the date of your arrival.) Did your spouse help you apply for your green card? Was your wife involved in your green card application? Did you get your permanent residence through your husband? Are you eligible to apply for citizenship because you have served in the United States military? Do you know your Social Security number? What is your Social Security number? Please give me your nine-digit Social Security number. What is your date of birth?

Is either of your parents a US citizen? Is your mother or father a US citizen? Are you single, married, divorced, separated, or widowed?

When were you born?

How old are you?

What is your age?

Do you have your birth certificate with you?

May I see your birth certificate? Thank you.

What is your country of birth?

Could you please spell it for me?

Where were you born?

In which country were you born?

What is your current citizenship? (If you came to the United States as a refugee or were granted asylum, you should indicate the country of your former nationality, as directed by the instructions to Form N-400.)

What country are you currently a citizen of?

What is your country of nationality?

Are you a citizen of any other country?

What is your marital status?

What is your home address?

What is your residential address?

What is your current address?

What is your street address?

What is your city? What city do you live in? What is your state? What state do you live in? What's your zip code? Which county is that? What county do you live in? Are you still living at the same address that you indicated on your application? Are you still there, at the same address? Has your address changed since you sent in your application? Have you moved since you filed your application? Do you have a different mailing address? What is your mailing address? What is your postal address? Where do you get your mail? Is it still the same as the one you provided on your application? What is your telephone number? What's your phone number? What's your home phone number?

Do you have a different number at work?

What is your office phone number?

Where do you live?



Do you have an e-mail address? What is it? Please spell your e-mail address. What is your height? (State your height in feet and inches.) How tall are you? (State your height in feet and inches.) Over the past five years, how many times have you moved? When did you move to your current address? How long have you lived at your current address? How long have you lived at this address? How long have you lived where you are now? Where did you live before that? What was your address before you moved to your current home? What was your previous address? What was your last address? When did you move to your previous address? When did you move to your old address? When did you begin living at that address? When did you move to that address? When did you leave that address? When did you move? Have you lived anywhere else in the last five years? Have you lived at any other address? Where else have you lived since you became a permanent resident? (If you moved to your old home less than five years ago, stop the recording and state the address of the place you lived before that, along with the date you moved there. If you have lived in more than three places in the last five years, state the address of each place and say when you moved in.)

Are you currently employed?
Where do you work?
Are you currently working?
Do you work?
Do you have a job right now?
Who is your current employer?
Where do you work?
Are you self-employed?
What is the name of the company you are currently working for?
If you do not work, how do you support yourself?
If you are unemployed, what is your source of financial support?
If you do not work, are you in school?
Are you a student?
What is your school's address?
What are you studying?
How long have you been going there?
Did you work before you started school?
Where did you work before you became a student?
What is your employer's address?

What is your work address?

What is the name and address of your present employer?

How long have you worked there?

When did you begin working there?

When did you start that job?

How much time have you been working there?

What is your occupation?

What do you do there?

What kind of work do you do?

What is your position?

What job do you have there?

Where did you work before?

What did you do before this job?

Did you work before you got your current job?

Who was your previous employer?

What was your position at your last job?

When did you leave that job?



How long did you work there?

When did you end your employment at your last job?

When did your last job terminate?

Why did your employment there end?

How long were you at your last job?

Have you had any other jobs?

Have you worked anywhere else in the last five years?

Where else have you worked since you became a permanent resident?

(If you started your last job or your last school less than five years ago, stop the recording and state where you worked or went to school before your last job/school, along with the date you worked/attended school there. If you have worked or studied at more than three places in the last five years, state the name and address of each place and say the dates when you started and stopped working or studying there.)

Since you moved to the United States, how many times have you been out of the country for more than 24 hours?

Have you taken any trips outside the US in the last five years?

Have you left the United States since you came here?

Have you ever left the country?

Have you traveled outside the country in the last five years?

Have you traveled abroad since moving to the United States?

Have you traveled abroad since becoming a permanent resident? (If you came to the US as a refugee, this means since you came to the United States.)

How many times did you travel outside the United States?

How many trips have you taken to other countries?

How many times have you left the United States?

