

Citizenship Shift Answer Key

A complete and accurate response should:

- Clearly explain that **before** the decision, citizenship for African Americans was unclear and varied by state.
- Clearly explain that **after** the decision, the Supreme Court declared Black Americans were **not citizens** and denied their legal rights.
- Show thoughtful reflection on how citizenship connects to fairness, equality, and participation in society.

Teacher should check for correct historical understanding and depth of reflection rather than exact wording.

Teacher's Guide

- Review the context aloud to ensure students fully understand before writing.
- Invite students to brainstorm synonyms for "citizenship" (rights, belonging, status, equality).
- Encourage use of evidence from prior lessons to support claims (e.g., abolition movement, state laws).

Differentiation

- Support: Provide sentence starters such as "Before the Dred Scott decision, citizenship meant..."
- Challenge: Ask students to connect the decision to later constitutional changes like the 14th Amendment.

Engagement Strategies

- Allow a short partner discussion before independent writing.
- Facilitate a whole-class conversation about how laws shape identity and community.

Extension Ideas

- Students create a timeline showing major shifts in the meaning of citizenship in U.S. history.
- Assign a short research task on individuals who challenged the ruling or worked for civil rights progress afterward.