

# IMMIGRATION AND YOU



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**Quick Question:** Considering your family's history and heritage, from which nation(s) are your ancestors from? If more than one nation, please create a list. Be prepared to share your answers.

**Fact:** America is a nation undeniably built upon immigration. Our nation's story is one based on people migrating from other nations and coming to America.

# IMMIGRATION AND YOU

**Quick Question:** For what reasons do you think people in your family decided to depart their native land and come to America?

**Fact:** Many factors such as a lack of freedom, lack of opportunity, poverty, religious persecution, and overall unhappiness acted to “push” people into migration. Many factors such as religious freedom, economic opportunity, and overall promise acted to “pull” people to America.

# COMING TO AMERICA: THE IMMIGRANT STORY

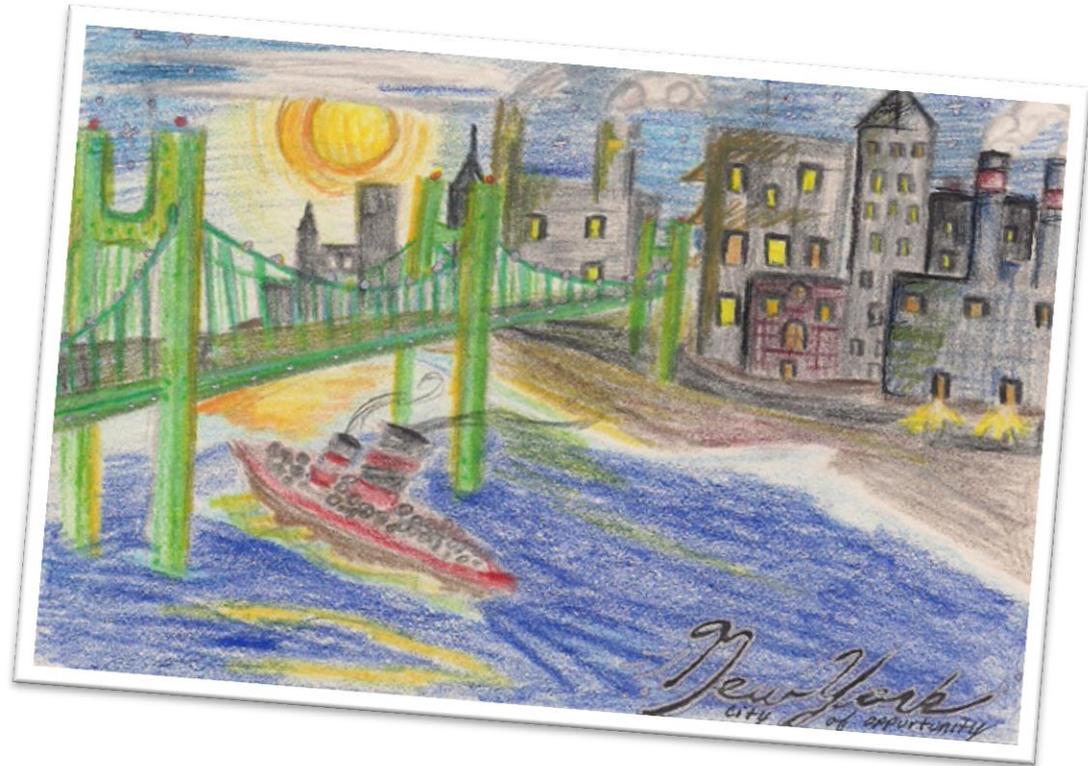
Please watch one or more of the following oral history interviews and determine why the individual decided to leave their nation of origin and what they experienced after they immigrated to America.

1. Fernando Aquirre
2. Annette Lantos
3. Filomena DeSimone
4. Dikembe Motumbo
5. Patrick Burke
6. Dorothy Kittaka



## ROLE PLAY: THE IMMIGRANT STORY

**Create a Postcard** – Using your textbook, supplemental resources, and/or Internet resources, create a postcard from the perspective of an immigrant who has recently migrated to the United States. See handout for details and instruction.



## ROLE PLAY: THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

**Talk Show Simulation** – The class will stage its own talk show on “The Immigrant Experience.” Students will role play recent immigrants to the United States in order to share their stories with the audience. The teacher, or a student, will serve as the host and interviewer. Students will play the role of immigrants. One or two students will be assigned the role of a “nativist” with the intention of providing tension to the talk show. Please follow instructions on the handout.

## HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT(S)

1. Find an article from a newspaper or the Internet that addresses a current issue or topic regarding immigration today. Read the article and detail what the article is about and explain the issue at hand.
2. Create a list of ten questions you would ask an immigrant if you were interviewing an immigrant in order to find out and detail their story.

# ISSUES IN IMMIGRATION TODAY

**Activity:** Please read the following statements and determine if you agree or disagree with each.

1. The United States is a “melting pot.”
2. Immigrants must become “American.” (“Love it or leave it”)
3. Everyone living in the United States must speak English.
4. The owner of a restaurant in the U.S. is completely justified in denying service to those who do not speak English.
5. The government should limit the number of immigrants that come to this country each year, especially those coming from the Middle East in order to prevent the possibility of domestic terrorism.
6. Our borders should be tightly guarded and heavily defended.
7. Illegal immigrants should be hunted down and deported immediately, and law enforcement officials should be given all tools and resources necessary to do this.
8. Illegal immigrants take jobs from Americans and hurt our economy.
9. The children of illegal immigrants should not become American citizens.
10. The immigrants of the past better understood the values of hard work, perseverance, and sacrifice than those people who come to the United States today.

# LETTER TO A CONGRESSPERSON

**Take a Stand** – based upon a current issue regarding immigration in America today, please write a letter to a local congressperson expressing your views and/or beliefs and calling for action.

- Border security
- Displaced peoples
- Assimilation issues
- Economic influences
- Push for Amnesty
- Naturalization possibility
- Quotas/Limits
- Deportation calls
- Political influence
- Liberal vs. Conservative

## ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW – ADDING TO LINCOLN’ S LEGACY

Please select an individual that has immigrated to America from a foreign nation/area. Interview that individual by asking questions designed to allow the individual to tell their story.

1. For what reasons did they leave their native area? Why did they choose to come to America?
2. What did they experience on the trip to America? What did they experience in the short term and long term as an immigrant and new US resident?
3. How has their life changed and evolved due to their immigration?
4. What does America mean to them?