

WITH THIS ISSUE
 THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF 6 POSTERS
 FEATURING NEWS MAPS OF THE WORLD
 AND CLASSIC CIVIL RIGHTS PHOTOS.
 With upcoming issues of *Upfront*, you'll receive 5 more posters.

ISSUE DATES

- 09.07.09
- 09.21.09
- 10.05.09
- 10.19.09
- 11.02.09
- 11.16.09
- 12.14.09
- 01.18.10
- 02.08.10
- 03.01.10
- 03.15.10
- 04.05.10
- 04.19.10
- 05.10.10



With all that's going on in the world, the year ahead promises to be a momentous one—and a challenge for high school teachers who try to make sense of it all for their students.

That's where *The New York Times Upfront* comes in. All year long, we connect current events to your curriculum, helping your students understand what's happening at home and abroad—and why it matters to them.

From the difficult issues President Obama and Congress are dealing with, to the role of the Constitution and the Supreme Court in American life today; from the rise of China and India and its implications for the U.S., to the conflicts in the Middle East—*Upfront* brings it all into your classroom in a way that engages high school students as no other publication or textbook can.

At the same time, *Upfront* builds comprehension and critical-thinking skills, preparing students for standardized tests like the SAT and ACT, and for the reading and analysis they'll be doing throughout high school, in college, and beyond.

If you have any thoughts or questions about *Upfront*, please call 1-800-SCHOLASTIC or e-mail me at erebhun@scholastic.com. And best wishes for a successful school year.

Elliott Rebhun
 ELLIOTT REBHUN, Editor

THE
 8-PAGE GUIDE
 THAT COMES WITH
 EACH ISSUE OFFERS
 4 LESSON PLANS,
 4 QUIZZES,
 & MORE!

KEY ARTICLES

COVER STORY

8 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

Few Presidents have walked into the Oval Office with as daunting an in-box as Barack Obama this year: A 'first term' progress report—and a look at the challenges ahead.

NATIONAL

12 DECISIONS, DECISIONS

This fall, the Supreme Court will hear a number of cases that could have a major impact on American life: A survey of key constitutional issues the Justices are likely to address

NATIONAL

16 COULD YOU PASS THE NEW CITIZENSHIP TEST?

There's a new 100-question civics exam for becoming an American citizen: Our sample test lets your students see if they could earn their citizenship.

INTERNATIONAL

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China's 115 million teens could soon see China overtake the United States as the world's biggest economy. What does that mean for teens in both nations?

TIMES PAST

22 AMERICA & THE DRAFT: A 200-YEAR DEBATE

The U.S. has gone back and forth between a volunteer military and mandatory service—with both generating controversy. Are your students likely to see a return to the draft?

CURRICULUM STANDARDS Subject/NCSS

U.S. HISTORY

GOVERNMENT

- Power, Authority, & Governance
- Civic Ideals & Practices

CIVICS

U.S. HISTORY

- Power, Authority, & Governance
- Time, Continuity, & Change

CIVICS

U.S. HISTORY

- Civic Ideals & Practices
- Individuals, Groups, & Institutions

GLOBAL STUDIES

ECONOMICS

- Individual Development & Identity
- Global Connections

U.S. HISTORY

CIVICS

- Power, Authority, & Governance
- Civic Ideals & Practices

ADDITIONAL LESSONS
 & QUIZZES:
UPFRONTMAGAZINE.COM

A SUPPLEMENT TO
 THE NEW YORK TIMES UPFRONT

DECISIONS, DECISIONS



CRITICAL THINKING

Review how a case gets to the Supreme Court.

→ What lower courts in the judicial system play a role, and how do their jurisdictions differ?

→ The Supreme Court receives 7,000 to 8,000 petitions to hear cases a year, but only accepts about 100. What factors—legal, societal,

political, etc.—might the nine Justices consider in deciding which cases to hear?

WRITING PROMPT

Assume the role of a Supreme Court Justice and choose a legal issue in the article that interests you. Write a short essay arguing your position on this

issue, including the Constitutional questions involved.

DEBATE

Support or refute: Maintaining national security is sometimes more important than protecting individual liberties.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How does the section of the article on presidential power and national security reflect our system of checks and balances?

