



Settling in America



These immigrants became citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., in 2015.

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!



photo courtesy National Park Service

These words are on a plaque inside the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. They were written by Emma Lazarus in 1883. Her family came to the United States from Portugal.

Lazarus' poem was meant as a welcome for people coming to America — people who wanted to be free, who had to leave their native lands, and who had traveled a long way.

The Mini Page celebrates Citizenship Day, Sept. 17, by exploring immigration.

America's immigrants

Immigrants are people who come to a new place to live permanently. Most experts agree that the earliest immigrants to North America probably came across a land bridge between northeast Asia and Alaska about 13,000 years ago. These people are believed to be the ancestors of Native Americans.



Emma Lazarus
1849-1887

Since then, at different times, large groups of people have come to North America from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Central and South America.

In fact, even if you and your parents were born in the United States, your family may be able to trace its roots to another country.

Why immigrate?

Immigrants have come to the United States for many reasons. Some were looking for land to farm or better jobs. Others wanted to freely practice their religion, or they were unhappy with the government in their homeland.

Today, immigrants may be trying to escape harsh governments or military organizations in their home countries. In some parts of the world, people are persecuted, or treated in a harmful way, because of their religion or race.

Immigration's effects

Immigration adds a lot to the culture of a nation. People from other countries bring new ideas, customs, foods and languages to our communities.

But immigration also puts pressure on a country. Sometimes it's difficult for people of different backgrounds to get along. Added people can strain a nation's resources, such as energy, water and food supplies, housing, jobs, health care and education.



A former member of the U.S. Air Force cooks Thai food at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Malissa Lot

Becoming a citizen

If a lawful permanent resident wants to become a citizen, he or she must apply for naturalization. The U.S. government will check the immigrant's history and make sure he or she is eligible.

Naturalized citizens have the same rights and responsibilities as native citizens, except they cannot be president of the United States.

Solving a problem

Some immigrants arrive in the U.S. illegally. In other words, they come into the country without permission, called a visa, from the government.

The problem of illegal immigration is a big one that presidents and Congress have not been able to solve. Recently, you may have heard about families being detained, or held, on our border with Mexico after trying to enter the U.S. illegally. This is just one part of the problem.

Lawmakers have many different ideas about how to solve our immigration issues,



photo courtesy USGS

from building a wall on the border between the U.S. and Mexico to refusing to allow any immigrants at all.

It will take a lot of cooperation and creative new ideas to solve this challenge for our country.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPcitizen

At the library:

- "The Journey" by Francesca Sanna
- "Their Great Gift: Courage, Sacrifice and Hope in a New Land" by John Coy

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of immigration are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



CHALLENGE,
CITIZEN, COUNTRY,
EDUCATION, FOOD,
ILLEGAL, IMMIGRANT,
JOBS, LANGUAGE,
LAZARUS, LIBERTY,
NATURALIZATION,
PEOPLE, PERSECUTE,
RELIGION, RESOURCES,
ROOTS, STATUE.

E L P O E P E G N E L L A H C
T N A T U R A L I Z A T I O N
U K L W R E S O U R C E S E R
C D I R E L I G I O N I R G L
E O B W A I L L E G A L O A E
S O E Y R T N U O C E X O U C
R F R N O I T A C U D E T G J
E P T D L A Z A R U S A S N O
P N Y C I T I Z E N T Q W A B
T N A R G I M M I S W O H L S

Cook's Corner

Cornbread Casserole

You'll need:

- 1 (15.25-ounce) can whole-kernel corn, drained
- 1 (14.75-ounce) can cream-style corn
- 1 (7-ounce) package sweet yellow cornbread mix
- 1 large egg

- 1 tablespoon reduced-fat milk
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- Cooking spray
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Mix together corn and cornbread mix until well-blended.
2. In a separate bowl, beat egg with milk and melted butter.
3. Add egg mixture to corn mixture. Gently stir in sour cream.
4. Spray medium-sized baking dish with cooking spray. Pour mixture into pan and bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes or until set.
5. Top with cheddar cheese the last five minutes of cooking time. Allow to cool for 10 minutes before cutting into squares. Serves 6.

1. Freedom; ability to act freely (7-letter noun)

2. A land or nation (7-letter noun)

3. Person who lives in a city or town (7-letter noun)

4. The chance to improve or better yourself (11-letter noun)

1. Carl values _____ and wants independence.
2. Donna chose a _____ where she is safe.
3. To be a _____, Marla has to study the Constitution.
4. Juan took the _____ to learn a new trade.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: liberty, country, citizen, opportunity

Mini Jokes



- Ian: Why was the archaeologist excited to find a skull?
Iris: He wanted to get ahead!

Eco Note



At the bottom of the ocean are small underwater volcanoes spewing scalding hot water, gases and chemicals like methane and ammonia. They're called hydrothermal vents. It's a dark place to live, but some animals love it there. Giant tube worms over 6 feet long, clams and shrimp call these vents home. The tube worms have bacteria inside them that make food out of the methane and ammonia from the vents.

adapted from climatekids.nasa.gov

For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about immigration in the United States. Discuss possible solutions in your classroom or with your family.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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