

Preparing for the US Citizenship Interview

“In order to form
a more perfect union”

M. Lang - April 2018



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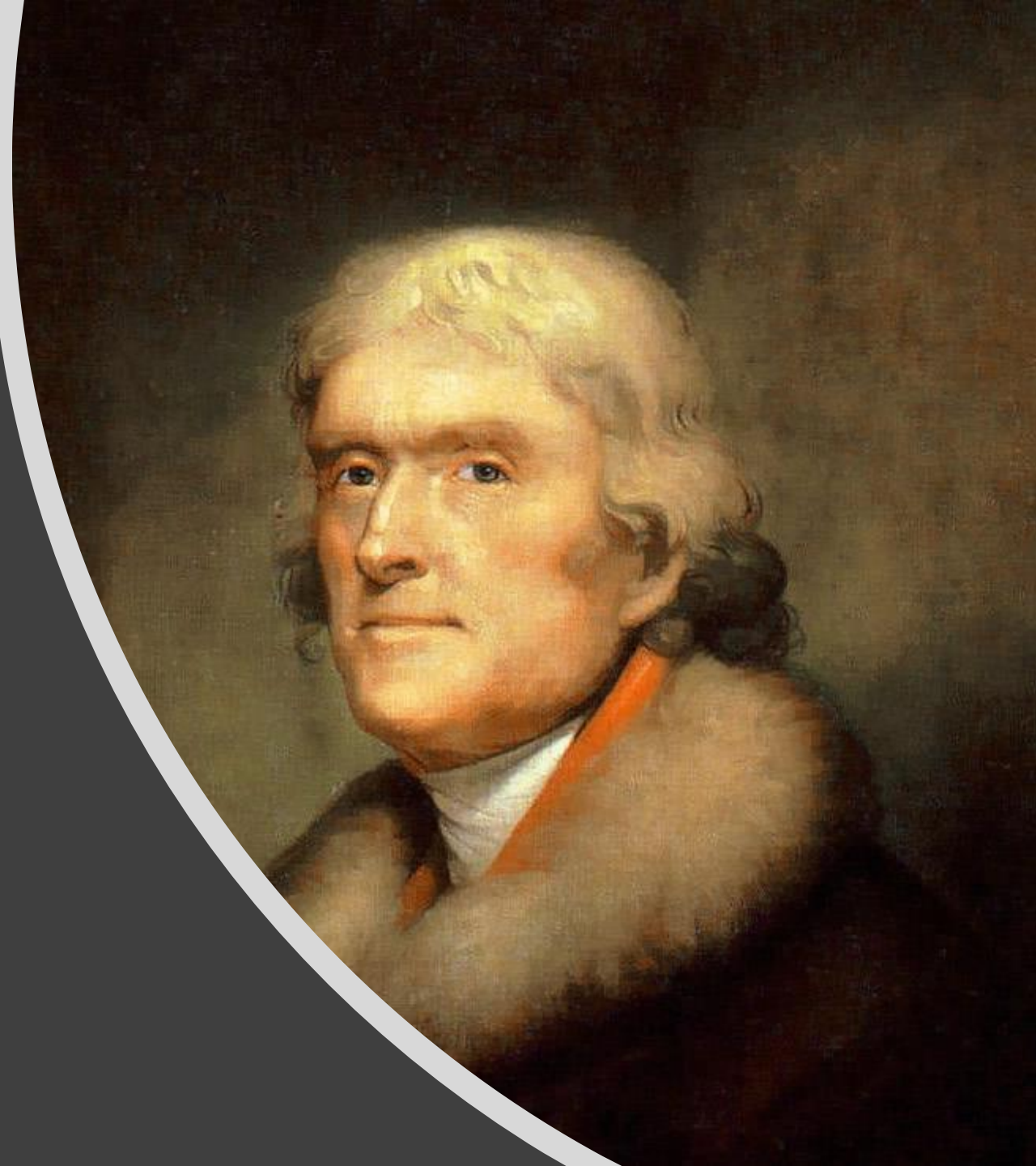


Objectives

1. What are the four parts of the Citizenship Interview?
2. What is the Oath of Allegiance?
3. Where can you find some good resources for Teaching?

My goal is to provide you with answers to these and other questions.

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? Thomas Jefferson



A Brief History of US Citizenship

Some Milestones

- 1776: Declaration of Independence assails King George III for preventing colonies from naturalizing new settlers.
- 1848: Treaty ending U.S.-Mexico War guarantees citizenship to Mexican subjects in new territories, including California. Federal courts later cite treaty as removing racial bars to naturalization for Mexican settlers.
- 1898: U.S.-born children of foreign nationals guaranteed citizenship,
- 1906: Safeguards set for naturalization includes ability to speak and understand English.
- 1940: Birthright citizenship to Native Americans granted.
- 1944: Then record 442,000 naturalize amid wartime anxiety; 96% are Europeans, 1 in 4 Italian.
- 1952: Law amended to say citizenship "shall not be denied or abridged because of race or sex," ending 162-year legacy of racial bars.
- 1996: Record of more than 1.1 million people take citizenship oath; Asians and Latinos top list.
- 1997: Amid charges that ineligible criminals are being naturalized, federal officials move to strip citizenship of 5,000 immigrants with criminal arrest records.*

Sources: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service; Ian F. Haney Lopez, "White by Law, The Legal Construction of Race," New York University Press, 1996; Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups



Where is the Statue of Liberty? New York – Liberty Island.

