

# Nebraska Citizenship Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Which famous author was born in Nebraska?**
  - A. Willa Cather**
  - B. Ernest Hemingway**
  - C. Mark Twain**
  - D. T.S. Eliot**
- 2. What did Thomas Jefferson do for the United States?**
  - A. He was a lead general in the Revolution**
  - B. He wrote the Constitution**
  - C. He authored the Declaration of Independence**
  - D. He served as a military officer**
- 3. In what part of Nebraska is the Sandhills region located?**
  - A. Eastern Nebraska**
  - B. Western Nebraska**
  - C. Central Nebraska**
  - D. Northern Nebraska**
- 4. In what region of the United States is Nebraska located?**
  - A. Southwestern United States**
  - B. Midwestern United States**
  - C. Northeastern United States**
  - D. Northwestern United States**
- 5. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?**
  - A. The Constitution was written**
  - B. Independence was declared**
  - C. The Bill of Rights was created**
  - D. A new president was elected**
- 6. Which event was primarily about freeing enslaved individuals in the Confederate states?**
  - A. The Emancipation Proclamation**
  - B. The Declaration of Independence**
  - C. The Treaty of Paris**
  - D. The Civil Rights Act**

- 7. Which movement did Susan B. Anthony heavily influence during her lifetime?**
- A. Women's suffrage**
  - B. Labor rights**
  - C. Education reform**
  - D. Prohibition**
- 8. When was Nebraska's first constitution adopted?**
- A. 1861**
  - B. 1866**
  - C. 1870**
  - D. 1880**
- 9. Who signs bills to become laws?**
- A. The President**
  - B. The Speaker of the House**
  - C. The Vice President**
  - D. The Senate Majority Leader**
- 10. Which state borders Nebraska to the west?**
- A. Kansas**
  - B. Wyoming**
  - C. Colorado**
  - D. South Dakota**

## **Answers**

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- 1. A**
- 2. C**
- 3. C**
- 4. B**
- 5. A**
- 6. A**
- 7. A**
- 8. B**
- 9. A**
- 10. B**

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which famous author was born in Nebraska?**

**A. Willa Cather**

**B. Ernest Hemingway**

**C. Mark Twain**

**D. T.S. Eliot**

The choice of Willa Cather as the famous author born in Nebraska is correct because she was indeed born in the state, specifically in Winchester, Virginia, and later moved to Nebraska, where she spent much of her childhood. Her experiences in Nebraska significantly influenced her writing, leading her to become one of the most renowned American authors. She is best known for her novels such as "My Ántonia" and "O Pioneers!", which capture the life and struggles of early settlers in the Great Plains. In contrast, Ernest Hemingway was born in Illinois, Mark Twain in Florida, Missouri, and T.S. Eliot in St. Louis, Missouri. While all these authors are celebrated figures in American literature, only Willa Cather's work reflects the themes and landscapes of Nebraska directly tied to her life experiences.

**2. What did Thomas Jefferson do for the United States?**

**A. He was a lead general in the Revolution**

**B. He wrote the Constitution**

**C. He authored the Declaration of Independence**

**D. He served as a military officer**

Thomas Jefferson is well-known for his role as the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, a pivotal document in American history. Drafted in 1776, the Declaration articulated the colonies' reasons for seeking independence from British rule and laid the philosophical foundations for the nation, emphasizing ideals such as liberty, equality, and the right to self-governance. This document not only declared the United States' independence but also inspired future generations and movements advocating for democracy and human rights. The other choices reflect roles and contributions that do not accurately assign Jefferson's contributions. He was not a general in the Revolution or a military officer, and while the Constitution is a crucial document for the United States, it was primarily drafted during the Constitutional Convention of 1787, well after the Declaration was completed. Jefferson's influence on the nation is most notably connected to his authorship of the Declaration of Independence.

### **3. In what part of Nebraska is the Sandhills region located?**

- A. Eastern Nebraska**
- B. Western Nebraska**
- C. Central Nebraska**
- D. Northern Nebraska**

The Sandhills region of Nebraska is primarily located in the central part of the state. This unique geographical area is characterized by its rolling sand dunes covered with grasses and is one of the largest grass-stabilized dune regions in the United States. The Sandhills cover approximately one quarter of Nebraska's total land area and are recognized for their distinctive ecology, including a variety of wildlife and plant species adapted to the sandy soils. Understanding the Sandhills' location is essential for recognizing its significance to Nebraska's agriculture, especially cattle ranching and the conservation of groundwater. The central positioning of this area means it plays a pivotal role in the state's overall geography and climate, which affects both local communities and the economy. Other regions mentioned do not encompass the Sandhills, highlighting the importance of knowing geographical distinctions within the state.

### **4. In what region of the United States is Nebraska located?**

- A. Southwestern United States**
- B. Midwestern United States**
- C. Northeastern United States**
- D. Northwestern United States**

Nebraska is located in the Midwestern United States, a region that is popularly characterized by a combination of agricultural lands, prairies, and plains. The Midwest is known for its central location within the country and is often referred to as the "heartland" of America. As a state in this region, Nebraska shares cultural and historical ties with its neighboring states, which also predominantly engage in agriculture and have similar demographic characteristics. The designation of Nebraska as part of the Midwest reflects its geographic position and the influence of Midwestern values, traditions, and economic activities. The state is bordered by South Dakota to the north, Iowa to the east, Missouri to the southeast, Kansas to the south, Colorado to the southwest, and Wyoming to the west, further solidifying its place in the Midwestern region.

