Notes: Chapter 1. Please make sure you get your notes and highlights neighbor if your absent.

I. America, a great place to live

  A. Political Freedom

  B. Religious Freedom

  C. Economic Freedom

  D. Class Freedom

II. The Meaning of Civics

  A. Civics defined?

B. Government, why it’s needed

   1. Protect life liberty and property

   2. Make, enforce, and interpret reasonable laws

C. American Values - Beliefs that form the basis of this nation.

   1.  Freedom

   2.  Equality

  3.  Liberty

  4.  Justice

D. Role of a United States Citizen

  1. Vote

  2. Work for a political party

 3. Inform officials of your needs or disagreements should any arise

  4. Learn how your government works, and make informed decisions

E. Ten Qualities of a : Good Citizen

   1. Are responsible family members

   2. Respect and obey all laws

   3. Respect the rights and property of others

   4. Be loyal and proud of the United States and its accomplishments

   5. Work to improve your community

   6. Be active in government

   7. Stay well informed on issues that are important

   8. Believe in the equality of opportunity for all people

9. Use natural resources wisely

   10. Respect people with different opinion than yours

F. To become an effective citizen takes effort and training

III. Who are U.S. Citizens?

  A. Americans are come from everywhere

   1. people have brought to the US

   a. language, ideas beliefs, customs, hopes and dreams.

   2. Melting pot vs. Mixed Sallad

B. Early Americans

   1. First immigrants came from Asia

   2. 1492 Columbus brought the Europeans to the Americas

   a. Spanish: Florida, Texas, California

     b. In the US, England, Scotland, and Ireland were the first to settle in the 13 colonies

   c. Germans to Pennsylvania and spread west

   3. Immigration Policy

   a. Open door policy until 1880's

   b. Immigrants have always been discriminated against.

  c. Chinese Exclusion Act 1882

   1. other laws prevented Chinese from owning property

    d. 1920's - Laws established the first quotas

e. Immigration Act of 1990

   1. set an annual immigrant quota of 675,000

     2. gives preferences to:

    a. husbands and wives of citizens

   b. people who have valuable job skills

   c. legal aliens who are permanent residents of the US

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C. How to become a Citizen

   1. Citizenship by birth

   a. parents are citizens

   b. born in the USA

   2. Naturalize citizenship

   a. immigrate to the US legally

   b. must be 18 yrs old,

   c. pass a background check

   d. be of "good moral character" no arrests

   e. get a green card (takes five years)

   f. live in the US permanently

3. Four steps in becoming a citizen

  a. Completing Your Application for citizenship

    1. Get two photographs of yourself (passport photos)

    2. Collect the necessary documents

  b. Getting Fingerprinted :

    1. Mail additional documents

  c. Being Interviewed and Tested

    1. Answer questions about your application and your background.   
    2. Take the English, American History and Civics tests.

  d. Taking the Oath of Allegiance

    1. Take the oath of allegiance.