

# Civics



Get ready for the part of your  
naturalization interview focused on the

## 2025 Civics Test



**LITERACY VOLUNTEERS**  
CHARLOTTESVILLE / ALBEMARLE

Our handbook works best with our videos.  
Scan the QR code or visit  
<https://tinyurl.com/LVCA25CivicsVideos>  
to watch our 2025 Civics Test video playlist.



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# About this Handbook

This handbook will help you learn and practice the 128 questions on the 2025 Civics Test.

For each question, we explain and show visuals to help you understand the question and learn the answer. There is a blue box to show you each question the USCIS officer might ask you and the answer we are learning. The answer is in blue on the right side.

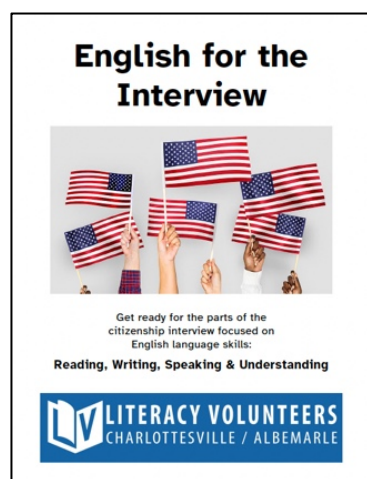
<b>What is the capital of the United States?</b>	<b>Washington, D.C.</b>
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Some questions have more than one correct answer. We do not include all USCIS approved answers in this handbook, but you can find them on the USCIS website here: <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship-resource-center/naturalization-test-and-study-resources/2025-civics-test>

### Practice!

- On the last page of each unit, there is a place to practice the questions from that unit.
- The Extras section at the end of the handbook has answers to the unit practice questions, a visual showing how a bill becomes a law, timelines and interview tips.
- We created videos that go with each unit. You can get to the video playlist using the QR code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/25CivicsVideos>.

PREVIEW



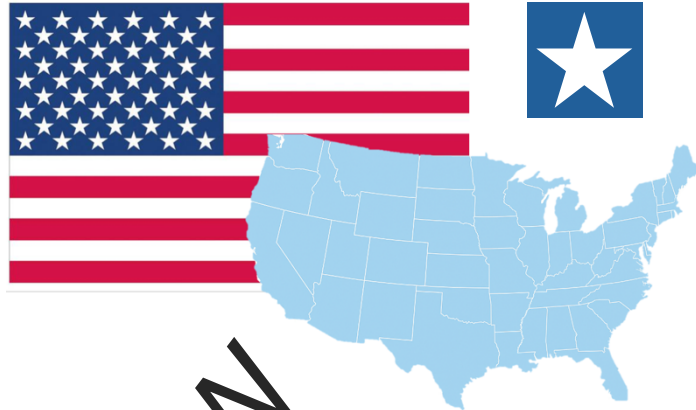
We also have an English for the Interview Handbook (with videos) for the speaking, listening, reading, and writing tests of the citizenship interview.

Our handbooks are available at <https://literacyforall.org/citizenship-materials>.

## Unit 2 Symbols and Holidays

Countries have symbols that remind people of their country. Flags are important symbols of countries.

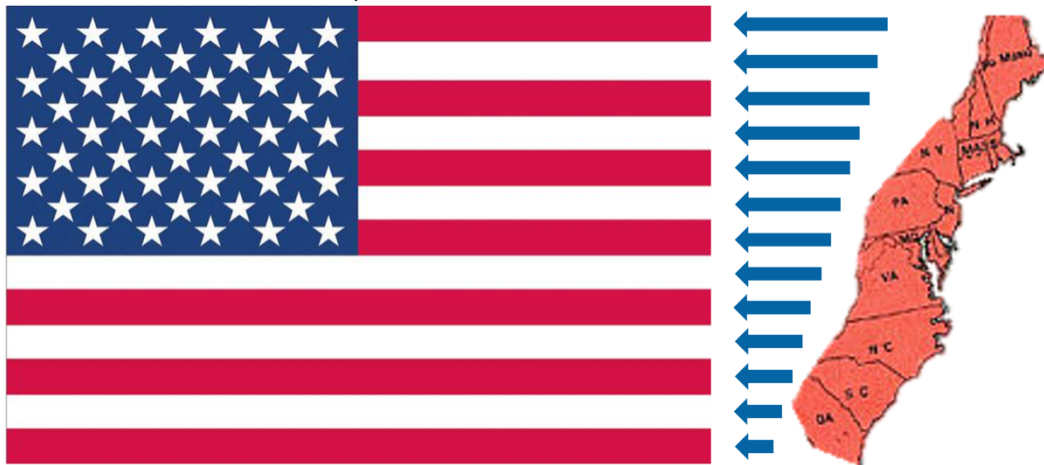
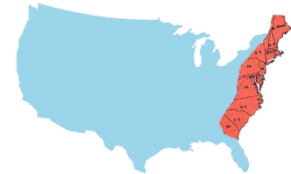
The U.S. flag has 50 stars, one star for every state. The flag has 50 stars **because there are 50 states.**



