The idea of citizenship started in Greece and Rome and has changed a lot over the years.

You are either born a citizen or you become a citizen later in life through naturalization process.

You can be born a citizen if you are born on US soil, this includes army bases and US territories such as Puerto Rico (this is called law of soil). You are also a citizen if your parent(s) are citizens (this is law of blood.

What are steps and requirements for naturalization? Required… you must be 18, be a legal resident for 5 years, be able to read, write and speak English, and have good moral character (example, you are not an ax murderer). Steps in process 1. Apply, 2. Interview, 3. Pass Test, 4 Take Oath. The last step is always the ceremony and oath of allegiance.

For the naturalization process, the current immigration policy of the US favors people with US citizen relatives and those with needed job skills or professions.

You can lose citizenship by expatriation (declaring loyalty to another country), treason (a crime against your country) or if it is found you lied on citizenship application.

A refugee is someone the US lets in from another country because they are in danger. It can be because of a war in their home country or natural disaster like and earthquake.

When citizens volunteer they are giving their time to help someone else.

A duty is something you must do, a responsibility is something you should do.

Citizenship duties: obey laws, defend the nation, serve on jury, pay taxes, attend school

Citizenship responsibilities: vote, staying informed, contribute to the common good, volunteer

As part of defending the nation males must register with the Selective Service when they turn 18.

A democracy is a government by the people

Direct democracy – everyone votes on every issue

Representative Democracy – we elect people to vote for us (we have this in the US)

Constitutional Monarchy – Has a king or queen, but people elect leaders (UK)

Popular sovereignty means the people have the power (We the People). Also, we say the government has the consent of the goverened (we elect government, we know what they are doing and we are OK with it… if we don’t agree we protest or vote differently).

We have three levels of government local (Palm Beach County), State (Florida) and National or Federal (USA). The Federal government is most powerful or has the most authority.