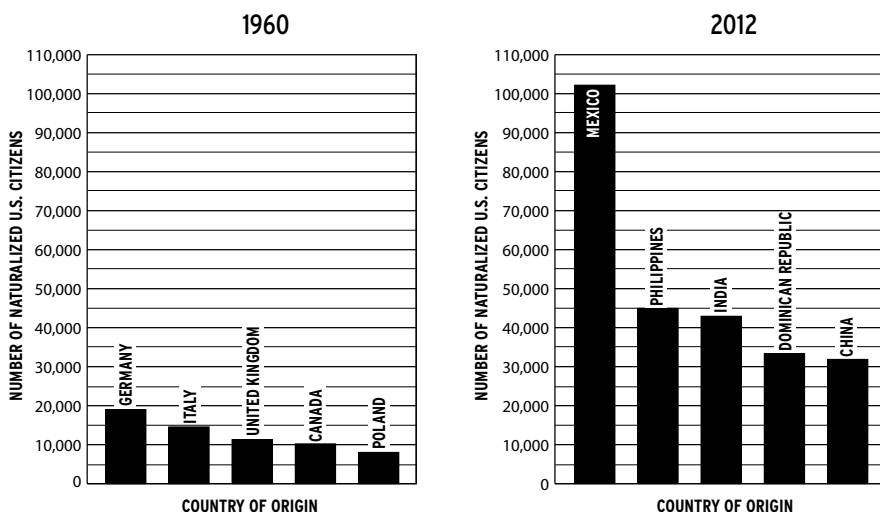


The Newest Americans p. 14

Each year, hundreds of thousands of immigrants become naturalized U.S. citizens. It's a door to citizenship that opened in 1790, when the nation's first Naturalization Act allowed citizenship for "free, white persons" who had lived in the U.S. for two years or more. Through the years, the requirements for U.S. naturalization have changed significantly—and, largely because of shifting immigration laws and patterns, so have the national origins of those who have sought citizenship.



These bar graphs show the top five countries of origin for people naturalized as U.S. citizens in 1960 and in 2012.

ANALYZE THE GRAPH

- 1 Most of the top-five countries of origin for naturalized citizens in 1960 were in _____.
 - a the Americas
 - b Asia
 - c Europe
 - d Africa
- 2 In 1960, about 119,000 people became naturalized U.S. citizens. Approximately what percentage of them came from Germany?
 - a 5 percent
 - b 16 percent
 - c 24 percent
 - d 30 percent
- 3 In 2012, the number of naturalized U.S. citizens from the Dominican Republic was about _____ the number from Mexico.
 - a one-quarter
 - b one-third
 - c half
 - d equal to
- 4 You can infer from the graphs that compared with 1960, 2012 brought more naturalizations _____.
 - a overall
 - b of people from Asia
 - c of people from Latin America
 - d all of the above
- 5 You can infer that Italy does not appear on the 2012 graph because _____.
 - a it was not one of the top-five countries of origin for that year
 - b no one from Italy was naturalized
 - c it is not an Asian country
 - d it was listed for 1960 instead

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 The number of years that a person must have lived in the U.S. to qualify for naturalization has historically ranged from 2 to 14. (It is currently 5 in most cases.) What do you think is the reason for the residency requirement? How long do you think a person should be required to live in the U.S. before becoming a citizen?
- 2 What, if anything, surprises you about the data on these graphs? Explain.
- 3 The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 revised immigration rules that had favored immigrants from northern and western Europe. Why do you think the rules were in place? Why do you think they were changed?
- 4 Where do you think most naturalized U.S. citizens will come from in 2060? Why?