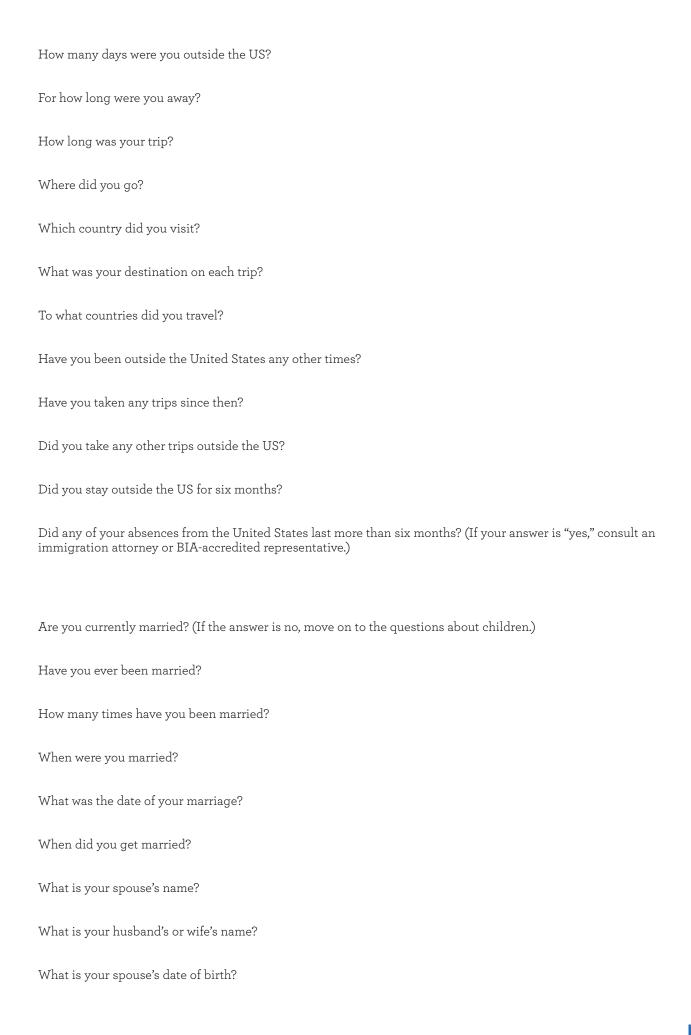
How many times have you been outside the United States since moving here?

When did you leave the US?

When did you return?

How long were you gone?





When was your husband or wife born? Was your spouse born in the United States? What is his or her country of birth? What is your husband's or wife's Social Security number? Have you ever been married to a US citizen? Is your spouse a US citizen? Is your spouse a permanent resident? What is your spouse's immigration status? (If your husband or wife has a "green card," he or she is a lawful permanent resident of the United States.) If your spouse is a US citizen, when did he or she become a US citizen? (If she or he was born here, she or he became a US citizen at birth.) If your husband or wife naturalized, where did he or she take the oath? If your spouse is not a citizen, where was your husband or wife born? Does your spouse live with you? Where does your husband or wife live? Do you live together? Is this your first marriage? (If the answer is "yes," skip to the questions about your current marriage.) Were you ever married before this? Have you had any previous marriages? Have you been married before? How many times have you been married before? How many previous marriages have you had?

Are you still married to that person?

If not, when did the marriage end?

What happened to end the marriage?

How did the marriage end? (A marriage can usually end either in divorce or because of the spouse's death.)

What is the name of your former spouse?

When did you get married?

What is your former spouse's immigration status? (If you do not know, you should say that.)

(If you have had more than one previous marriage, stop the recording and rewind it. Answer the questions regarding each of your other ex-husbands or ex-wives.)

Has your current spouse been married before? (If the answer is "no," please skip to the questions relating to your marriage certificate.)

How many times has your husband or wife been married?

Has your husband or wife had any previous marriages?

What is the name of your spouse's ex-wife or ex-husband?

What is the name of the former spouse?

When did they get married?

When did the marriage end?



How did the marriage end? (A marriage can end either in divorce or because of the spouse's death.)

What is the immigration status of your spouse's ex-wife or ex-husband? (If you do not know, you should say that.)

(If your spouse has had more than one previous marriage, stop the recording and go back to answer the questions regarding each of your spouse's other ex-husbands or ex-wives.)

Did you bring your marriage certificate? May I see it please? (At the time of your naturalization interview, you may be required to submit a copy of your marriage certificate with a certified translation if it is in a language other than English.)

Did you bring your divorce decree? Please show it to me. (At the time of your naturalization interview, you may be required to submit a copy of your divorce certificate with a certified translation if it is in a language other than English.)