### **5. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?**

- A. The Constitution was written**
- B. Independence was declared**
- C. The Bill of Rights was created**
- D. A new president was elected**

The Constitutional Convention, held in Philadelphia in 1787, was primarily convened to address the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation and to create a new governing document. During this significant event, the delegates debated and eventually drafted the United States Constitution, which established the framework for the federal government and articulated the principles of American democracy. This foundational document outlines the structure of government, the separation of powers, and the rights of citizens, making it a pivotal moment in U.S. history. The other options, such as declaring independence or creating the Bill of Rights, occurred at different points in time and under different circumstances. It was the Constitution that emerged from this convention, setting the stage for the governance of the newly independent states.

**6. Which event was primarily about freeing enslaved individuals in the Confederate states?**

- A. The Emancipation Proclamation**
- B. The Declaration of Independence**
- C. The Treaty of Paris**
- D. The Civil Rights Act**

The Emancipation Proclamation was a pivotal event primarily aimed at freeing enslaved individuals in the Confederate states. Issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, during the American Civil War, the proclamation declared that all enslaved people in the states that were in rebellion against the Union were to be set free. This strategic move was not only a moral stance against slavery but also served as a means to weaken the Confederate war effort by depriving it of its labor force. The Emancipation Proclamation had a significant impact on the Civil War and American history, as it reframed the war as a struggle for freedom and justice. Although it did not immediately free all enslaved individuals, it was a crucial step towards the eventual abolition of slavery, which was later confirmed by the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865. The other events listed do not primarily focus on the liberation of enslaved individuals. The Declaration of Independence established the colonies' separation from British rule. The Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolutionary War and recognized American independence. The Civil Rights Act aimed at eliminating discrimination and providing equal rights but came more than a century after the Emancipation Proclamation and served a different purpose within the context.

**7. Which movement did Susan B. Anthony heavily influence during her lifetime?**

- A. Women's suffrage**
- B. Labor rights**
- C. Education reform**
- D. Prohibition**

Susan B. Anthony was a pivotal figure in the women's suffrage movement, which sought to secure voting rights for women in the United States. Her tireless advocacy, organizing efforts, and public speaking played a crucial role in raising awareness about the need for women's rights, particularly the right to vote. She co-founded the National American Woman Suffrage Association and worked alongside other notable activists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The women's suffrage movement was characterized by a long struggle spanning several decades, and Anthony's leadership helped mobilize many women and men across the country to support the cause. Her efforts were instrumental in bringing national attention to the issue, eventually leading to the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. While Anthony did engage with other social reform movements, such as education and labor rights, her most significant and lasting impact was undoubtedly in the realm of securing voting rights for women. This focus on suffrage was her defining legacy and the movement in which she made her most profound contributions.

## 8. When was Nebraska's first constitution adopted?

- A. 1861
- B. 1866**
- C. 1870
- D. 1880

The adoption of Nebraska's first constitution occurred in 1866. This important document was created as Nebraska was transitioning from a territory to becoming a state. The constitution outlined the framework for government and established rights and responsibilities for its citizens. Understanding this date is significant in the context of Nebraska's history, particularly regarding its statehood and government formation processes. The options reflect other potential milestones in Nebraska's legal or political timeline, but 1866 is definitively the year that marked the establishment of its initial governing document. This history highlights the progress Nebraska made during the post-Civil War period as it sought to define its identity and governance structure as a new state.

## 9. Who signs bills to become laws?

- A. The President**
- B. The Speaker of the House
- C. The Vice President
- D. The Senate Majority Leader

The President has the authority to sign bills into law. This action is a critical part of the legislative process in the federal government of the United States. Once Congress has passed a bill, it is sent to the President, who can then choose to sign it, thereby making it law. Signing a bill indicates the President's approval of the legislation. If the President does not sign the bill, it can still become law if Congress is in session and he does not take action after 10 days, or it can be rejected through a veto. The other choices do not possess this signing authority as part of their roles. The Speaker of the House facilitates legislative proceedings and represents the majority party within the House, but does not sign bills into law. The Vice President's role primarily involves being the President of the Senate and can cast tie-breaking votes, but they do not sign bills. The Senate Majority Leader is responsible for managing the legislative agenda in the Senate but does not hold the power to sign legislation into law. Thus, the President remains the key figure in the final step of the legislative process to officially enact laws.

## 10. Which state borders Nebraska to the west?

- A. Kansas
- B. Wyoming**
- C. Colorado
- D. South Dakota

Nebraska is bordered to the west by Wyoming. This is significant in understanding geographic boundaries as Wyoming is directly adjacent to Nebraska and shares a long border along its western edge. This adjacency allows for interactions between the two states, both in terms of commerce and cultural exchange. In contrast, Kansas lies to the south of Nebraska, while Colorado is located to the southwest, and South Dakota borders Nebraska to the north. Recognizing the positioning of these states helps in understanding the geographical context of Nebraska's location within the United States.