

Preteach

Why It Matters

Explain to students that being part of a democratic country such as the United States gives them rights and responsibilities. Ask students what rights they enjoy as Americans. Make a list of these rights on the board. Explain to the class that people in a democracy receive certain rights in exchange for participation. Then have students list ways Americans participate in government and revise these ideas as students read the section.

Academic Vocabulary

Review with students the high-use academic term in this section.

values ideas that people hold dear and try to live by (p. 8)

Key Terms

Preteach the following terms:

civics study of what it means to be a citizen (p. 6)

citizen legally recognized member of a country (p. 6)

government the organizations, institutions, and individuals who exercise political authority over a group of people (p. 7)

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: Categorizing.

SECTION 1

Civics in Our Lives

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

As a U.S. citizen, it is your duty to help preserve freedom and to ensure justice and equality for yourself and all Americans.

Reading Focus

1. Why do we study civics?
2. What are the values that form the basis of the American way of life?
3. What are the roles and qualities of a good citizen?

Key Terms

civics, p. 6
citizen, p. 6
government, p. 7

Online Resource TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on how civics affects our lives.



Every Fourth of July Americans come together to celebrate their rights and freedoms as American citizens.

CIVICS IN PRACTICE

Government “by the people” does not mean government by the uninformed. Good government requires educated citizens. In fact, the main reason for public education is to help young people become more effective citizens. Remember, everything the government does affects you directly or indirectly. It is important for you to be aware of the issues we face as a nation.

Why Study Civics?

What is civics and why do you study it? **Civics** is the study of citizenship and government. It is the study of what it means to be a citizen. A **citizen** is a legally recognized member of a country. The word *civics* comes from the Latin *civis*, which means “citizen.” The concept of the citizen originated in Greece around 590 BC, and was later adopted by the Romans.

Being a Citizen

What it means to be a citizen has changed since the Roman Republic. Romans used the term to distinguish the people who lived in the city of Rome from people born in the territories that Rome had conquered.

6 CHAPTER 1

Teach the Main Idea

All Level

Civics in Our Lives

1. **Teach** Ask students the Reading Focus questions to teach this section.
2. **Apply** Have students create a flow chart with three boxes. Title the chart *Citizenship in America*. The first box should be labeled *Elements of Citizenship*, the second *American Values*, and the third *Being a Good Citizen*. As students read the section have them fill in the first box with important elements of citizenship, the second with American values, and the third with ways to be a good U.S. citizen.
3. **Review** To review the section’s main ideas, have students help you complete a master copy of the chart on the board.
4. **Practice/Homework** Have students list specific examples of ways they are good citizens now and how they could be better citizens in the future. Students should write a sentence explaining why each example shows good citizenship.