Question of the Week
What does it mean to grant freedom?

Key Comprehension Skill
Cause and Effect

Concept Words
freedom citizens government
oath laws

Learning Goals
• U.S. citizens have the freedom to make choices.
• Some people from other countries become U.S. citizens.
• People must pass a test to become U.S. citizens.

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by Elena Novak
illustrated by Collin Mier
Many people move to the United States. They come from all over the world. Some people want a better life and more freedom. Some come here to work. Others come to school in the United States. Many of them want to become United States citizens.

citizens: members of a country
freedom: being able to say or do what you want

This is Gina. She was not born in the United States. Gina is a citizen of her country.

Gina is learning about the United States. She must pass a test to become a U.S. citizen.
Gina did not speak English at first. She wanted to learn English to help her pass the test.

Gina went to a class to learn. The class was full of people from many countries. They wanted to learn English too!

Gina worked hard in her English class. The people in class spoke different languages. But they practiced speaking English together.

Gina went to class for a long time. Her English got better and better.
To become a citizen, Gina had to pass the test. She studied for a long time. She learned what it means to be an American citizen. She learned about the United States government. She learned about United States history.

government: the people who run a country

Gina’s hard work helped her pass her test! After the test she did one more thing. She made an oath to the country. She said she would follow the laws of the United States. She said she would be a good citizen.

oath: a promise to do something
laws: a country’s rules
Gina likes living in the United States. Here she is free to make her own choices. She can vote for our leaders. She can say what she thinks. Gina is happy that she became a United States citizen!