Why does the flag have 50 stars?

**Because there are 50 states**


The United States did not always have 50 states. Before the United States was a country, it was 13 colonies. The U.S. flag has 13 stripes **because there were 13 original colonies.**



Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

**Because there were 13 original colonies**

Every country has a national anthem. It is a song that is an important symbol of the country. The name of the United States national anthem is **The Star-Spangled Banner**.

Star → 

Spangled → decorated

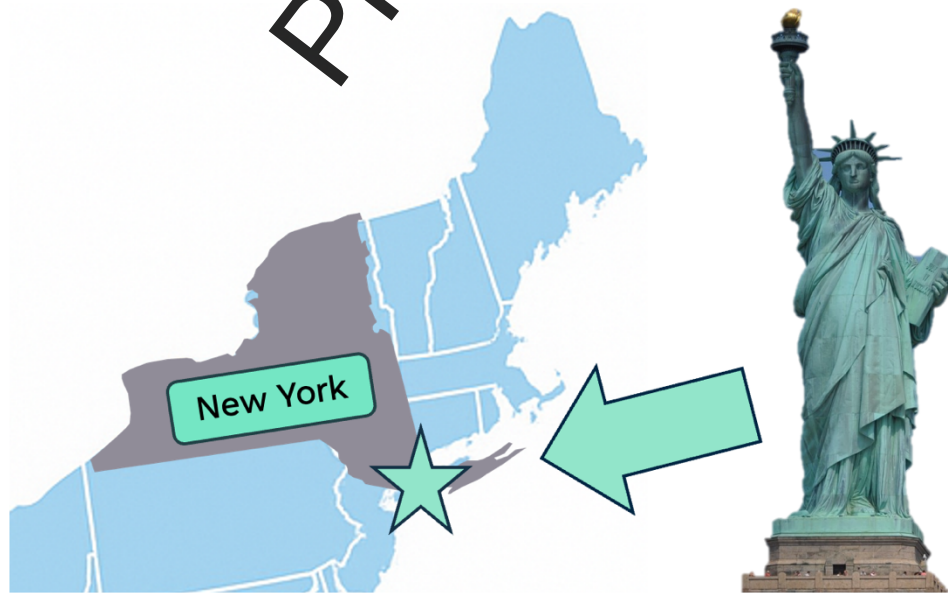
Banner → flag



The Star-Spangled Banner is the American flag; it is a flag decorated with stars.

What is the name of the national anthem?	<b>The Star-Spangled Banner</b>
--	---------------------------------

Another important symbol of the United States is the Statue of Liberty. For many years, immigrants on ships saw the Statue of Liberty when they got to the U.S. The Statue of Liberty is in **New York**.



Where is the Statue of Liberty?	<b>New York</b>
---------------------------------	-----------------

The United States has 11 national holidays. One of our biggest holidays is Independence Day. It is on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Independence Day is **the country's birthday**.



What is Independence Day?

The country's birthday

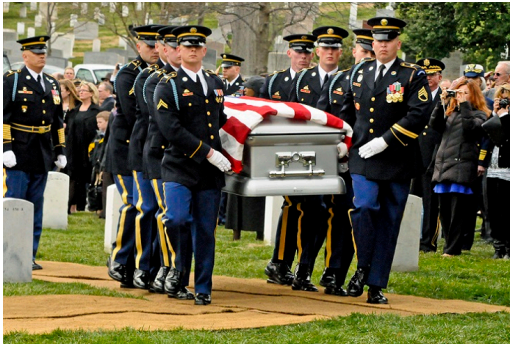
Another U.S. holiday is Veterans Day. It is **a holiday to honor people in the military**.



What is Veterans Day?

