The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY US CITIZEN SHOULD KNOW

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 50 of 120. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What is the supreme law of the land?

- A Declaration of Independence
- B U.S. Constitution
- C Bill of Rights

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B U.S. Constitution

WHY The Constitution is the highest law in the country. Every other law must follow it. The Bill of Rights is part of it, but the whole Constitution is the answer.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the Constitution go to the gym? To work on its articles.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What is the form of government of the United States?

- A Republic
- B Constitutional monarchy
- C Direct democracy

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Republic

WHY In a republic, citizens elect representatives to make laws for them. USCIS also accepts constitution-based federal republic or representative democracy. The U.S. has no king.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the republic bring a map to the meeting? To show where it stands.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?

- A Amendments
- B Executive orders
- C Supreme Court rulings

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Amendments

WHY An amendment is a formal change or addition to the Constitution. Executive orders and court rulings cannot rewrite its text. Only the amendment process can.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the Constitution so calm about changes? It knew how to make amends.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

The Constitution starts with "We the People." What does that mean?

- A Rule by a king
- B Rule by the states only
- C People should govern themselves

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C People should govern themselves

WHY "We the People" means power comes from the people. USCIS accepts self-government, popular sovereignty, or consent of the governed. Leaders get their power because people agree to it.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the quill pen love writing "We the People"? It was a very inclusive pen.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?

- **A** Ten
- **B** Twenty-seven
- **C** Twenty-five

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Twenty-seven

WHY The Constitution has 27 amendments. The first ten are the Bill of Rights, which is why "ten" is a common wrong answer.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why is six afraid of seven? Because seven eight nine.

SESK.INFO #139

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Why is the Declaration of Independence important?

- **A** It set up the three branches of government
- **B** It ended the Civil War
- **C** It says all people are created equal

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C It says all people are created equal

WHY The Declaration says all people are created equal and that America is free from British control. The Constitution, not the Declaration, set up the three branches.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the Declaration of Independence so confident? It knew it was signed, sealed, and delivered.

SESK.INFO #140

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

The words "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" are in what founding document?

- **A** Declaration of Independence
- **B** U.S. Constitution
- **C** Bill of Rights

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Declaration of Independence

WHY This famous phrase comes from the Declaration of Independence of 1776. It names rights people are born with. Many people guess the Constitution, but it is not there.

STRAIGHT FACE
What kind of tea did the American colonists want? Liberty.

SESK.INFO #141

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What is the rule of law?

- **A** The President can set aside any law
- **B** Laws apply only to citizens
- **C** No one is above the law

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C No one is above the law

WHY The rule of law means everyone must follow the law. That includes leaders and the government itself. Nobody gets a free pass.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the judge say when a skunk walked into the courtroom? Odor in the court!

SESK.INFO #142

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Many documents influenced the U.S. Constitution. Which of these is one?

- **A** Federalist Papers
- **B** Emancipation Proclamation
- **C** Gettysburg Address

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Federalist Papers

WHY The Federalist Papers argued for the Constitution in 1787 and 1788. The Emancipation Proclamation (1863) and Gettysburg Address (1863) came decades later, so they could not have influenced it.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the paper say to the pencil? Write on!

SESK.INFO #143

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

There are three branches of government. Why?

- **A** So each region gets its own branch
- **B** So one part does not become too powerful
- **C** To make laws pass faster

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B So one part does not become too powerful

WHY Splitting power three ways keeps any one part from taking over. USCIS also accepts checks and balances or separation of powers.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tree join the government? It wanted to be one of the branches.

SESK.INFO #144

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

The President of the United States is in charge of which branch of government?

- **A** Executive branch
- **B** Legislative branch
- **C** Judicial branch

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Executive branch

WHY The President leads the executive branch, which carries out and enforces laws. Congress is the legislative branch and the courts are the judicial branch.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the executive branch get a promotion? It really knew how to execute.

SESK.INFO #145

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What part of the federal government writes laws?

- **A** The Supreme Court
- **B** Congress
- **C** The President's Cabinet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Congress

WHY Congress is the legislative branch, and its main job is writing laws. The Supreme Court reviews laws and the Cabinet advises the President.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the bill go to the library? To check out how laws are written.

