

Becoming a U.S. citizen is a dream fulfilled, but one that takes a lot of hard work. Hitting the history books isn't the only way to prepare for the U.S. citizenship test. Dozens of answers to the citizenship test questions can be found right here in Philadelphia, where so many key historic events took place.

It's time to lace up your walking shoes for this self-guided tour—created by VISIT PHILADELPHIA® and the Mayor's Office for Immigrants and Multicultural Affairs—that gives an insider's look at the people, places and events that shaped your new country. For more information on these historic sites and many others, go to [visitphilly.com/newamericans](http://visitphilly.com/newamericans).



1. Meet the woman credited with making the first American flag at the **Betsy Ross House** and learn the symbolism of the colors and the stars and stripes. At the pint-sized house, a costumed Betsy reenactor will regale you with tales of her life as a Colonial working woman. 239 Arch Street, [historicphiladelphia.org](http://historicphiladelphia.org)
2. On July 4, 1776, delegates from the 13 colonies gathered at **Independence Hall** and adopted the *Declaration of Independence*, which pronounced "all men are created equal." Join National Park Service Ranger-led tours through the famous hall, recounting the delegates' disagreements and debates that led to American independence. FREE with timed ticket from Independence Visitor Center. 5th & Chestnut Streets, [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

3. Ben Franklin, Philadelphia's favorite Founding Father, was a man of many talents. Learn more about this signer of the *Declaration of Independence* and shaper of the *U.S. Constitution* at the **Benjamin Franklin Museum**. 314-322 Chestnut Street, [nps.gov/inde](http://nps.gov/inde)
4. You've seen the photos; now see the Liberty Bell and its famous crack in person. At the **Liberty Bell Center**, you'll learn the Bell's history and how the quote from scripture engraved on its surface—"Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof"—helped the Bell become a symbol to abolitionists who fought against slavery. **FREE**. 6th & Market Streets, [nps.gov/inde](http://nps.gov/inde)
5. The first Congress—one of the three branches of the U.S. government and the one empowered to pass laws and declare war—met in Philadelphia's **Congress Hall**. Not only did the House of Representatives and Senate gather here, it's also where presidents George Washington and John Adams were inaugurated. You can slide into the House of Representative seats while a National Park Service Ranger explains Congress' role in government, its history and some of the landmark events that occurred in this building. **FREE**. 5th & Chestnut Streets, [nps.gov/inde](http://nps.gov/inde)
6. So who are all the history makers featured in portraits at the **Second Bank**? George Washington and other signers of the *Declaration of Independence* and *U.S. Constitution*. That's who. **FREE**. 420 Chestnut Street, [nps.gov/inde](http://nps.gov/inde)

7. Put the **National Constitution Center** on your must-see list, then make your first stop "Freedom Rising," a live multimedia theatrical performance that recounts the events that led to the creation of the *U.S. Constitution* and how it has evolved since 1787. Once inside the exhibition space, you'll learn about the executive, legislative and judicial branches of American government, the *Bill of Rights* and amendments. You can vote on Supreme Court cases, take the presidential oath of office and pose for photos with 42 bronze life-size statues of the Founding Fathers who shaped the *U.S. Constitution*. 525 Arch Street, [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)
8. Open around the clock, exhibits at **The President's House Site** explore the paradox of slavery and freedom at the nation's first executive mansion, home to George Washington and John Adams. Illustrated glass panels and videos tell the stories of the nine enslaved persons who served Washington while he was president. **FREE**. 6th & Market Streets, [nps.gov/inde](http://nps.gov/inde)
9. Climb aboard the **Olympia**, Admiral Dewey's flagship at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War, one of four wars the United States fought during the 1800s. The 1892 ship led the first victory at sea, marking America's dominance as a naval power. It is the only surviving naval ship of that war. 211 S. Columbus Boulevard, [phillyseaport.org](http://phillyseaport.org)



## OTHER PLACES THAT TELL THE IMMIGRATION STORY

10. At the **National Museum of American Jewish History**, thousands of artifacts, interactive activities, special programs and touring exhibitions trace 350 years of Jewish life in America and the immigrant experience. 101 S. Independence Mall East, [nmajh.org](http://nmajh.org)
11. Many immigrant and ethnic groups have made their home in Philadelphia. At the **Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kent**, artifacts dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and special programs reveal the stories of their experiences as new Americans. 15 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, [philadelphiahistory.org](http://philadelphiahistory.org)
12. Anyone searching for information about the history of Pennsylvania and the lives of the people who lived here should head to the **Historical Society of Pennsylvania**, a treasure trove of historical documents, artifacts, genealogical research and special programs and exhibits about immigrant groups. Its treasures include two handwritten drafts of the *U.S. Constitution* and documents dating back to the Constitutional Convention. 1300 Locust Street, [hsp.org](http://hsp.org)
13. **The African American Museum in Philadelphia** explores the lives of people of the Africa Diaspora. *Audacious Freedom*, the museum's core exhibition, spans 100 years of history with interactive timelines and 10 life-size projections of early heroes whose efforts helped repeal slavery and ultimately led to the passage of Civil Rights legislation. 701 Arch Street, [aampmuseum.org](http://aampmuseum.org)



"I HEREBY DECLARE,  
ON OATH ... THAT  
I WILL SUPPORT  
AND DEFEND THE  
CONSTITUTION AND  
LAWS OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA."

– U.S. CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE

## STAY IN TOUCH

Before, during and after your visit, we want to stay in touch. Here are the resources you can use to plan your time in Philadelphia:

[visitphilly.com/newamericans](http://visitphilly.com/newamericans)

More information about the sites and attractions featured in this tour

[phila.gov/ima](http://phila.gov/ima)

Where to download this tour in several different languages

[visitphilly.com](http://visitphilly.com)

Official visitor site for the Philadelphia region

[uwishunu.com](http://uwishunu.com)

In-the-know blog about events, restaurants, shopping and more

[visitphilly.com/newamericans](http://visitphilly.com/newamericans)

#visitphilly



The African American Museum in Philadelphia

# PHILADELPHIA'S

# NEW AMERICANS

# TOUR

A self-guided tour of the Philadelphia sites that tell the story of our nation's founding for new citizens and those studying to be citizens

[visitphilly.com/newamericans](http://visitphilly.com/newamericans)