Grade Level(s): Kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, 4
Subject(s):
- Social Studies/Civics
Overview: Class discussion of why citizenship is important and how the life of a citizen differs from the life of a non-citizen.
Purpose: To understand why citizenship is an important concept.
Objective(s):
1. Students will explain how American citizenship is defined.
2. Student will explain how a person can gain or lose American citizenship.
3. Students will be able to describe the categories of non-citizen residents.
Activities and Procedures:
The class will discuss why citizenship is important. Ask the students to explain whether the government can legally take away a person's citizenship. Remind students that Immigration and Naturalization Act, which listed a number of offenses punishable by loss of citizenship was passed in 1952.
After class discussion on the concept of citizenship, a recent immigrant will speak to the class about obtaining citizenship. Such a person will tell them that being a citizen of the United States means becoming part of this nation, something many people value so greatly they will risk their lives for it.
Tying It All Together:
The class will be divided into small groups. Each group will be given a sheet of paper containing a list of individuals. The group will decide which of those persons would be United States citizens. (Possibilities include: Person born in Mexico to American parents; Native of Hawaii in 1889; Foreign students studying in an American University.) Check the group's answers for accuracy.