SESK.INFO #146

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

- **A** Senate and Supreme Court
- **B** House and Cabinet
- **C** Senate and House of Representatives

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Senate and House of Representatives

WHY Congress has two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. A two-part legislature is called bicameral.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the Capitol dome get good grades? It was always on top of things.

SESK.INFO #147

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which of these is a power of the U.S. Congress?

- **A** Declares war
- **B** Vetoes bills
- **C** Appoints federal judges

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Declares war

WHY Congress writes laws, declares war, and makes the federal budget. Vetoing bills and appointing federal judges are powers of the President.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the budget go to therapy? It had too many issues to balance.

SESK.INFO #148

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

How many U.S. senators are there?

- **A** Fifty
- **B** One hundred
- **C** Four hundred thirty-five

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B One hundred

WHY There are 100 senators: two from each of the 50 states. The number 435 is the House of Representatives.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the calculator love the Senate? Two per state, fifty states, easy math.

SESK.INFO #149

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

How long is a term for a U.S. senator?

- **A** Two years
- **B** Four years
- **C** Six years

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Six years

WHY Senators serve six-year terms. House members serve two years and the President serves four.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the calendar nervous? Its days were numbered.

SESK.INFO #150

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

- **A** Four hundred thirty-five
- **B** One hundred
- **C** Five hundred thirty-eight

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **Four hundred thirty-five**

WHY The House has 435 voting members, divided among states by population. 100 is the Senate and 538 is the Electoral College.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the House always crowded? It had 435 roommates.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?

- **A** Four years
- **B** Two years
- **C** Six years

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **Two years**

WHY House members serve two-year terms, so every House seat is on the ballot every two years. Senators serve six years.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why can't a bicycle stand up on its own? Because it is two tired.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Why do U.S. representatives serve shorter terms than U.S. senators?

- **A** The House has fewer members
- **B** Representatives are younger
- **C** To more closely follow public opinion

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C **To more closely follow public opinion**

WHY Two-year terms mean representatives face voters often, so they stay close to what people want. The House actually has more members than the Senate, not fewer.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the clock like the House? Short terms and quick hands.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Why does each state have two senators?

- **A** Equal representation for small states
- **B** Bigger states need two senators
- **C** So each senator covers half the state

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **Equal representation for small states**

WHY Every state gets two senators no matter its size, so small states have an equal voice. This came from the Great Compromise, also called the Connecticut Compromise.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did Rhode Island love the Senate? For once it got the same size slice of pie.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Some states have more representatives than other states. Why?

- **A** Because of land area
- **B** Because they became states first
- **C** Because of the state's population

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Because of the state's population

WHY House seats are divided by population, so states with more people get more representatives. Land size and age of statehood do not matter.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the crowded state get more seats? It had a lot of people to sit down.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

The President of the United States is elected for how many years?

- **A** Four years
- **B** Six years
- **C** Two years

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Four years

WHY A presidential term is four years. Senators serve six years and representatives serve two.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the calendar run every four years? It had a big date to keep.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

The President can serve only two terms. Why?

- **A** The 19th Amendment
- **B** The 22nd Amendment
- **C** The 25th Amendment

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B The 22nd Amendment

WHY The 22nd Amendment limits a President to two elected terms. USCIS also accepts "to keep the president from becoming too powerful." The 19th is women's voting and the 25th is succession.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the number 22 feel powerful? It knew when to say two is enough.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

- **A** The Speaker of the House
- **B** The Chief Justice
- **C** The Vice President

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C The Vice President

WHY The Vice President is first in line to become President. The Speaker of the House comes next, which is why some people guess it.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the spare tire feel proud? It was always next in line.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Who is Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?

- **A** The President
- **B** The Secretary of Defense
- **C** The Speaker of the House

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A The President

WHY The Constitution makes the President the Commander in Chief of the armed forces. The Secretary of Defense runs the department but reports to the President.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the general bring a pencil to the briefing?
To draw up the plans.

SESK.INFO #159

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Who vetoes bills?

- **A** The Supreme Court
- **B** The President
- **C** The Speaker of the House

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B The President

WHY A veto is when the President rejects a bill passed by Congress. Courts can strike down laws later, but that is not a veto.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the bill come back home so soon? It got vetoed and needed a hug.

