
ENERGY OF A NATION: UPDATES TO THE 2004 CURRICULUM



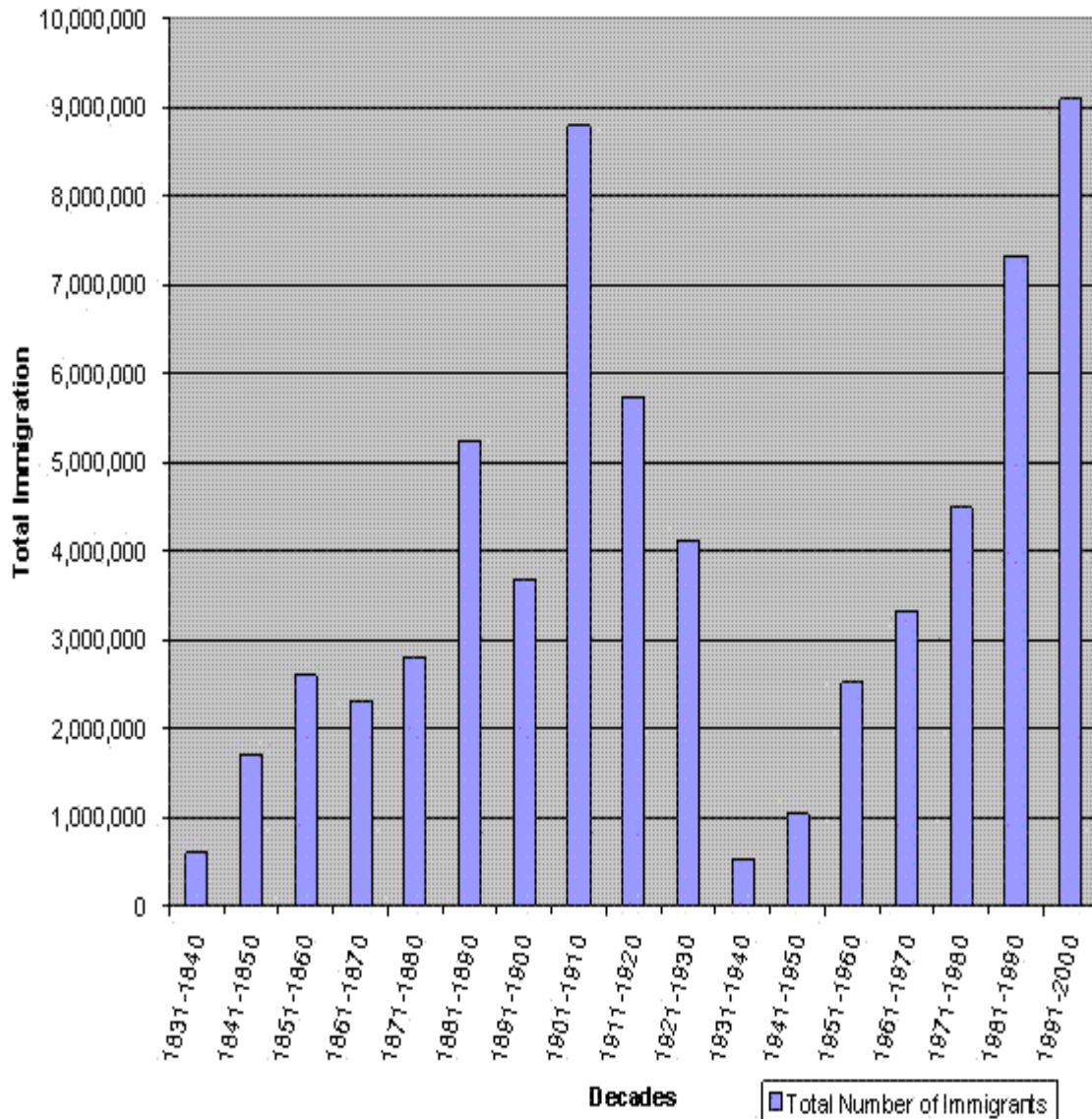
Immigration facts change with each year. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is in the process of updating the Energy of a Nation Curriculum. New lessons are added regularly at www.energyofanation.org. In addition this packet of pages will serve to replace or augment the pages in the 2004 bound version of Energy of a Nation until a revision is printed.

