LEARNERS’ LIVES as CURRICULUM

Thematic Unit

Citizenship: Who In The World Am I?

(Preparation for the Citizenship Test)
Intermediate Level

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MY FIRST DAY
By Caras from Hong Kong

I came from Hong Kong. My first arrived to USA in 2003 for a business trip. I still remember while I was on the plane. I was so nervous as I’m worry my English is not good enough. Will I rare jet lag on the entire trip?

Upon arrival, I feels comfortable because I saw my sales rep. is waiting me at the airport! Gave a big hug to me, make sure I slept well, ate enough on the plane. Then he drove me for a sightseeing on the way back to the hotel at New York downtown.

My impression is NYC similar to Hong Kong. However, I don’t like staying in New York because the city is too crowed. I was so scared to take the subway as I saw some men dancing, singing, and begged all the passengers for money. Also, the platform was so dark and dirty. I felt unsafe!

Overall, this trip was memorable and successful. It was my first time to travel alone, too!

1) What was your first day like in the U.S.?
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________

2) Can you describe your emotions? Did you feel good or bad?
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________

3) What is your happiest memory of the first thing you saw?
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
Name ________________________
Date ________________________

HAPPY - Name three things that make you happy
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

SAD - Name three things that make you sad
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

SCARED – Name three things that make you scared
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
October 18, 2006 was my special day. I came in Florida for my first
day. I was stressed about a lots things. The traffic on the highway
(95). I had also fun in the house after a few days. I felt surprise when
my friend bought present for me. I went to the restaurant. I had big
trouble to chose a food. I really don’t know why I heard when the
waitress spoken with us. That was a nice experience.

_Cerette from Haiti_

I came from Puerto Rico. I felt so happy and exited. I felt happy
because my husband came here first and I saw him again and exited
because this place is different to my country. I like this place. I lived
before in New Holland, then I moved here to Berwick. I’ll be here
for the rest of my life. My kids love this place. They have a lots of
friend and they have the opportunity to get everything what they
want. Some people are nice and some people don’t. On that part, a
feel disgusted.

_Angie from Puerto Rico_

### PLAYING With LANGUAGE

1) **How many verbs are there in each story?**
   - 1st story ____
   - 2nd story ____
   - List at least 5 verbs _______ _______ _______ _______ _______

2) **How many pronouns are in each story?**
   - 1st story _____
   - 2nd story _____
   - List 5 different pronouns _______ _______ _______ _______ _______

3) **How many nouns are in each story?**
   - 1st story ______
   - 2nd story ______
   - List 5 different nouns _______ _______ _______ _______ _______

4) **How many adjectives are in each story?**
   - 1st story _____
   - 2nd story _____
   - List 5 different adjectives _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
Victoria Rainis – Teacher’s Story

When I planned my 10 day trip to Peru in 2006, I was very excited and filled with anticipation. My first day made me feel anxious and nervous because this country was very different from my home in Berwick, PA. I saw so much poverty and was given strict instructions by my hosts that I was not to leave their house unless one of the family members escorted me. Whether traveling in a car or walking a few blocks from the house, I was told to remove all jewelry, never carry a purse, and hide my camera under my coat. My hosts were protective and said that their neighborhood was dangerous. This terrified me. I began to wonder if I should be there. However, once I settled into their home that first day, I received the royal treatment. The entire family from many miles away came to visit and they brought food, gifts and music. From then on, I enjoyed many experiences, from trips to the mountains and beaches, to several cathedrals in the capital of Lima, to the homes of many neighbors. I even met their mayor. I went to a wedding, some birthday parties, the Feast of San Juan, an anniversary celebration, and danced at all these events. The traffic was terrible (worse than Manhattan) but every day was an adventure and although the area was poverty-stricken, I saw much beauty, also. This trip was memorable and I fell in love with the people, all of whom were kind, loving and generous.

Discuss the new vocabulary words that are underlined. Look the words up in the dictionary and discuss with your classmates. In your classroom notebook, make a list of these new words with definitions.

MY FIRST DAY
Prompt for Student Essay

Describe your emotions the first day you arrived in a new country.

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

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_______________________________________________________________________________________
My Personal Story

My name is: ____________________________________________

I was born on _____________ in _________________________

I have _____ brother(s) and _____ sister(s).

I have _____ pet(s) and they are ___________________________

My favorite hobby is _________________________________

My favorite color is _______________________________

My favorite food is _________________________________

My best friend is ______________________________________

I am very good at _____________________________________

My goal is ____________________________

My Family Story

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Choose a partner in your class and compare your stories and family history.
TEACHER’S NOTE #1: I developed this unit as a preparation for studying to earn citizenship. Over the past 6 years that I assisted numerous students, I found one common theme among their concerns: “Will I have to abandon my culture? Who will I be after I become a citizen?” Thus, the title Citizenship: Who In The World Am I? I focused on alleviating these fears early in the unit by helping them to maintain their sense of identity while struggling to learn a whole new way of life in America. For this reason, the project I created has been introduced near the beginning of the unit as I have learned through past experience that the interaction generated brought the students closer to one another and helped them to make connections to their personal lives and the world around them. The creation of the collage developed a new rapport and built a bond among the students. Their goal became more realistic when they were prompted to discuss the manner in which the collage defined their desires, dreams and personalities during a presentation in front of their peers. Enjoy this time with them as they often reveal inner secrets!