US Naturalization Process

10 Steps to the US Naturalization Process

1. Step 1. Determine if you are already a U.S. citizen.
2. Step 2. Determine if you are eligible to become a U.S. citizen.
3. Step 3. Prepare your Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
4. Step 4. Submit your Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
5. Step 5. Go to the biometrics appointment, if applicable.
6. Step 6. Complete the interview.
7. Step 7. Receive a decision from USCIS on your N-400 Application .
8. Step 8. Receive a notice to take the Oath of Allegiance.
9. Step 9. Take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.
10. Step 10. Understanding U.S. citizenship



US Citizenship Interview

4 Parts to the US Citizenship Interview

1. Speaking Test - N-400 application
2. Civics Test - 100 Civics questions
3. Reading Test
4. Writing Test



Why does the flag have 13 stripes? Because there were 13 original colonies.

Oath of Allegiance

The Oath for New Citizens

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;

That I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

That I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;

That I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;

That I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law;

And that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."



US Citizenship Interview Teaching Resources

1. Teaching Tips

- Consider some helpful ELL such as Simple Sentences, Capitalization, etc.
- Consider Interview preparation ideas such as manners and body language.
- Consider fun activities for learning such as holidays and geography.

2. Additional Considerations

- Adult learners with challenging lives - amplify kindness and sensitivity.
- Be careful. If you are not sure of an answer, have the students check with an expert.

3. Resources

- USCIS Web site has great resources (be careful of non government sites).
- Seattle Public Library has great ELL and Citizenship resources.
- Community groups have great resources.



What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States? Atlantic Ocean.

Activity

1. Find a partner
2. Ask the first person the first 10 questions.

Switch

3. Ask the second person the second 10 questions.

Discuss



Who lived here first? Native Americans lived here first.

REVIEW

1. What are the four parts of the Citizenship Interview?
2. What is the Oath of Allegiance?
3. Where can you find some good resources for Teaching?

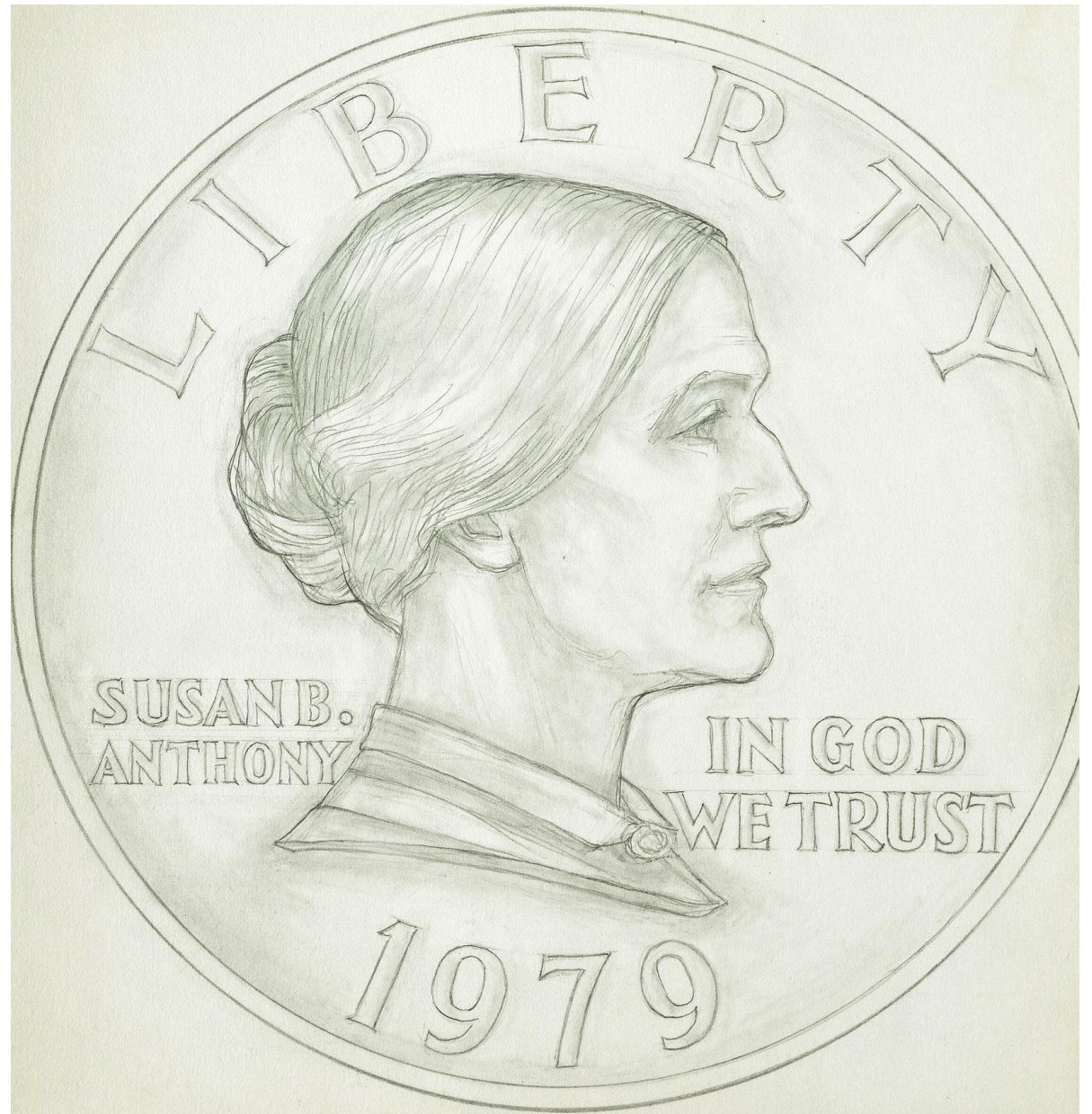


What did Martin Luther King Jr. do? He fought for Civil Rights.

Thank you.

We are a nation made strong by people like you.”

*Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg,
Naturalization Ceremony, April 10, 2018*



What did Susan B. Anthony do? She fought for Women's Rights.