A holiday to honor people in the military

The United States has a holiday to honor people who died in military service. It is called Memorial Day.



<p>What is Memorial Day?</p>	<p>A holiday to honor people who died in military service</p>
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**Independence Day**



**Veterans Day**



**Memorial Day**

<p>Name 3 national U.S. holidays.</p>	<p>Independence Day Veterans Day Memorial Day</p>
---------------------------------------	---

Do you know the other U.S. national holidays?



# Symbols & Holidays: Practice!

Practice saying the questions and answers out loud.

1. Why does the flag have 50 stars? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does the flag have 13 stripes? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the name of the national anthem? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where is the Statue of Liberty? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is Independence Day? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is Veterans Day? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is Memorial Day? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Name 3 national U.S. holidays. \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers

- a. New York
- b. The country's birthday
- c. The Star-Spangled Banner
- d. Because there are 50 states
- e. Because there were 13 original colonies
- f. A holiday to honor people in the military
- g. Independence Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day
- h. A holiday to honor people who died in military service

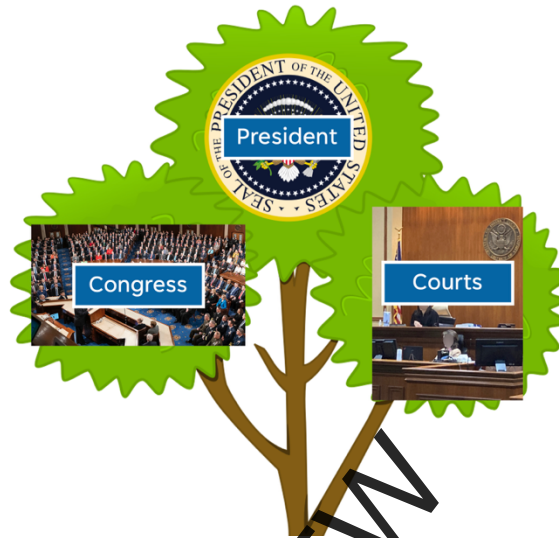
PREVIEW

## Which picture...?

- Which picture shows Memorial Day?
- Which picture shows Independence Day?
- Which picture shows Veterans Day?

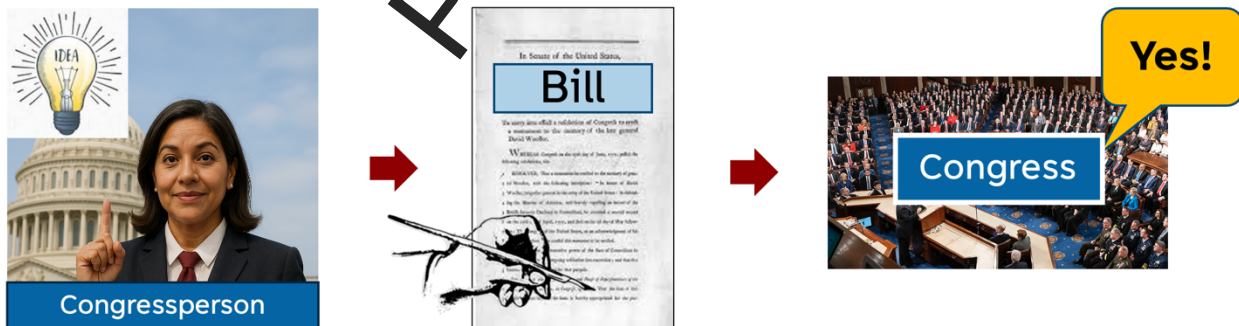


# Unit 9 Three Branches



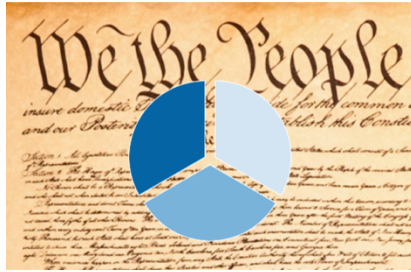
Each branch of government has important jobs. All 3 branches help with our country's laws.

The first step in making a law is an idea for a new law. When a person in Congress writes down an idea for a new law, it is called a bill. Congress votes if they think the bill should become a law. **Congress writes laws.**



What part of the federal government writes laws?	Congress
--	----------

Name one power of the U.S. Congress.	Writes laws
--------------------------------------	-------------



The people who wrote the Constitution did not want Congress to have all of the power for making laws. After Congress writes a law and votes for it, it is not a law yet. The bill goes to the president.

