



Dear Family Member,

Today your child learned how an immigrant can become a naturalized citizen. This read-aloud is the first of three read-alouds that discuss citizenship in the United States and what it means to be a citizen. S/he will learn some basic facts about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, some basic functions of the government, and about the “Father of the Constitution,” James Madison. S/he will also learn about the rights the Constitution gives U.S. citizens and the responsibilities that come with those rights. Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your child is learning about U.S. citizenship.

1. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights

Have your child share with you what s/he has learned about the Constitution, the highest law of the United States, and the Bill of Rights. Have your child tell you why these documents are so important to the United States. You may wish to discuss with your child what the United States might be like if these documents did not exist.

2. James Madison

Talk with your child about this important historical figure. Ask your child what role Madison had in creating the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Have your child share what other roles James Madison played in the U.S. government.

3. Rights and Responsibilities

Talk with your child about some of the rights you have as a citizen. Have your child share some of the rights s/he has learned about in class, and together talk about the responsibilities you have as a citizen to properly exercise those rights. For example, you have the right to vote, but you also have a responsibility to learn about the candidates.

4. Song: “The Star-Spangled Banner”

Listen to the song “The Star-Spangled Banner” with your child. Discuss why this song is the national anthem of the United States. Together, share what you both know about the meaning and history of this song. You may also want to share with your child any memorable experiences you have had singing or listening to “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

5. Words to Use

Below is a list of some of the words that your child will be learning about and using. Try to use these words as they come up in everyday speech with your child.

- *naturalized citizen*—A person who becomes a U.S. citizen after already being a citizen of another country is called a naturalized citizen.
- *citizen*—A citizen is someone who has rights given to them by a country’s government and has responsibilities that go along with those rights.
- *responsibilities*—Responsibilities are things a person is in charge of doing and depended on to carry out.
- *amendments*—Americans have added amendments, or additions, to the Constitution.
- *consent*—In return for the power to change the government, the people agree to live according to the laws. This is called “the consent of the governed.”

6. Read Aloud Each Day

It is very important that you read with your child every day. Set aside time to read to your child and also time to listen to your child read to you. Use the recommended trade book list sent with the previous family letter.

Be sure to let your child know how much you enjoy hearing what s/he has learned at school.