

Oaths of Citizenship: Canada and the United States

Name _____ Date _____

Canada
When immigrants become Canadian citizens, they are required to repeat the following oath: I swear [or affirm] that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen.
United States
When immigrants become citizens of the United States, they take the following oath of allegiance: I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by law; or that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: So help me God.

1. Do immigrants have to reject their cultural values and beliefs when they become Canadian citizens? When they become citizens of the United States?

2. Do you think Canada should demand that immigrants renounce past nationalist loyalties when they choose to become Canadian citizens? Why or why not?

3. What are the benefits of allowing immigrants to maintain past nationalist loyalties when they move to a new country? Explain your answer.