- **Number of Immigrant Arrivals by Decade** will replace p. 12 from Lesson 2, Handout #1.
- **Historical Data on Immigration to the United States** will replace p. 14 from Lesson 2, Handout #3.
- **A Quick History of Immigration in Minnesota** will be used in conjunction with
- **Current Immigration in Minnesota** to replace p. 20 and 21 in Lesson 2, Handout #6.
- The newly created **Minnesota “Immigrant Quotient” (I.Q.) Test** will can be integrated in Lesson 2 after using the above two handouts or in Lesson 11.
- **“Immigrant Quotient” (I.Q.) Test** will replace p. 31-32 from Lesson 3, Worksheet #2.
- **Dispelling the Myths About Immigrants** will replace p 33-34 in Lesson 3, Handout #2.

ENERGY OF A NATION UPDATE: NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT ARRIVALS BY DECADE



Source: Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2004



ENERGY OF A NATION UPDATE: HISTORICAL DATA ON IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.



“The Big Picture”

- Period 1 = 1831-1860 4,910,590 immigrants
- Period 2 = 1861-1890 10,373,628 immigrants
- Period 3 = 1891-1920 18,218,761 immigrants
- Period 4 = 1921-1950 5,670,679 immigrants
- Period 5 = 1951-1980 10,330,470 immigrants
- Period 6 = 1981-2004 20,213,498 immigrants

“From Around the World We Came” (Source: 1984 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service)

Region	Period					
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
Germany	1,538,747	2,958,620	990,595	752,838	742,975	246,090
United Kingdom	286,828	1,962,296	1,138,896	510,488	554,020	377,254
Ireland	1,902,219	1,528,131	873,662	241,996	92,818	94,416
Norway/Sweden	36,035	888,905	922,789	195,245	87,704	41,264
Italy	13,354	374,793	3,807,794	581,004	528,970	140,589
USSR	1,285	255,078	3,023,797	63,683	42,097	701,323
Greece	96	2,590	367,699	69,176	225,946	70,745
Austria-Hungary	N/A	434,448	4,624,910	103,301	145,793	61,965
Poland	1,638	66,803	101,533	252,331	100,758	297,646
Portugal	2,434	33,718	186,389	40,746	197,363	68,204
Spain	13,632	16,382	105,277	35,144	91,694	43,642
Africa	319	1,527	16,161	15,403	123,825	746,326
Japan	N/A	2,605	239,576	36,965	136,103	150,017
China	41,440	249,213	56,682	51,554	168,474	955,993
Korea				107	308,395	569,577
Mexico	12,948	9,266	269,617	542,195	1,394,042	4,616,074
Cuba				51,785	552,347	391,600
El Salvador				5,805	55,323	548,130
Vietnam					207,558	685,334
Philippines				5,219	472,670	1,250,143

FACT SHEET: A QUICK HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION IN MINNESOTA



Historically, Minnesota has been an immigration state.

- The first peoples living in the region now known as Minnesota were members of diverse Native American tribes who settled in the area as long ago as 6000 B.C.
- The Ojibway and Dakota, the largest tribes living in Minnesota in the early and mid-nineteenth century, both had well-established societies based on hunting and gathering when the first French and French Canadian traders arrived to establish fur posts among them.
- By 1850, many settlers from New England as well as immigrants from Norway, Sweden, Ireland, and Germany had settled in Minnesota. Drawn by the lure of inexpensive farmland and a growing industrial base, diverse groups continued to migrate to Minnesota.
- By 1896, official election instructions were being issued in nine languages: English, German, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, French, Czech, Italian, and Polish.

Waves of Immigration

- Minnesota became a significant immigration state as a result of the wave of immigration to the United States at the turn of the century.
- While the foreign-born population in the United States was only 15% in the 1890s, 40% of Minnesota's population was foreign born.
- This first major wave of immigration to Minnesota peaked around 1900, when more than 60% of the immigrants came from Sweden, Norway, and Germany.
- Another wave of immigration to Minnesota, which began after the Vietnam War, marked a change in the ethnic makeup of Minnesota's immigrant populations. This wave peaked in the 1980s when hundreds of refugees from Southeast Asia, aided by local churches, were resettled in Minnesota communities. Minnesota's ethnic mix—originally comprised of Native Americans, African Americans, and immigrants from diverse Western European countries—was now further enriched by new populations primarily from Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

Source of Information:

Holmquist, June Drenning. *They Chose Minnesota*. Minnesota Historical Press. 1981.