WEB WATCH

www.oyez.com

The Oyez Project is a non-partisan multimedia Supreme Court archive with searchable information on cases and Justices, and thousands of hours of audio of the Court's proceedings.

Do you think that affirmative action is still necessary? Why or why not?

Why are some forms of speech not protected by the First Amendment?

How should the First Amendment be applied to the Internet?

Which of the issues mentioned in the article most affects your life, and why?

What Supreme Court decisions in the past

have most shaped the direction of the country?

Do you think a Justice's personal attributes (like gender, race, and religion) influence his or her decisions? Explain.

Why do the Justices have life terms? Do you think that makes sense? Explain.

FAST FACTS

The youngest Justice ever appointed, in 1811, was Joseph Story, 32; the oldest, in 1910, was Horace Lurton, 65.

QUIZ 1 ► INTERNATIONAL

CHINA'S NEXT GENERATION

1 China's teenagers are facing additional pressures today because

- a the population of the country is growing more quickly than ever.
- b American companies are becoming more competitive.
- c China's new status as a global power means more is expected of them.
- d they are the first to study under a new government-run pre-college program.

2 Which of the following is not mentioned in the article as a global challenge requiring U.S.-China cooperation?

- a The economic crisis
- b Global warming
- c Nuclear proliferation
- d Space exploration

3 Which of the following statements about the Chinese economy is true

- a China continues to prosper, even as the world is experiencing a recession.

b Deng Xiaoping transformed the country from Communist to capitalist.

c The income gap between rich and poor is closing as new jobs foster a growing middle class.

d China's economic output is expected to surpass that of the U.S. within the next decade.

4 A major difference between the lives of young people in China and the U.S. is that _____ in China.

- a parents are less likely to enforce the value of a good education
- b young people have greater access to less expensive technologies
- c freedom of information is severely limited
- d there is more concern about peers and social trends

5 In Chinese schools, students focus on all but which of the following?

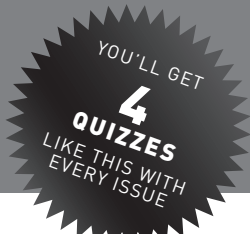
- a Math and science
- b Political history and doctrine
- c Chinese
- d Global studies

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

1 Why do you think the Chinese government so strictly controls the media and the Internet?

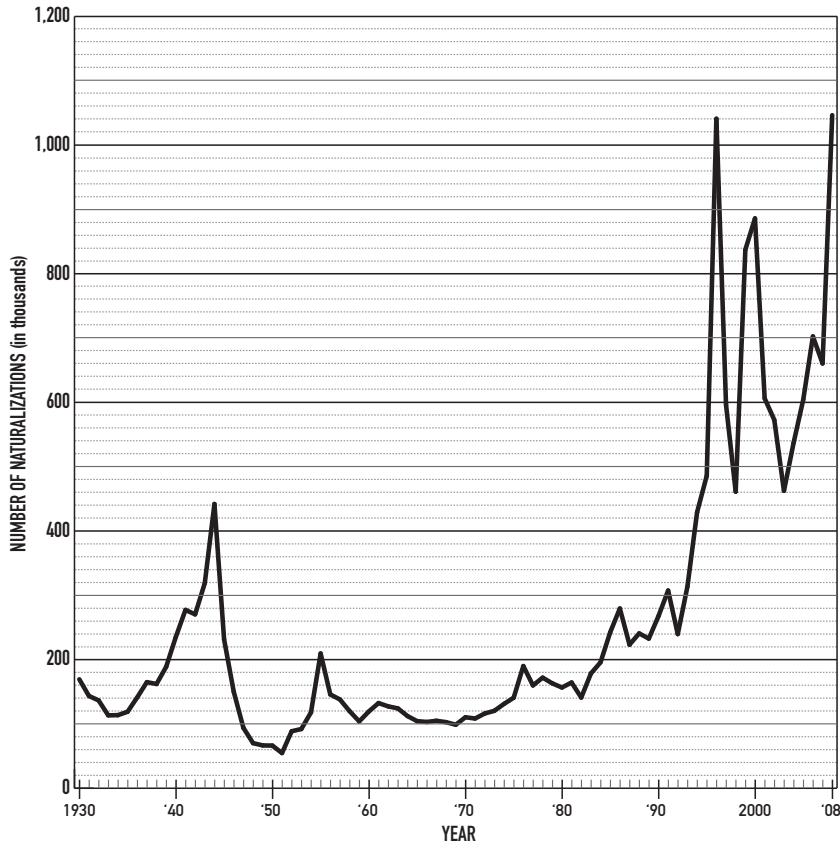
2 The article states that "getting into the best schools is a matter of family honor." Do you think that's true in American culture as well? Why or why not?