If the president thinks it is a good idea, the president signs the bill. Then it becomes a law. **The president signs bills into law.**



Who signs bills to become laws?	The president
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Name one power of the president.	Signs bills into law
----------------------------------	----------------------

If the president thinks a bill is a bad idea, the president does NOT sign it. **The president vetoes bills.** That means the president says, “No, this should not be a law.”



Who vetoes bills?	The president
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The part of the government that has courts and judges is called the judicial branch.

If someone does something against the law, they go to court, and the judge explains the law. If someone thinks a law goes against the Constitution, the judicial branch explains the Constitution and decides if the law goes against it. The judicial branch **explains laws**.



What does the judicial branch do?	<b>Explains laws</b>
-----------------------------------	----------------------

What does each branch do with laws?

Congress	President	Courts
		
<b>Writes laws</b>	Signs bills into law Vetoes laws	<b>Explain laws</b>

# Three Branches: Practice!

Practice saying the questions and answers out loud.

1. What part of the federal government writes laws? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name one power of the U.S. Congress. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name one power of the president. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who signs bills to become laws? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who vetoes bills? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does the judicial branch do? \_\_\_\_\_

### Answers:

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| a. The president        | d. Writes laws |
| b. Explains laws        | e. Congress    |
| c. Signs bills into law |                |

One answer can be used 2 times!

### Which branch...?



- Which branch signs bills into law?
- Which branch writes laws?
- Which branch explains laws?
- Which branch vetoes laws?
- Which branch is also called the judicial branch?



1

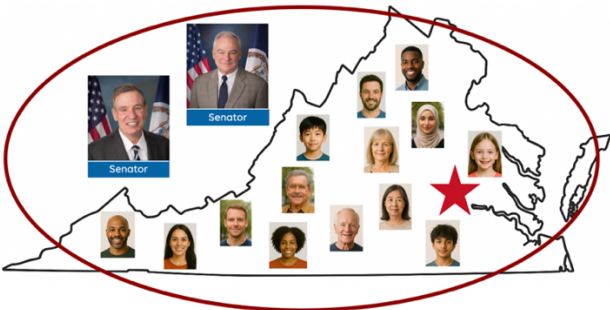


2



3

# Unit 14 Current Officials

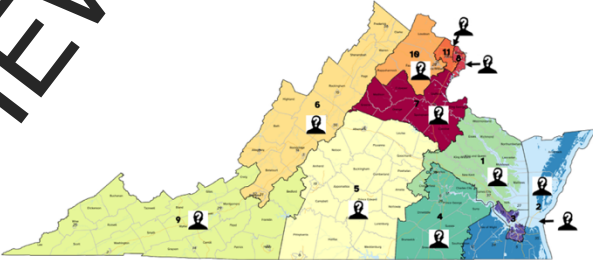


Every state has 2 U.S. senators. They represent the people of their state.

One of my state's U.S. senators is \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>Who is one of your state's U.S. senators now?</b>	
--	--

Every state has Congressional districts. The number of districts depends on how many people live in the state. Each district has a different U.S. representative in the House of Representatives. They represent the people in their district.



My U.S. representative is \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>Name your U.S. representative.</b>	
---------------------------------------	--



The speaker of the House of Representatives is the person in charge of the House of Representatives. The speaker is elected by the 435 members of the House. Usually, the House votes for the speaker every 2 years. The speaker is always from the political party that has more members in the House.

Today, the speaker of the House is \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>What is the name of the speaker of the House of Representatives now?</b>	
---	--



Today, the president of the United States is \_\_\_\_\_.

Their 4 year term as president ends on January 20<sup>th</sup>, \_\_\_\_\_. Every 4 years, the day that the president takes their oath of office is a national holiday.

