

A Journey Through America

**American Government, History,
Geography and Citizenship
in Simplified English**

Elaine Kirn

West Los Angeles College

Authors and Editors

Contents

A Journey Through America	ix
Accompanying Materials	x
Unit 1: Getting Acquainted	1
Module 1A: Name and Address	1
Module 1B: Biographic and Other Information	5
Unit 2: Symbols and Holidays	9
Module 2A: American Symbols	9
Module 2B: Thanksgiving and Independence Day	13
Module 2C: More National Holidays	17
Unit 3: Americans	21
Module 3A: Famous Presidents	21
Module 3B: The History of Immigration	25
Module 3C: Historical Figures	29
Module 3D: Some Immigration Stories	33
Unit 4: Geography	37
Module 4A: The Geography of the United States	37
Module 4B: Famous Places	41
Module 4C: States and Cities: The West	45
Module 4D: States and Cities: The East	49
Unit 5: Citizenship	53
Module 5A: Becoming a Citizen	53
Module 5B: The Duties of Citizens	57
Module 5C: Voting	61
Module 5D: Election Issues	65
Unit 6: The U.S. Constitution	69
Module 6A: Overview of the Constitution	69
Module 6B: Basic Rights and Freedoms	73
Unit 7: The Federal Government	77
Module 7A: Overview of U.S. Government	77
Module 7B: The Legislative Branch	81
Module 7C: The Executive Branch	85
Module 7D: The Judicial Branch	89
Unit 8: State Government	93
Module 8A: Branches of Government and Officials	93
Module 8B: Functions, Powers, and Services	97
Unit 9: Local Government	101
Module 9A: County and City Services	101
Module 9B: County Government	105
Module 9C: City Government	109
Unit 10: The History of the United States	113
Module 10A: Overview of U.S. History	113
Module 10B: Exploration and Colonization	117
Module 10C: Revolution	121
Module 10D: Growth and Westward Movement	125
Module 10E: The Time of the Civil War	129
Module 10F: Industrialization	133
Module 10G: The U.S. Becomes a World Power	137
Module 10H: Modern Times	141

A Journey Through America

A Journey Through America is a book of simplified civics material directed especially toward new readers, students with reading problems, and speakers of English as a Second Language. It is appropriate for both home study and classroom use. It offers an easily-comprehensible overview of topics commonly covered in social studies and citizenship courses.

A Journey Through America is designed for individuals who have some level of proficiency in understanding and speaking the English language and who comprehend reading material of at least a fourth-grade level. If they are second-language learners who have placed into Level 3 (low-intermediate) or above of a six-level ESL program, they are likely to succeed with the materials. Students at a higher level can profit from use of *A Journey Through America* as preparation for more advanced texts.

A Journey Through America is based on curriculum outlines developed by the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) and the Los Angeles County Community College Consortium for Amnesty, now CCENC (Community College Educators of New Californians). These outlines were approved by the California State Department of Education and the Immigration and Naturalization Service for implementation in classes funded by State Legislative Impact Assistance Grants (SLIAG).

The information in the book is derived largely from three texts issued by the Federal government: *United States History 1600-1987*, *U.S. Government Structure*, and *Citizenship Education and Naturalization Information* (U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1987).

The book is divided into ten numbered units, each subdivided into several lettered modules. Each module consists of four pages of material, designed for one or more class periods of instruction with follow up (homework and/or review). These can be studied or presented in any desired order.

Accompanying Materials

Accompanying *A Journey Through America* is a detailed instructor's manual. Because it offers general and specific suggestions for presentation of the ten units, it will not only streamline lesson planning for experienced teachers but can also serve as a training manual for new ones. It also provides:

- An objective test for each module of the book.
- An Answer Key for both text material and tests.
- Information of interest primarily to applicants for citizenship, in simplified English.
- A list of one hundred citizenship test questions and answers published and distributed by the INS.
- Extra modules of material on state and local geography and history, which can serve as a model for lessons about your state and city.

For classroom use, permission is granted to duplicate the materials in the instructor's manual.

English Through Citizenship: A Question and Answer Game presents an opportunity for cooperative learning and/or competition in the Civics classroom. The game can be used independently or can serve as a reinforcement for the information in the *Journey Through America* text and tests.

For additional information, contact:

Authors and Editors
P.O. Box 1396
Culver City, CA 90232-1396
Tel: (213) 836-2014