

The U.S. Citizenship Game

A BOARD GAME
FOR 2 - 4 PLAYERS

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Teaching Objectives

Students will review the civics items for the redesigned naturalization test by playing a board game that challenges and enhances their knowledge.



The Gameboard

Materials

- White poster board 12 X 12
- One inch ruler to measure the squares
- Red and blue markers

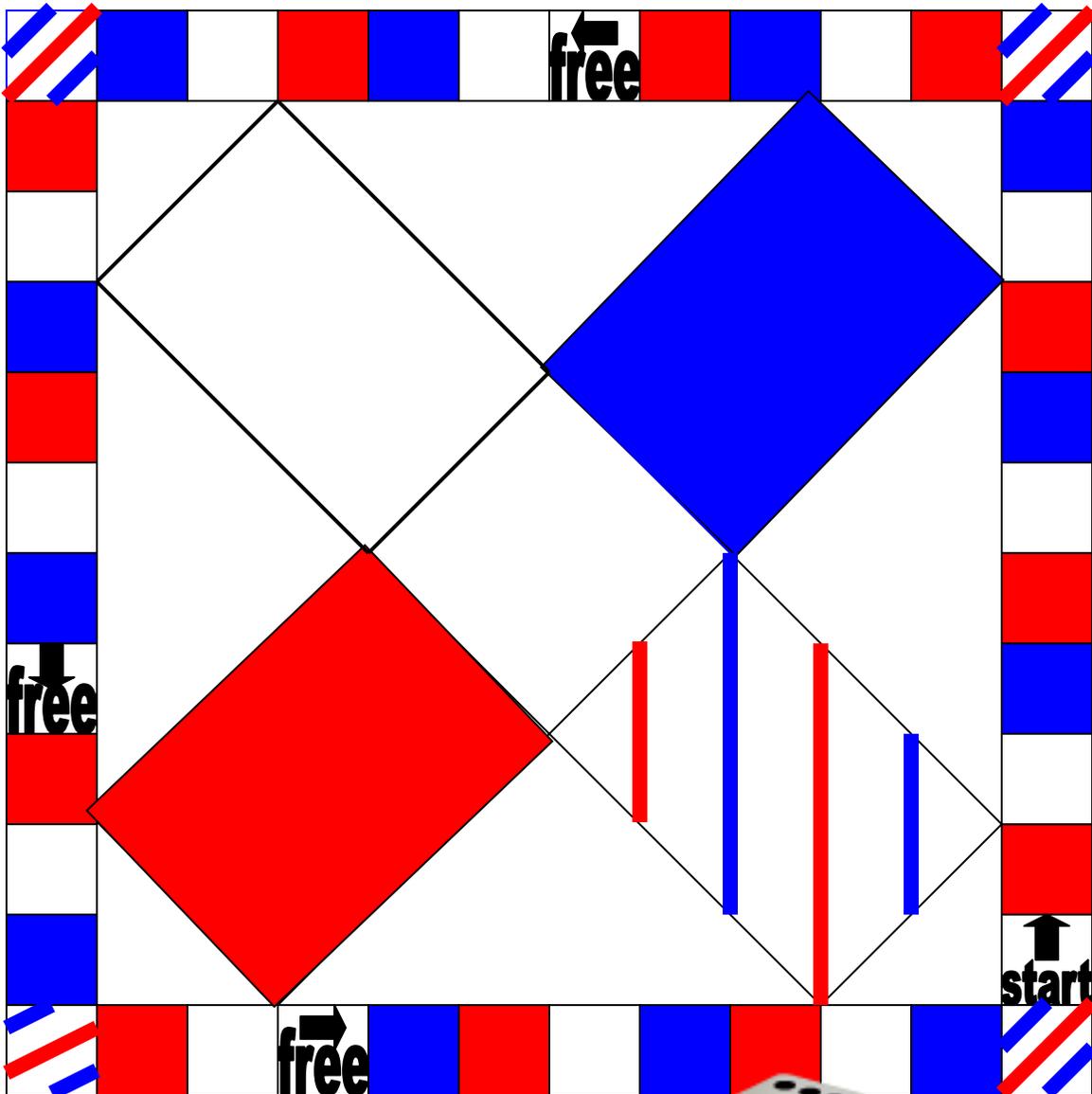
Making the Board

Draw one-inch squares around the perimeter of the board. Use colored markers to draw diagonal red, white, and blue stripes in the four corner squares. Color the squares between the corners in a repeating sequence of red, white, blue. There are ten squares per side between the corners, so

- 1) You may continue the red/white/blue sequence around the board with a final result of 15 red squares, 12 white squares, and 12 blue squares.
- 2) You can achieve 3 red, 3 white, and 3 blue squares per side by inserting a “start” square on one side and putting a “free” square with an arrow on each of the other three sides. The arrow indicates that the student should move into the following square. Arrows move play counter-clockwise around the board.

- 3) At this point the entire center of the board is white. Draw a 2 ½ inch wide X across the center of the board from corner to corner and color as shown below.

Example game board (reduced size)



The Game Cards

Materials

- Red, White, Blue, and Striped construction or other stiff paper to use as backing for your questions. (Use your markers on white paper to make the striped backing.)
- Glue stick
- US citizenship questions for the redesigned naturalization test
Go to <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis> and click on *Education and Resources* in the menu across the top of the screen. Now click on *Civics and Citizenship Study Materials* in the menu on the left side of the screen. Scroll down and click on *Civics Flash Cards for the New Naturalization Test (reverse colors)*. You only need the front of each question card, but you will have to print the whole document.
- Any teacher-made questions for bonus questions. Ours are appended to these instructions for your consideration.