<p><b>What is the name of the president of the United States now?</b></p>	
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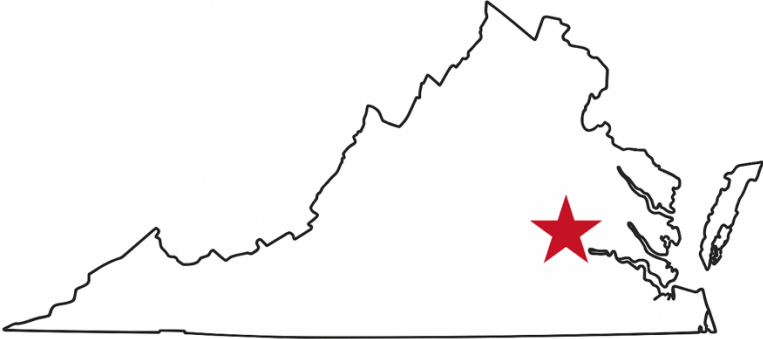
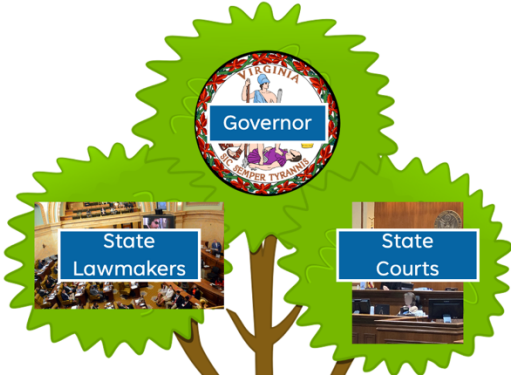
PREVIEW



Today, the vice president of the United States is \_\_\_\_\_.

Their 4 year term as vice president ends on January 20<sup>th</sup>, \_\_\_\_\_.

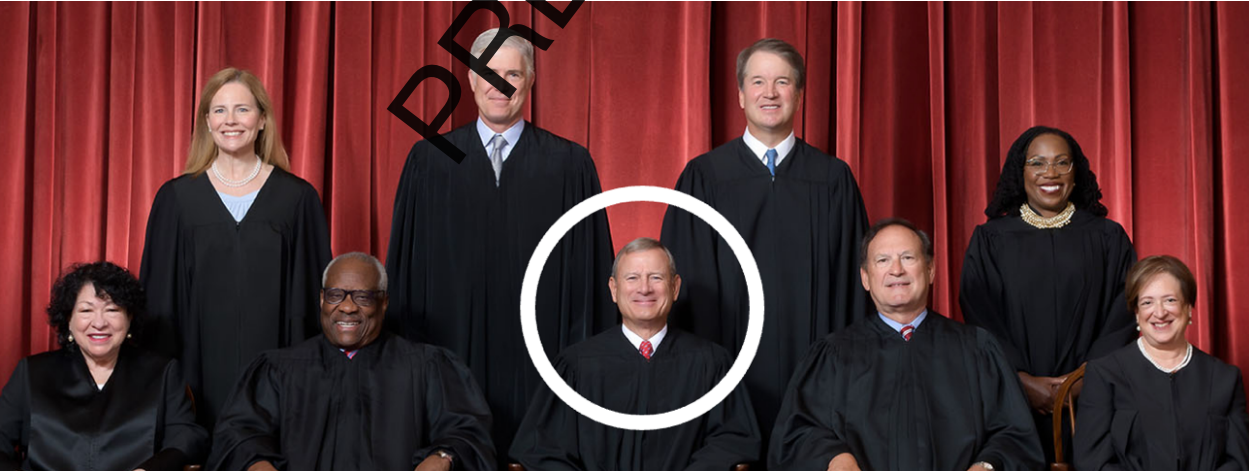
<p><b>What is the name of the vice president of the United States now?</b></p>	
--	--



Each state in the United States has a governor. The governor is in charge of the executive branch of the state government, just like the president is in charge of the executive branch of the U.S. government.

The governor of my state is \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>Who is the governor of your state now?</b>	
---	--










The justice who is in charge of the Supreme Court is called the chief justice. The chief justice serves for life.

Today, the chief justice is \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>Who is the chief justice of the United States now?</b>	
---	--

# Current Officials: Practice!

Practice saying the questions and answers out loud.

<p>What is the name of the <b>president</b> of the United States now?</p>		
<p>What is the name of the <b>vice president</b> of the United States now?</p>		
<p>Who is the <b>chief justice</b> of the United States now?</p>		
<p>What is the name of the <b>speaker of the House</b> of Representatives now?</p>		
<p>Name your <b>U.S. representative</b>.</p>		
<p>Who is one of your state's <b>U.S. senators</b> now?</p>		
<p>Who is the <b>governor</b> of your state now?</p>		