SESK.INFO #160

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Who appoints federal judges?

- **A** The Chief Justice
- **B** The Senate
- **C** The President

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C The President

WHY The President appoints (nominates) federal judges. The Senate then votes to confirm them, which is why some people pick the Senate, but the appointment is the President's.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the judge bring a ladder to work? To reach a higher court.

SESK.INFO #161

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What does the President's Cabinet do?

- **A** Advises the President
- **B** Writes federal laws
- **C** Decides Supreme Court cases

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Advises the President

WHY The Cabinet is made up of the heads of major departments and other top officials. Their job is to advise the President. Congress writes laws and the courts decide cases.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the kitchen cabinet give such good advice?
It always had its shelf together.

SESK.INFO #162

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which of these is a Cabinet-level position?

- **A** Speaker of the House
- **B** Attorney General
- **C** Chief Justice

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Attorney General

WHY The Attorney General is a Cabinet-level position, along with secretaries like State and Treasury. The Speaker leads the House and the Chief Justice leads the Supreme Court, so neither is in the Cabinet.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the cabinet go to school? To build its self-esteem.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Why is the Electoral College important?

- **A** It picks Supreme Court justices
- **B** It counts votes for Congress
- **C** It decides who is elected president

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C It decides who is elected president

WHY The Electoral College chooses the President. It was a compromise between a popular vote and having Congress pick the President.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the Electoral College never throw a graduation? It is not that kind of college.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What does the judicial branch do?

- **A** Decides if a law goes against the Constitution
- **B** Writes new federal laws
- **C** Collects federal taxes

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Decides if a law goes against the Constitution

WHY The courts review and explain laws and settle disagreements about them. They can decide a law is unconstitutional. Congress writes laws.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the judge so good at baseball? Great at making calls.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What is the highest court in the United States?

- **A** U.S. Court of Appeals
- **B** Supreme Court
- **C** U.S. District Court

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Supreme Court

WHY The Supreme Court is the highest court in the country. Courts of Appeals and District Courts are lower federal courts.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the court wear sunglasses? Its future was supremely bright.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

How many seats are on the Supreme Court?

- **A** Seven
- **B** Twelve
- **C** Nine

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Nine

WHY The Supreme Court has nine justices: one Chief Justice and eight associate justices.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the Supreme Court never play baseball short-handed? It always had nine.

SESK.INFO #167

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?

- **A** Five
- **B** Nine
- **C** Six

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Five

WHY With nine justices, a majority of five usually decides a case. It does not need to be unanimous.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the justices high-five? Five votes wins the case.

SESK.INFO #168

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why?

- **A** To reward them for past service
- **B** To be independent of politics
- **C** To save the cost of elections

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B To be independent of politics

WHY Lifetime service means justices do not have to worry about reelection or keeping their jobs. That helps them decide cases fairly. USCIS also accepts "to limit outside influence."

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do justices wear robes? So they always look a-robe-able in court.

SESK.INFO #169

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which power belongs only to the federal government?

- **A** Give a driver's license
- **B** Approve zoning and land use
- **C** Print paper money

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Print paper money

WHY Only the federal government can print money, mint coins, declare war, and make treaties. Driver's licenses and zoning are state powers.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the dollar bill get a job at the bank? It wanted to make some change.

SESK.INFO #170

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

- **A** Gives women the right to vote
- **B** Powers not given to the federal government belong to states
- **C** Ends slavery

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Powers not given to the federal government belong to states

WHY The 10th Amendment says powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people. Women's voting is the 19th Amendment and ending slavery is the 13th.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the 10th Amendment feel like a perfect score? It was a real ten out of ten.

SESK.INFO #171

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Four amendments are about who can vote. Which describes one of them?

- **A** Only landowners can vote
- **B** Citizens 16 and older can vote
- **C** Citizens 18 and older can vote

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Citizens 18 and older can vote

WHY The voting amendments say citizens 18 and older can vote, no poll tax, women can vote, and male citizens of any race can vote. There is no landowner rule or age 16 rule.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the ballot box smile? Everyone was dropping by to say hi.

SESK.INFO #172

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury?