FACT SHEET: CURRENT IMMIGRATION IN MINNESOTA



Minnesota's Foreign-Born Population

- The term “foreign-born” refers to naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, refugees, asylees, foreign students, and undocumented workers.
- The current foreign-born populations in Minnesota are growing in number and diversity. However, only 5.3% of Minnesota’s population is foreign-born, which is less than half the national average.¹
- In 2004, 11,708 of the 946,142 immigrants admitted to the U.S. intended to reside in Minnesota. That means Minnesota receives approximately 1.2% of all new foreign-born arrivals.²

Refugees in Minnesota

- Refugees are persons who are forced to flee persecution in their country of origin. The Minnesota Department of Human Services estimates that more than 70,500 refugees live in Minnesota.³
- In a given year, 25-50% of Minnesota’s immigrants are refugees, compared to 8% nationally.⁴
- 13,500 refugees from about 30 different countries were resettled in Minnesota from 1999-2003, accounting for just over 2% of all refugees admitted nationally. Though the number each year may fluctuate, the percentage resettling in Minnesota is expected to be stable.⁵
- In the last two decades, refugees have tended to come from the former Soviet Union, Bosnia, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Federal, state, and community agencies give these estimates of Minnesota’s largest refugee populations:⁶

Hmong	60,000	Former Soviet Republics	12,500
Vietnamese	25,000	Ethiopian	7,500
Somali	25,000	Cambodian	7,500
Laotian	13,000		

According to reports from local immigrant communities, Minnesota is home to the largest Somali population in the United States.⁷ The Twin Cities area is host to the largest Hmong community in the world outside of Asia.⁸ An estimated 400 Hmong-owned businesses have contributed to the revitalization of urban areas in the Twin Cities metropolitan area: St. Paul, North Minneapolis, Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center in particular.⁹ Unique, yet smaller immigrant communities in Minnesota include the largest group of Oromo – an ethnic group from Ethiopia – outside of that country, the second largest group of Tibetans in the U.S., and a concentration of West African refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Undocumented Workers in Minnesota

The number of undocumented people residing in Minnesota is difficult to estimate. The number of undocumented people residing in Minnesota is difficult to estimate. Pew Hispanic Research estimates the unauthorized immigrants to Minnesota to be between 55,000-85,000.¹⁰

Undocumented labor in Minnesota is concentrated in the trade, service, agriculture, construction, and manufacturing sectors. Additionally, there is an indirect impact of undocumented labor on other sectors, such as real estate and government. A 2000 report by HACER-MN, estimates that undocumented labor is worth almost \$1.6 billion to the Minnesota economy, and if the undocumented were suddenly removed, Minnesota's economic growth would decline by 40%.¹¹

Other Facts

According to the 2000 Census, 143,382 members of the Chicano/Latino population live in Minnesota - nearly 60% are U.S. citizens by birth,¹² with only 57,573 having immigrated to this country during their lifetime.¹³

Minneapolis Public schools report more than 90 languages other than English are spoken in the homes of their students,¹⁴ and in St. Paul Public Schools, 41% of students come from a home where one of 103 languages or dialects is spoken.¹⁵

Immigrants are increasingly settling in and enriching Minnesota communities with their economic and cultural contributions. The past few years have seen a growth of diversity in Greater Minnesota, outside of the Twin Cities. Here, immigrants play a special economic role as some rural communities face the phenomena of aging workers and population losses. In South Central Minnesota, the Latino workforce added an estimated \$484 million per year, consequently lowering the tax rates for non-Latino residents of the area.¹⁶

FACT SHEET: CURRENT IMMIGRATION IN MINNESOTA



Sources of Information:

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. "Minnesota Census Data." Accessed in February 2006 at:

www.hometownlocator.com/StateCensusData.cfm?StateFIPS=27&State=Minnesota.

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security. *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2004*, Table 11. Accessed in May 2006 at: <http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/yearbook/2004/yable11.xls>.

³ Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2006. "Refugee Assistance."

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/economic_support/documents/pub/dhs_id_004115.hcsp.

⁴ Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. "Faces of Change." Accessed in January 2006 at:

<http://minneapolisfed.org/pubs/fedgaz/04-09/change.cfm>.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Estimates include U.S.-born children and refugees resettled in other states who subsequently moved to Minnesota.

Minnesota Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis. "Minnesota's Immigrant Populations Continue to Increase." June 17, 2004. Accessed in January 2006 at:

<http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=7193>.

⁷ The McKnight Foundation "Immigrant Gateway: Framing the Issue" accessed in Feb 2006 at

http://www.mcknight.org/hotissues/framing_immigrants.aspx and League of Women Voters and Minnesota's Education Fund. "Immigration in MN: Changing Faces Changing Communities." Accessed

February 2006 at: <http://www.lwvmn.org/EdFund/ImmigrationInMinnesota.asp>.