May I see your spouse's death certificate? (At the time of your naturalization interview, you may be required to submit a copy of your spouse's death certificate with a certified translation if it is in a language other than English.)

Do you have any children?

Do you have any sons or daughters?

How many children do you have?

For each of your children, please answer the following questions:

What is your child's full name?

What is your child's date of birth?

When were they born?

Where was your child born?

In which country was your child born?

Does your child have an A number?

Where does your child live?

Does your child live with you?



What are the city, state, and country of your child's residence?

If your answer is "yes" to any of the following questions, stop the recording and give a detailed explanation before proceeding to listen to and answer the rest of the questions. Also, if your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, except those that are marked with an asterisk (*), you need to consult with an immigration attorney or BIA-accredited representative if you are not already working with one.

Have you ever claimed to be a US citizen? Did you ever lie about being a citizen? Did you ever tell someone you were a citizen? Did you ever say to someone, "I am a citizen," when you are not? Have you ever registered to vote in any federal, state, or local election in the United States? Did you ever register to vote in the US? Have you ever voted in any federal, state, or local election in the United States? Did you ever vote in a US election? Since becoming a lawful permanent resident, have you ever failed to file a federal, state, or local tax return that you were required to file? (If you came to the US as a refugee, this means since you came to the United States.) Do you pay state and federal income taxes every year? Did you file income tax returns for each year you worked? Have you paid all the taxes you owe? Do you owe any federal, state, or local taxes that are overdue? Do you have any title of nobility in any foreign country?* Do you have a title of nobility in your native country?* Do people in your country call you by a special title, like prince or lord or duchess?*

Have you ever been declared legally incompetent or been confined to a mental institution within the past five years?

Did you ever stay in a mental hospital? Have you ever stayed in a psychiatric institution? Have you ever been a member of or associated with any organization, association, fund, foundation, party, club, society, or similar group in the United States or in any other place? If yes, please list the name(s) of the groups.* Do you belong to any groups?* Were you a member of any groups in your country?* What kind of groups were you in your home country?* Do you belong to a church or a union?* Have you ever belonged to any groups in the US?* Are you a member of any clubs or organizations?* Do you belong to a club or organization?* Do you do any volunteer work? If yes, for what organization and how long?* Have you ever been a member of or in any way associated with the Communist Party? (Answer yes if you were a member of the Communist Party and even if you told them about it in a previous question.) Have you ever been a member of or in any way associated with any other totalitarian party? Have you ever been a member of or in any way associated with a terrorist organization? Are you a member of a terrorist organization? Have you ever advocated (either directly or indirectly) the overthrow of any government by force or violence? Do you want to fight a war against the government of the United States? Have you ever told people that they should fight a war against the United States government? Have you ever told people that they should fight a war against another country? Have you ever persecuted (either directly or indirectly) any person because of race, religion, national origin,

membership in a particular social group, or political opinion?

Between March 23, 1933 and May 8, 1945, did you work for or associate in any way (either directly or indirectly) with the Nazi government of Germany?

Did you help the Nazi government in World War II?

Between March 23, 1933 and May 8, 1945, did you work for or associate in any way (either directly or indirectly) with any government in any area occupied by, allied with, or established with the help of the Nazi government of Germany?

Did you work with any government that was started by or allied with the Nazi government?

Between March 23, 1933 and May 8, 1945, did you work for or associate in any way (either directly or indirectly) with any German, Nazi, or S.S. military unit, paramilitary unit, self-defense unit, vigilante unit, citizen unit, police unit, government agency or office, extermination camp, concentration camp, prisoner of war camp, prison, labor camp, or transit camp?

Since becoming a lawful permanent resident of the United States, have you ever called yourself a "nonresident" on a federal, state, or local tax return or failed to file a federal, state, or local tax return because you considered yourself to be a "nonresident"?

Did you ever file tax returns as a nonresident?

Did you ever fail to pay taxes because you called yourself a nonresident?

If your answer is "yes" to any of the following questions, stop the recording and give a detailed explanation before proceeding to listen to and answer the rest of the questions. Your explanation should include (a) why you were arrested, cited, detained, or charged, (b) the date and place (city, state, and country) where you were arrested, cited, detained, or charged; and (c) the outcome or disposition (i.e. what happened – charges were dismissed, you were sentenced to jail time or probation, etc.). Also, if your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, you need to consult with an immigration attorney or BIA-accredited representative if you are not already working with one.



Have you ever committed a crime or offense for which you were not arrested?

Did you ever break the law?