3 What do you think a Chinese student your age would think of your lifestyle? Why?



THE NEWEST AMERICANS

In the last century, more than 24 million immigrants have become U.S. citizens. Naturalization requirements include living in the U.S. for five years and showing proficiency in English and knowledge of U.S. history and government (see "Could You Pass the New Citizenship Test?," p. 16). Since the late 1960s, when it became easier for immigrants from Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia to come to the U.S., naturalizations have generally risen—one exception being after the border was tightened following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

This graph illustrates the number of people naturalized in the United States each year from 1930 to 2008.



ANALYZE THE GRAPH

- The Naturalization Act of 1798 allowed only whites to become naturalized citizens. The law changed in _____, the year after the lowest number of naturalizations shown.
 - a 1948
 - b 1950
 - c 1952
 - d 1954
- Annual naturalizations from 1915-1917 (not shown), during World War I, averaged 88,000. The numbers did not drop to that level again for _____ years.
 - a 30
 - b 35
 - c 45
 - d 50
- Naturalizations between 2000 (the year prior to the 9/11 attacks) and 2003 dropped about _____ percent.
 - a 47
 - b 53
 - c 63
 - d 65
- Which decade saw the biggest increase in the number of naturalizations?
 - a 1940s
 - b 1960s
 - c 1990s
 - d 2000s
- In 2008, about 369,000 people from Asia became naturalized U.S. citizens, accounting for almost _____ of naturalizations that year.
 - a one-half
 - b one-third
 - c one-fourth
 - d one-fifth

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Look at the number of naturalizations during World War II (1939-1945). Why might they have risen so dramatically in that period? Why might they have fallen so significantly at the end of the war?
- Why do you think America began to accept more immigrants from Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa in the 1960s?
- With the U.S. battling international terrorism, what do you think is more important: national security, or keeping America a welcoming place for immigrants? Do you think the two are mutually exclusive? Explain your answer.
- How do you think the new citizenship test might affect naturalizations? Why do you think the information the test covers is important for new citizens to know?

CARTOON ANALYSIS



DAVE GRANLUND • POLITICALCARTOONS.COM

ANALYZE THE POLITICAL CARTOON

- 1 What building is depicted in the cartoon?
- 2 What's going on, inside and outside?
- 3 What is ironic about a climate-change debate taking place during such violent weather?
- 4 Do you think the cartoonist believes Congress will have an effective debate? Why or why not?
- 5 What types of legislation might help curtail global warming? What can people do on their own?

ANSWER KEY

QUIZ 1 ► PAGE TE 2

- 1 [c] China's new status as a global power means more is expected of them.
- 2 [d] Space exploration
- 3 [a] China continues to prosper, even as the world is experiencing a recession.
- 4 [c] freedom of information is severely limited
- 5 [d] Global studies

GRAPH EXERCISE

► PAGE TE 30 [c] 1952

2 [a] 30

3 [a] 47

4 [c] 1990s

5 [b] one-third

FOR ANSWERS TO THE CITIZENSHIP QUIZ, GO TO UPFRONTMAGAZINE.COM, AND CLICK ON TEACHER TOOLS.

ONLINE TEACHER TOOLS
PASSWORD: senate

PHOTO ANALYSIS



PHOTO BY HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

ANALYZE THE PHOTO

[See page 22 of the [magazine](#)]

- 1 Why are the men burning their draft cards?
- 2 What message do you think they were trying to send and to whom? What risks were they taking?
- 3 Why do you think the Supreme Court upheld a federal law against burning draft cards?

ESSAY

Should the draft be reinstated? Defend your position with facts and examples.