

***Civics: A Christian Worldview. “What Is Birthright Citizenship?”***  
**Short Film (10-15 Minutes)**

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY**

**Instructions**

1. **Objective:** Students learn more about the 14th Amendment and “birthright citizenship.”
2. Watch the 5-minute film “What Is Birthright Citizenship?” ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyMXVg\\_MfYo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyMXVg_MfYo))
3. Tell students to take notes, **LOOKING SPECIFICALLY FOR NEW THINGS** they didn’t know before.
4. When video is finished, discuss first at tables/groups (if time), then **as a class**. Ask for volunteers!
5. Ask students: “What facts were you familiar with?” and “What new things did you learn?”

**Some things students might have recognized:**

- The 14th Amendment was written to grant citizenship to former slaves in the U. S.
- The phrase “Subject to the jurisdiction thereof” (only those born in the U. S. who are under the authority of the U. S. government—that is, their parents are both citizens, are automatically U. S. citizens)

**Some NEW things students learned might include these:**

- The 14th Amendment was written partly to counteract the 1857 Supreme Court case *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, which said that black Americans could not be citizens.
- A Yale law professor said that only those born in the U. S. and with **allegiance to the U. S.** were citizens.
- A Supreme Court decision in 1885 ruled that Richard Greisser, who was born in the U. S., was not a citizen, because his parents “did not owe the United States political allegiance.”
- A Supreme Court decision in 1890 ruled that the daughter of Mary Devereaux was not a U. S. citizen, even though the baby was born in the U. S., because Mary was not a U. S. citizen.
- A Supreme Court decision in 1898 said that Wong Kim Ark **WAS** a citizen, because his parents were lawful permanent residents.