

## SECTION 2

# Who Are U.S. Citizens?

### BEFORE YOU READ

#### The Main Idea

Throughout history, immigrants have brought their languages, ideas, beliefs, hopes, and customs to the United States. Their ways of life are constantly mixing with and influencing the culture of Americans who came before.

#### Reading Focus

1. Who are "Americans," and from where did they come?
2. What changes have occurred in U.S. immigration policy since the early 1800s?
3. How does a person become a U.S. citizen?

#### Key Terms

immigrants, p. 12  
quota, p. 14  
aliens, p. 14  
native-born, p. 15  
naturalization, p. 15  
refugees, p. 16

#### Online Resource TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on who Americans are and where they come from, the U.S. immigration policy, and becoming at U.S. citizen.

### CIVICS IN PRACTICE

The United States is a nation of immigrants. With the exception of Native Americans, all of us can trace our family's roots to another country. Some families have been here longer than others. Some families continue to speak other languages and treasure customs from their homelands.

### Americans Are from Everywhere

The heritage of freedom and equality in what is now the United States was formed bit by bit. Over time, groups from various parts of the world have settled here, contributing to American society. From their countries of origin, people have brought their different languages, ideas, beliefs, customs, hopes, and dreams. Today all Americans can be proud of the rich and varied heritage we share.

Today's Americans come from every nation on Earth.



WE THE PEOPLE

### Teach the Main Idea

At Level

#### Who Are U.S. Citizens?

1. **Teach** Ask students the Reading Focus questions to teach this section.
2. **Apply** Ask students to create a three-column chart to fill in as they read the section. They should label the first column *Who*, the second *When*, and the third *Immigration Details*. Students should list each group or category of immigrants they read about, when they came, and details about their immigration and, if possible, their naturalization experience.
3. **Review** Have students volunteer information about various groups. Record their input on the board.
4. **Practice/Homework** Have students write a paragraph summarizing the experiences of early immigrants to America.

## Preteach

### Why It Matters

Write the following statement on the board: The United States is a country founded upon immigration. Give students time to share their reactions to the statement. Do they think it is accurate? How does it apply to them? How does it affect their feelings about the United States? Then ask students why they think some people might believe that it is necessary to limit immigration to the United States.

### Key Terms

Preteach the following terms:

**immigrants** people who come here from different countries (p. 12)

**quota** a specific number (p. 14)

**aliens** permanent residents of the United States who are citizens of another country (p. 14)

**native-born** born in the United States (p. 15)

**naturalization** the legal process by which an alien may become a citizen (p. 15)

**refugees** people who are trying to escape dangers in their home countries (p. 16)

### Taking Notes

Have students use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the section. This activity will prepare students for the Section Assessment, in which they will complete a graphic organizer that builds on the information using the Critical Thinking Skill: Comparing and Contrasting.