Have you ever been arrested, cited, or detained by any law enforcement officer (including USCIS, former INS, and military personnel) for any reason?

Have you ever had a problem with the police?

Have you ever been charged with committing any crime or offense?

Have you ever been to court?

Have you ever been charged or convicted of a crime?

Have you ever been convicted of a crime or offense?

Have you ever been placed in an alternative sentencing or rehabilitative program like diversion, deferred prosecution, withheld adjudication, deferred adjudication, etc.?

Have you ever been given the option of taking another sentence instead of going to jail?

Have you ever received a suspended sentence, been placed on probation, or been paroled?

Have you ever been on parole?

Have you ever been in jail or prison?

If your answer is "yes" to any of the following questions, stop the recording and give a detailed explanation before proceeding to listen to and answer the rest of the questions. Also, if your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, you need to consult with an immigration attorney or BIA-accredited representative if you are not already working with one.

Have you ever been a habitual drunkard?

Have you ever had problems with drinking?

Do you get drunk every day?

How much do you usually drink?

Do you drink too much alcohol?

Have you ever had problems with alcoholism?

Are you an alcoholic?

Have you ever been a prostitute?



Did you ever get paid for having sex?
Have you ever paid a prostitute for sex or procured anyone for prostitution?
Did you ever pay someone to sleep with you?
Did you ever buy or sell sex?
Have you ever sold or smuggled drugs, controlled substances, or narcotics?
Do you sell drugs?
Did you ever sell drugs?
Did you ever bring illegal drugs into this country?
Have you ever practiced polygamy?
Do you have more than one husband or wife?
Have you ever been married to more than one person at the same time?
Have you ever helped anyone enter or try to enter the United States illegally?
Did you ever help someone come into the US without a visa?
Did you ever help anyone enter the US illegally?
Have you ever smuggled anyone into the US?
Have you ever gambled illegally or received income from illegal gambling?
Have you ever had a gambling problem?
Have you ever failed to support your dependents or to pay alimony?
Do your children live with you?
Do you support your children?
Are you required to make child support payments?
Have you ever failed to pay child support or any other court-ordered payment?

Have you ever failed to support your family? Have you ever given false or misleading information to any US government official while applying for any immigration benefit or to prevent deportation, exclusion, or removal? Did you ever tell USCIS something that was not true? Did you write anything on your USCIS forms that was not true? Have you ever lied to a US government official? Have you ever lied to any US government official to gain entry or admission into the United States? Did you lie to get your green card? Did you lie to USCIS so that you could stay in the US? Are you telling me the truth today? Have you told me anything that is a lie today? Are removal, exclusion, rescission, or deportation proceedings pending against you? Did USCIS ever tell you that you must go back to your country? Did a judge order you to leave the US? Do you have a case in immigration court now? Are you in immigration court now? Have you ever gotten a paper telling you to go to immigration court? Have you ever been removed, excluded, or deported from the United States? Have you ever been forcibly removed from the US? Has the US government ever sent you back to your country?

Have you ever been ordered to be removed, excluded, or deported from the United States?

Have you ever failed to pay alimony?

Did the US government ever tell you to go back to your country or give you a piece of paper telling you that you have to go back to your country?

Have you ever applied for any kind of relief from removal, exclusion, or deportation?

Have you ever filed paperwork to try to get the US government to not send you back to your country?

Have you ever served in the US Armed Forces?

Have you ever left the United States to avoid being drafted into the US Armed Forces?

Have you ever left the US so that you would not have to serve in the Armed Forces?

Have you ever applied for any kind of exemption from military service in the US Armed Forces?

Have you ever told the government that you could not serve in the Armed Forces?

Have you ever deserted from the US Armed Forces?

Are you a male who lived in the United States at any time between your 18th and 26th birthdays in any status except as a lawful nonimmigrant? If yes, did you register with the Selective Service? If you did not register, please provide a detailed explanation as to why.

Are you a man between the ages of 18 and 26?

Are you a man who was a resident of the US when you were between the ages of 18 and 26?

Did you register for Selective Service?

If the answer is "no" to any of the following questions, stop the recording and give a detailed explanation. Then, proceed to answer the remaining questions. Also, if your answer is "no" to any of these questions, you need to consult with an immigration attorney or BIA-accredited representative if you are not already working with one.



Do you support the Constitution and form of government of the United States?

Do you agree with the form of government of the United States?

Do you agree with the Constitution?

