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Social Studies

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# The American Dream: Coming to the United States

by Lana Cruce



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fact and Opinion</li><li>• Draw Conclusions</li><li>• Text Structure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Map</li><li>• Captions</li><li>• Labels</li></ul>

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## Vocabulary

admire

custom

famous

mention

overnight

popular

public

twist

Word count: 423

Note: The total word count includes words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in chapter titles, captions, labels, diagrams, charts, graphs, sidebars, and extra features are not included.



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Immigrants are people who leave the countries where they were born and then move to other countries to make new homes. Most of the people who live in the United States are related to immigrants or are immigrants themselves.

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The United States is sometimes called a nation of immigrants, or a “melting pot.” The population of the United States is a mix of people from countries all over the world. Many people believe that immigration has made the United States the strong nation that it is today.



The United States became a nation because many people came here to start a new and better life.



Even the earliest people to live in what is now the United States were immigrants. Ancestors of Native Americans came from Siberia, a country in Asia. They came to what is now the state of Alaska. Slowly they migrated, or moved, south. They settled in many areas of North America and South America.





Today, about one million people immigrate to the United States every year. Their journeys may take many days. Often, families must sleep overnight in airports on their way.



Immigrant families look forward to living in the United States.

People come to the United States for many reasons. They may come because there are not enough jobs in their native countries. They believe that they will earn more money in the United States to support their families.



This woman is very happy to become an American citizen.





People may immigrate to the United States because living conditions in their home countries are poor. Cities may be too crowded. There may not be enough food or clean water for everyone.



These people live in poor conditions in Cairo, Egypt.



Some people come to the United States to give their children a better education. Maybe they could not pay to send their children to school in their native countries. Or maybe the schools there were not good. In the United States, public schools promise a free and equal education for all children.



Education is one reason people immigrate to the United States.





Many people come to the United States seeking freedom. There may be war and violence in their native countries. Families may be in danger if they mention their opinions. They may not be allowed to practice religion.



The Statue of Liberty is a symbol of hope and freedom to immigrants.



Many famous Americans are immigrants. Arnold Schwarzenegger came to the United States from Austria. He was twenty-one years old. He became a popular actor. Then, in 2003, he was elected governor of California.

Patrick Ewing is an admired basketball player. He came to the United States from Jamaica when he was about twelve years old.



Patrick Ewing immigrated to the U.S. from Jamaica.



The United States would be very different without immigration. Immigrants bring many customs and traditions with them to the United States. American culture is a twist of many cultures braided together. Think of how much Americans can learn from each other!



These children are having fun making music in a Fourth of July parade.



## Reader Response

1. Write one fact about immigration. Then find the sentence on page 4 that contains an opinion. Write the opinion part of the sentence.
2. This book gives information about why people immigrate to the United States, who some well-known immigrants are, and what immigration means. Draw a chart like the one below and tell which information comes first, second, and third in the book.

1



2



3

3. Find the word *twist* on page 12. Use clues from the paragraph to write a definition for *twist*.
4. Read the caption on page 10. Can you name two other symbols of the United States?

