



Activity: Civics Match Up

Standards Alignment: This activity will address basic civic knowledge found in the U.S. Naturalization Test.

OVERVIEW:

In this activity, questions from the naturalization test will be presented through an engaging matching game. This activity will evaluate basic civics knowledge.

OBJECTIVES:

Participants will be able to...

- Identify answers to questions from the civics portion of the USCIS Naturalization exam.
- Use reasoning skills to answer questions they may not know.

MATERIALS:

Review civics flash cards for the United States Naturalization Test. See links below from the USCIS website. Some contain pictures.

[Civics Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test \(Red Cut-out version\) \(uscis.gov\)](#)

[Check for Test Updates | USCIS](#)

[M-1779, Civics Flash Cards \(2020 version, cut-out\) \(uscis.gov\)](#)

Print out appropriate questions and answers that you wish to emphasize during your presentation. You do not need to use all of the cards. Cut the questions and answers separately and place in two separate stacks for distribution. One stack will contain all the questions selected to use during the exercise. The second stack will include all the corresponding answers to the questions. Mix up the cards in each of the two individual stacks so they will not be in the exact order numerically.

Select only the questions with specific corresponding answers, as opposed to questions that designate a more generic response (on the answer card).

PREPARATION:

- Print and cut out individual flash cards, sorting cards into two piles – questions and answers. (Note: If desired, it is recommended to number the answer cards with small numbers on the back to help you determine the correct matching question card if necessary. This will help



with debriefing and provide more efficient matching by the facilitator. Make sure that the writing is small enough so that participants do not notice. Again, do not mention this to participants.)

- **Option 1 – One to One Match-Up:** Select the question/answer pairs you wish your audience to use for the activity. Choose several cards appropriate to the number of participants (1 card per person). Half of the participants will receive a question card and half will receive an answer card. (For example: If there are 24 participants, select 12 questions and the 12 corresponding answers, for a total of 24 cards. Mix up and distribute the questions to half of the audience (one per person) and the answer cards to the other half of the group. Once distributed, ask participants to stand up and go around the room to find their match. They should make sure it is the right match. Stay together once each person locates their corresponding match. See additional sections in this activity for how to implement fully. Then debrief.

- **Option 2 – Group Match Game:** Select the question/answer pairs you want your audience to use for the activity. Choose the number of cards to use, based on the number of small groups you will have during the activity. We recommend that you create groups with five persons in each group. Each small group should receive 10 matching question cards and 10 answer cards. Place the questions in one stack and the answers in different order in a separate stack. Groups will work to match the questions and answers appropriately.

ENGAGED LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

- **Introduction:** Begin by telling participants that they will be participating in a matching game for this activity. Explain that they will be receiving a card with either a question or an answer. It is their job to find the correct match to their card by talking with their classmates.

- **Option 1 – One to One Match-Up:** (See preparations above.)

- o **Divide the audience into two equal groups:** Give each participant in half of the audience one of the question cards (cards should be distributed randomly) and the other half of the audience should each receive one of the corresponding answer cards. When you distribute the cards be certain you have given out all of the corresponding questions and answers. Instruct all participants to stand up and walk around the room to find the individuals with the match for their question/answer card. Once they find the student with their matching card, they should stand together. The audience will create a large circle of pairs and you will stand in the middle of the circle for debriefing. Note: If there is an uneven number of participants, either have an extra pair of cards and give one person more than one card or partner two persons to even out the activity. (You may need to provide further direction. For example, let participants know they are to look for an answer to their question if they have a question card, and vice versa.)



o **Debrief the activity:** Go around the circle and have each individual read the question card only. Before the partner with the answer card reads the answer, ask the full group what they think the answer is. Then ask the partner with the answer card to verify their answer to determine if the pair answered correctly.

Inevitably, there may be pairs that select the wrong answer/partner as they go around the room. This could create individuals at the end of the exercise still looking for the right answer/partner. They may need to go to each partner group to verify the answers. This is a learning moment and at the end emphasize that these questions are from the United States Naturalization Test. You can also emphasize the percentage of adult Americans that answer some of these questions correctly in the annual Constitution Day survey implemented by the Annenberg Public Policy Center. See our website for most current data. In 2022, **less than half of Americans (47%) could name the three branches of government.**

• **Option 2 – Small Group Matching Game:**

o **Divide the audience into five or more small groups or pairs:** Provide each group with 10 or more question cards and the corresponding answer cards in two separate stacks. Place on the table. Provide each group with different sets of questions. Place the cards in random order, so that they are not in exact matching order with the corresponding stack. Working in their groups, participants will need to match the questions with the corresponding answers. Keep pairs together for debriefing.

o **Debrief the activity: When the participants have completed their small group matching game, you will debrief by having groups answer the questions from different groups.** Go around the room and have the participants in one group read one of the question cards, one at a time. Have individuals from another group answer the question. You can ask for participants in other groups to volunteer to answer or you can call upon different groups to respond. Then, have the original group with the answer card verify the correct answer. The resource persons should ensure they know the correct answers in advance to aid in the debriefing process. You can also add to the process by highlighting additional details on the specific answer if needed.

ALTERNATE/EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

• **Citizenship Exam Simulation:** Simulate the civics portion of the USCIS Citizenship Exam by randomly selecting 10 questions from the test. Those getting 6 or more correct would be able to pass the civics portion of the citizenship exam. [100q.pdf \(uscis.gov\)](#)

• **Pop Quiz:** Use cards as a weekly pop quiz to enhance basic civic knowledge