TEACHER’S NOTE #2: I have largely been prompting the students to “read & study the questions” at home. Although I do generate tests to monitor their progress, I do not spend entire class times on those questions. Rather, I conduct 20-minute sessions for reviewing the questions and frequently remind them that it is largely their responsibility to be sure they study. Handouts may be found at http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/100q.pdf

PROJECT

Materials: poster paper glue
magazines scissors
colored pencils scotch tape
crayons/gel pens home photos

Instructions: Students will create a collage that represents their nature, personality or identity by freehand drawing, using some home photographs, or pasting pictures cut out from magazines.

Presentations: Students will do a presentation of their “Personal Story” and describe the literal and/or symbolic meaning of their collage in front of the class to their peers.

Examples:
QUESTION WORDS
(Discussion of Definitions)

Who – asking about a person or people

What – asking for information

Where – asking about a place or position

When – asking about time

Why – asking for a reason

Answer the following questions in two or more sentences and describe in detail:

Who am I?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What made me decide to come to America?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Where is my homeland?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

When did I decide to come to the United States?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Why do I want to become an American citizen?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
**Democracy**: a system of government in which the citizens or members choose leaders or make important decisions by voting.

**Constitution**: the fundamental law of the United States framed in 1787. It is a document that guarantees individual rights and outlines the responsibilities of the government.

**Bill of Rights**: the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, added in 1791 to protect certain rights of citizens.

**Amendment**: a change or an addition to the Constitution.
The first amendment guarantees freedom of religion, speech, the press, assembly, and to petition the government.

**Petition:** a written application requesting a court for a specific judicial action.

**Declaration of Independence:**
A document that announced our freedom from Great Britain on July 4, 1776.

**Cabinet:** a special group who advises the President.

**Naturalization:** refers to an act whereby a person acquires a citizenship different from that person's citizenship at birth.

**The Legislative Branch** makes the laws. The Senate and the House of Representatives make up the legislative branch. There is no limit to the number of times Senators and Representatives can be re-elected.

**The Executive Branch** includes the President, the Vice-President, and the Cabinet members. No person may be elected President more than twice.

**The Judicial Branch** explains and applies the law. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life.
MAKING MEANING

(Instructor prepares for this exercise by previewing the definitions of the words below.)

Interview two students in your class and ask them to tell you the meaning of the following words.

First Student Interview – NAME __________________________

AMENDMENT __________________________________________

CITIZEN ______________________________________________

CONSTITUTION __________________________________________

DEMOCRACY __________________________________________

FREEDOM _____________________________________________

PETITION _____________________________________________

VOTE _________________________________________________

Second Student Interview – NAME __________________________

AMENDMENT __________________________________________

CITIZEN ______________________________________________

CONSTITUTION __________________________________________

DEMOCRACY __________________________________________

FREEDOM _____________________________________________

PETITION _____________________________________________

VOTE _________________________________________________
THE ORIGINAL UNITED STATES FLAG
(13 stars and 13 stripes to symbolize the 13 colonies)

The First Official United States Flag: This 13-Star Flag became the Official United States Flag on June 14th, 1777 and is the result of the congressional action that took place on that date. The only President to serve under this flag was George Washington (1789-1797).

This Flag was to last for a period of 18 years. Each star and stripe represented a Colony of which there were thirteen, united nearly one year earlier by the Declaration of Independence. The thirteen original Colonies of the United States are listed below with the date that each ratified the Constitution and became a State.

- (1st) Delaware December 7th, 1787
- (2nd) Pennsylvania December 12th, 1787
- (3rd) New Jersey December 18th, 1787
- (4th) Georgia January 2nd, 1788
- (5th) Connecticut January 9th, 1788
- (6th) Massachusetts February 6th, 1788
- (7th) Maryland April 28th, 1788
- (8th) South Carolina May 23rd, 1788
- (9th) New Hampshire June 21st, 1788
- (10th) Virginia June 25th, 1788
- (11th) New York July 25th, 1788
- (12th) North Carolina November 21st, 1789
- (13th) Rhode Island May 29th, 1790

http://www.usflag.org/history/the13starflag.html
Ordinal Numbers

You just reviewed the thirteen original colonies. Can you list any five of them here? Try not to look back at page 10 unless you cannot remember any of them.

1. ______________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________

4. ______________________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________

Listen to your teacher read the ordinal numbers listed below. Notice that these numbers end with st, nd, rd * Then repeat the numbers with your teacher.

1st (first)  5th (fifth)  9th (ninth)

2nd (second)  6th (sixth)  10th (tenth)

3rd (third)  7th (seventh)  11th (eleventh)

4th (fourth)  8th (eighth)  12th (twelfth)

Using the ordinal numbers below, you will put the five colonies you remembered above in the correct order in which they became a state. You may look at page 10 for help.

First: ______________________________________________________________________

Second: ______________________________________________________________________

Third: ______________________________________________________________________

Fourth: ______________________________________________________________________

Fifth: ______________________________________________________________________

Choose a partner and review all thirteen colonies on page 10 to practice pronunciation and the correct spelling of these states. Switch partners and review once again.
THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I Pledge Allegiance
To the Flag
Of the United States of America
And to the Republic
For Which it Stands
One Nation
Under God,
Indivisible,
With Liberty
And Justice
For All

Courtesy of www.HomeOfHeroes.com
O! 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.
O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
LOOKING BACK

*Have a discussion with your classmates about all of the lesson plans in this unit.*

1) In this unit, I learned

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

2) I want to learn more about

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

3) What I liked the most was

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

4) What I liked the least was

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Citizenship: Who In The World Am I?

Write a short essay about “who you are” and if you learned anything new about yourself during this unit.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

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