- **A** U.S. citizens
- **B** All permanent residents
- **C** Anyone living here one year

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A U.S. citizens

WHY Voting in federal elections, running for federal office, and jury service are for U.S. citizens. Permanent residents (green card holders) cannot do these.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the jury bring a notebook? To keep the facts on the record.

SESK.INFO #173

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which is a right of everyone living in the United States, not just citizens?

- **A** Right to serve on a jury
- **B** Freedom of speech
- **C** Right to vote in federal elections

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Freedom of speech

WHY Freedom of speech, religion, and assembly belong to everyone living in the U.S. Voting in federal elections and jury duty are only for citizens.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the microphone love America? Freedom of speech meant it was always in demand.

SESK.INFO #174

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

- **A** The President
- **B** Congress
- **C** The United States

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C The United States

WHY The Pledge shows loyalty to the United States and the flag. USCIS accepts either one. It is not a pledge to any person or office.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did one flag say to the other flag? Nothing, it just waved.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which is a promise new citizens make in the Oath of Allegiance?

- **A** Defend the Constitution
- **B** Vote in every election
- **C** Live in one state for life

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Defend the Constitution

WHY In the Oath, new citizens promise to defend the Constitution, obey U.S. laws, give up loyalty to other countries, and serve if needed. Voting is a right, not an oath promise.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the new citizen raise their right hand?
Because it was the right thing to do.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which is one way people can become United States citizens?

- **A** Buy property in the United States
- **B** Naturalize
- **C** Live here on a tourist visa

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Naturalize

WHY People become citizens by being born here under the 14th Amendment, by naturalizing, or by deriving citizenship as set by Congress. Owning property or visiting does not make anyone a citizen.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the eagle cheer at the ceremony? It was a natural-ization.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which of these does USCIS list as a way Americans can serve their country?

- **A** Travel abroad often
- **B** Own a business
- **C** Serve in the military

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Serve in the military

WHY USCIS lists voting, paying taxes, obeying the law, serving in the military, running for office, and working for government. Travel and owning a business are not on the list.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the eagle join the Air Force? It already knew how to fly.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which amendment to the Constitution allows the federal income tax?

- **A** 16th Amendment
- **B** 14th Amendment
- **C** 18th Amendment

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A 16th Amendment

WHY USCIS says paying federal taxes is required by the Constitution through the 16th Amendment. Taxes fund the federal government. The 14th covers citizenship and the 18th was Prohibition.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the calculator love tax season? It finally got to count on someone.

SESK.INFO #179

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which men need to register for the Selective Service?

- **A** Men age 16 through 21
- **B** Men age 18 through 25
- **C** Men age 21 through 35

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Men age 18 through 25

WHY USCIS says all men age 18 through 25 should register. It is required by law and makes the draft fair, if a draft is ever needed.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the post office love registration time? So many forms to deliver.

SESK.INFO #180

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Which is one reason colonists came to America, according to the USCIS civics test?

- **A** Religious freedom
- **B** To flee the Great Depression
- **C** To join the Union Army

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Religious freedom

WHY Many colonists came for religious freedom, political liberty or economic opportunity. The Great Depression and the Union Army came centuries later.

STRAIGHT FACE
If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring? Pilgrims.

SESK.INFO #181

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

- **A** The Pilgrims
- **B** American Indians
- **C** The British

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B American Indians

WHY American Indians, also called Native Americans, lived here for thousands of years before Europeans came. The Pilgrims and the British were Europeans who arrived later.

STRAIGHT FACE
What is a history teacher's favorite fruit? Dates.

SESK.INFO #182

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What war did the Americans fight to win independence from Britain?

- **A** The American Revolution
- **B** The War of 1812
- **C** The Civil War

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A The American Revolution

WHY The American Revolution, or Revolutionary War, won independence from Britain. The War of 1812 came later, and the Civil War was between the North and the South.

STRAIGHT FACE
What's a soldier's favorite month? March.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVICS

What group of people was taken and sold as slaves in America?

- **A** The Puritans
- **B** The French
- **C** Africans

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Africans

WHY Millions of people from Africa were captured, shipped across the Atlantic and sold into slavery. The Puritans and the French were European settlers.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the student eat her homework? The teacher said it was a piece of cake.

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AhaBulb POINT

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