Making the Game Cards

Print the reverse-color civics flash cards and paste each question on a Red, White, or Blue background. Bonus questions go on striped backing. Each question card has a number that matches the answer key (see ♦ below) for ease of reference.

Give each color a point value. You can choose the way you want to divide the questions and assign points. We used

- Red - 2 points (The Integrated Civics questions)
- White - 3 points (Government/Constitution questions)
- Blue - 4 points (U.S. History - American History questions)
- Striped – 5 points (Bonus questions - Holidays/Patriotic Songs/other content discussed in your class)

Other Materials Needed to Play

- A pair of dice
- A pencil and paper to keep score
- ♦ Answer Key, i.e., a copy of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Civics (History and Government) Items for the Redesigned Naturalization Test. (Print a copy from <http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/100q.pdf>.)
- Tokens, which can be any game piece or object (buttons, M&Ms)
- One minute egg timer/hourglass, or watch with a second hand

Playing the U.S. Citizenship Game

The object of the game is to be the first player to reach 100 points. Then the game is over, but play can start again. You can choose to have the game end at 25, 50 or 75 points--whatever your time frame allows. Or you can even declare the person who has the most points at the end of class period as the winner!

How to Play

- Place the question cards face down on the board: red questions on the red rectangle/ blue on blue/ white on white/ and striped on striped.
- Each player selects a token and places it in the start square. Play goes counter-clockwise around the board. Players can begin alphabetically or you can roll the dice and let the player with the highest or lowest number begin play.
- The teacher (or a student who is not playing) has the answer key and egg timer. Each card is numbered to match the answer key so that the teacher or student with the answer key can quickly find the correct answer to the question.
- A player rolls both dice and moves forward the resulting number of spaces on the board. Whatever color on the board the player lands on is the color of the question card s/he pulls from the question stacks. The player reads aloud to everyone the question number and the question and then answers it.
- Use an egg timer or sand timer or a watch with a second hand to time one minute for students to answer a question.

If the player misses the answer, he/she returns to square on the board from which he/she rolled and waits for his/her next turn. The next player gets a chance to answer the missed question. By answering correctly, he/she gets the points and then gets his/her own turn to roll the dice and answer another question.

Comments

Students loved the game board and question cards. They wanted to take them home to work on by themselves or with their children. For those who wanted to do so, we spent some time outside class showing them how to make take-home citizenship games.

Bonus Questions for Our Class

Bonus questions give an opportunity for each teacher/instructor to make up meaningful questions that relate to their particular class discussions. Our class included the materials listed below in our study. Our bonus questions were drawn from them and from our class discussions.

- **How to Become a United States Citizen** (A Step-by-Step Guidebook for Self Instruction) Fifth Edition by Sally Abel Schreuder. ISBN 13-9780944508107. Pages 125, 127, 129 and 154 include information on The American's Creed, The National Anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner, Our National Motto, The Great Seal, and Our National Bird.
- **Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants** published by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. ISBN 978-0-16-078733-1. Page 102 lists the Federal holidays.

OUR QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

1. Sing the first line of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Answer: Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,

2. Sing two lines of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Answer: Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?

3. Sing the whole Star-Spangled Banner

Answer: Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
Oh, say does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

4. This song became our National Anthem by an act of Congress on what date?

Answer: March 3, 1931

5. When was the National Anthem written?

Answer: It was written during the war of 1812 by Francis Scott Key.

6. What was the original title of the poem before it was made into the song entitled The Star Spangled Banner?

Answer: The Defence of Fort McHenry

7. What is our National Motto?

Answer: "IN GOD WE TRUST"

8. When was the seal of the United States adopted?

Answer: 1792

9. Name one of the symbols found on the Great Seal.

Answer: A spread-winged bald eagle brandishing the arrows of war and an olive branch of peace.

10. When can this seal be used?

Answer: The use of this seal is strictly limited by law to authenticate certain government papers.

11. What are the first two words of the American Creed?

Answer: I Believe

12. What is our National Bird?

Answer: The bald eagle.

13. What national holiday is held on the third Monday in January?

Answer: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

14. What national holiday is held on the fourth Thursday in November?

Answer: Thanksgiving Day

15. What national holiday is held on the third Monday in February?

Answer: President's Day

(Note: We had a discussion about George Washington, 1st U.S. President of the country and Abraham Lincoln 14th U.S. President and their February birthdays.)

16. What national holiday is held on the first Monday in September?

Answer: Labor Day

17. What national holiday is held on the last Monday in May?

Answer: Memorial Day

18. What national holiday is held on the second Monday in November?

Answer: Veteran's Day

(Note: We had a discussion about the difference between Veteran's Day and Memorial Day)

19. What national holiday is held on the second Monday in October?

Answer: Columbus Day

(Note: We had a discussion on Christopher Columbus.)

20. Who gave us the Statue of Liberty?

Answer: France

(Note: We had a discussion on the Statue of Liberty.)

21. Is the statue a woman or man?

Answer: woman

22. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on October 28, 1886. How many years is this after the signing of the Declaration of Independence?

Answer: 110. (1886-1776=110)

23. What do the chains on the Statue of Liberty represent?

Answer: A woman escaping the chains of tyranny.

(Note: We had a discussion on the word tyranny and on world governments at that time.)

24. What does the torch the Statue of Liberty is holding symbolize?

Answer: liberty

25. What is the name of the French artist that made the Statue of Liberty?

Answer: Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi

(Note: We had a brief discussion about this question in class. Most American's don't know this information about the Statue of Liberty)