PREVIEW

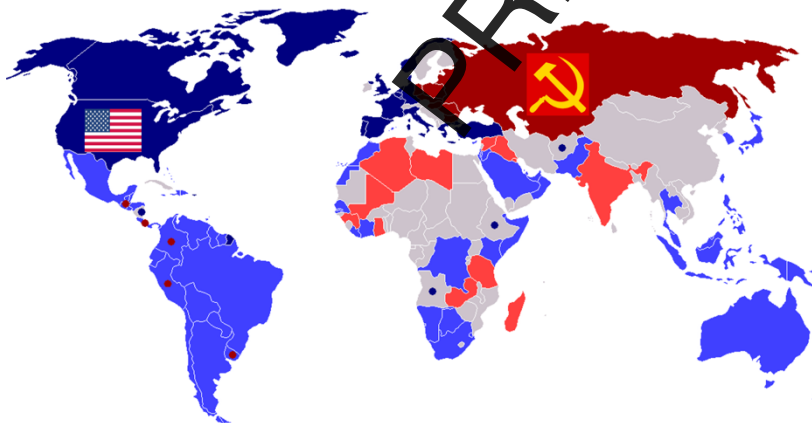
## Unit 19 1900s, Part 2

A country's economic system is how the country decides how much things cost and how people make and spend money. In the United States, businesses and people decide. This is called a **free market economy**. It is like a farmers market where businesses choose what to sell and how much things cost, and people choose which businesses to buy things from.



<b>What is the economic system of the United States?</b>	<b>Free market economy</b>
--	----------------------------

Communism is an economic system where the government decides how much things cost and how people make money. They do not have a free market economy.



After World War 2, the United States wanted more countries in the world to have a free market economy. Russia had communism and wanted more countries to have communism. This time is called the Cold War.

During the Cold War, one main concern of the United States was **communism**. The main rival of the United States was **Russia**.

<b>During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?</b>	<b>Communism</b>
---	------------------

<b>Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?</b>	<b>Russia</b>
---	---------------

During the Cold War, the United States and Russia did not go to war directly against each other. But there were wars where the United States fought to help one side, and Russia fought to help the other side.

During the Korean War in the 1950s, the north part of Korea wanted communism. Russia helped the north's side. The U.S. joined the war to help the south part of Korea.



**Korean War**



The United States entered the Korean War **to stop the spread of communism.**

<p><b>Why did the United States enter the Korean War?</b></p>	<p><b>To stop the spread of communism</b></p>
---	---



**General during World War 2**



**President during Korean War**

Dwight Eisenhower was a general in the U.S. military during World War 2. Later, he was elected president.



Eisenhower was **president during the Korean War.**

<p><b>Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.</b></p>	<p><b>President during the Korean War</b></p>
--	---

During the Vietnam War, starting in the 1960s, the north part of Vietnam wanted communism. Russia helped the north's side. The U.S. joined the war to help the south part of Vietnam.



The United States entered the Vietnam War **to stop the spread of communism.**

**Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?**

**To stop the spread of Communism**

The Cold War ended in 1991. The United States has joined other wars for other reasons. In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. The U.S. joined the war to help Kuwait.



**Persian Gulf War**



The United States entered the Persian Gulf War **to force the Iraqi military from Kuwait.**

**Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?**

**To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait**



On September 11, 2001, **terrorists attacked the United States.**

**What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?**

**Terrorists attacked the United States**

After the September 11, 2001 attacks, the United States got involved in more military conflicts. One was in Afghanistan. The U.S. fought against the government that had helped the terrorists.

The war lasted for 20 years. Many Afghan citizens helped the U.S. military and tried to create a new government.

**War in Afghanistan**



An important U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks was the **War in Afghanistan.**

**Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.**

**War in Afghanistan**

# 1900s, Part 2: Practice!

Practice saying the questions and answers out loud.

1. What is the economic system in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
2. During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did the United States enter the Korean War? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. To stop the spread of communism       | e. Communism                                 |
| b. Terrorists attacked the United States | f. To force the Iraqi military out of Kuwait |
| c. President during the Korean War       | g. War in Afghanistan                        |
| d. Free market economy                   | h. Russia                                    |

One answer can be used 2 times!



?	World War 1	World War 2	Korean War	Vietnam War	Persian Gulf War	War in Afghanistan
When?	1900s	1900s	1900s	1900s	1900s	2000s
Why?	Germany attacked U.S. ships	Japan attacked Pearl Harbor	To stop the spread of communism	To stop the spread of communism	To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait	September 11, 2001 terrorist attack

# How a Bill Becomes a Law



# 1900s and 2000s Timeline