Do you understand the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States?

Are you willing to take the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States?

If the law requires it, are you willing to bear arms on behalf of the United States?

Are you willing to bear arms on behalf of the US or perform noncombatant services to the Armed Forces of the US?

If you were needed, would you fight in a war for the US or perform noncombatant services to the Armed Forces of the US?

Would you help your country in an emergency?

If the US told you to use a gun to defend the country, would you?

If the law requires it, are you willing to perform noncombatant services in the Armed Forces of the United States?

Would you be willing to help the Armed Forces by doing things other than fighting?

If the law requires it, are you willing to perform work of national importance under civilian direction?

Would you be willing to help your country as someone who is not in the Armed Forces?

Please sign your name here. Thank you. (You will be asked to sign your application in the presence of the USCIS officer.)

I would like you to sign your name right down there. Thanks.

Now, I would like you to read a short text in English, aloud. (Please stop the recording and read aloud the following two sentences.)

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It protects the rights of all people living in the United States.

Now, I'd like you to write sentences for me in English. Please write: American citizens can vote.

(Some additional sample sentences have been included on this recording to help you practice writing some of the sentences the USCIS officer may ask you to write. After each sentence, stop the recording and write the sentence, then start the recording again to hear the next sentence.)

The President works in Washington, D.C.

I live in the United States of America.

The Congress meets in the Capitol.

We have freedom of speech in the United States.

I am now going to ask you some questions about US history and government:

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

What is an amendment?

What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

How many amendments does the Constitution have?

What is the economic system in the United States?

Name one branch or part of the government.

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

What are the two parts of the US Congress?

Who is <u>one</u> of your state's US Senators now?

We elect a US Representative for how many years?

(The answers to these questions can be found in Appendix 2 at the end of the workbook.)

Congratulations! You passed all the tests and you will be notified by mail when to come to your swearing-in ceremony. Have a great day. Good-bye!

APPENDIX 1

To help you prepare for interviewers who may have different accents, here are an additional 20 questions recorded by a variety of speakers.

- 1. In what month do we vote for President?
- 2. What is the name of the President of the United States now?
- 3. What does the President's Cabinet do?
- 4. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?
- 5. What is the capital of your state?
- 6. What are the two major political parties in the United States?
- 7. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
- 8. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
- 9. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?
- 10. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
- 11. Who was the first President?
- 12. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?
- 13. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.
- 14. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
- 15. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?
- 16. Name one US territory.
- 17. What is the capital of the United States?
- 18. Where is the Statute of Liberty?
- 19. Why does the flag have 50 stars?
- 20. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

APPENDIX 2

Answers to the civics questions included in the main portion of the recording:

- ✓ We the People
- ✓ A change or an addition (to the Constitution)
- ✓ Any of the following are correct: speech, religion, assembly, press, petition the government
- ✓ 27
- ✓ Either is correct: Capitalist economy or Market economy
- ✓ Any of the following are correct: Congress, legislative, President, executive, the courts, judicial
- ✓ Either is correct: Checks and balances or separation of powers
- ✓ The Senate and House (of Representatives)
- ✓ (Answers will vary according to the state in which you live. D.C. residents and residents of US territories should answer that D.C. or the territory does not have US Senators.)
- √ 2

Answers to the civics questions included in Appendix 1:

- 1. November
- 2. (Barack) Obama
- 3. Advises the President
- 4. Any of the following are correct: provide schooling and education, provide protection (police), provide safety (fire departments), give a driver's license, approve zoning and land use
- 5. (Answers will vary according to where you live. D.C. residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of US territories should name the capital of the territory.)
- 6. Democratic and Republican
- 7. Either is correct: serve on a jury, vote in a federal election
- 8. 18 years old
- 9. April 15
- 10. Either is correct: The Constitution was written or the Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution
- 11. (George) Washington
- 12. Any of the following are correct: freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation), saved (or preserved) the Union, led the United States during the Civil War
- 13. Any of the following are correct: World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, (Persian) Gulf War
- 14. World War II
- 15. Either is correct: fought for civil rights or worked for equality for all Americans
- Any of the following are correct: Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Marina Islands, Guam
- 17. Washington, D.C.
- 18. Any of the following are correct or acceptable: New York (Harbor), Liberty Island, New Jersey, near New York City, on the Hudson (River)
- 19. Any of the following are correct: because there is one star for each state, because each star represents a state, because there are 50 states
- **20**. July 4