⁸ Fettig, David and Rolnick, Arthur J. "Credit Availability: A snapshot of the Hmong business community in Minneapolis and St. Paul." Accessed in Feb 2006 at: <http://Minneapolisfed.org/pubs/cd/03-1/credit.cfm>.

⁹ Hang, Lue Xieng. "Hmong Economic Development in the Twin Cities." Hmong Chamber of Commerce. Aug. 2002. Accessed Feb. 06 from: www.hmongchamber.com/chamber_stories.asp?storyID=MHC7.

¹⁰ Passell, Jeffery. Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics. Pew Hispanic Center. June 14, 2005. Accessed March 06 from: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/46.pdf>.

¹¹ Keilkopf, James. "The Economic Impact of Undocumented Workers in Minnesota." September 2000. Accessed in February 2006 at: www.hacer-mn.org/PDFs/undocumented.pdf.

¹² Ronningen, Barbara. "Estimates of Selected Immigrant Populations in Minnesota: 2004." Minnesota Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis. June, 2004. Citing the 2000 U.S. Census. Accessed Feb. 06 from: www.demography.state.mn.us/PopNotes/EvaluatingEstimates.pdf.

¹³ HACER Minnesota "Census 2000 Summary: Latinos in Minnesota" Rafael Robert 2000 accessed Feb 2006 www.hacer-mn.org/Reports/Census_2000.html.

¹⁴ Minneapolis Public Schools. Accessed May. 06 from: <http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/about.html>.

¹⁵ Saint Paul Public Schools. Accessed Feb. 06 from: http://www.spps.org/About_Us2.html.

¹⁶ League of Women Voters and Minnesota's Education Fund. "Immigration in MN: Changing Faces Changing Communities." Accessed Feb. 06 from

<http://www.lwvmn.org/EdFund/ImmigrationInMinnesota.asp>.

TEACHING RESOURCE: MINNESOTA "IMMIGRANT QUOTIENT" (I.Q.) TEST



Interesting information about refugee and immigrant issues!

Circle the correct response.

1. Minnesota was settled by native people, immigrants and their descendents. What were the two largest tribes living in Minnesota in the early to mid-19th century when the first French and French Canadian traders arrived?
 - A. Cherokee and Algonquian
 - B. Ojibwe and Dakota
 - C. Menominee and Oneida
2. The largest wave of immigration to Minnesota -----
 - A. Peaked around 1900
 - B. Peaked in the 1980's
 - C. Is occurring at the present moment
3. By 1896 official instructions for Minnesota elections were being printed in -----
 - A. English only
 - B. English, Norwegian and Swedish
 - C. English, German and Czech
 - D. 9 languages
4. The foreign born population in Minnesota represents what percentage of the total population?
 - A. 6.1%
 - B. 15.5%
 - C. 26%
5. Minnesota is the state with the largest ----- population in the United States.
 - A. Hmong
 - B. Somali
 - C. Tibetan

6. Out of all immigrants to Minnesota, what percentage are refugees (people who cannot return to their country for fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion)?
 - A. 5-10%
 - B. 10-25%
 - C. 25-50%
7. Of all of the refugees resettled in the United States between 1999-2003, what percentage was resettled in Minnesota?
 - A. 2%
 - B. 8%
 - C. 25%
8. During the last two decades refugees have come to Minnesota in large numbers from the former Soviet Union, Bosnia, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Select the three ethnicities with the highest populations in Minnesota.
 - A. Hmong / Somali / Former Soviet Republics
 - B. Somali / Lao / Cambodia
 - C. Hmong / Former Soviet Republics / Ethiopian
 - D. Hmong / Vietnamese / Somali
9. True or False? Most of the Hispanics in Minnesota are from Mexico?
 - A. True
 - B. False
10. How many different languages and dialects are spoken in the homes of Minnesota's K-12 students?
 - A. 55
 - B. 73
 - C. 103

Minnesota "I.Q." Immigrant Quotient Answers

1. **B** - Diverse Native American tribes settled in the region now known as Minnesota as early as 6000 B.C. The Ojibway and Dakota both had well-established societies in the early to mid-19th century.¹ Today in Minnesota there are seven Anishinabe (Chippewa, Ojibwe) reservations and four Dakota (Sioux) communities.²
2. **A** - At the turn of the 20th century Minnesota became a significant immigration state, peaking in 1900. At that time 28.9% of Minnesota's population was foreign born compared to 15% nationwide.³ More than 60% of the immigrants came from Sweden, Norway and Germany.⁴
3. **D** - The 9 languages in which election instructions were issued in Minnesota in 1890 were: English, German, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, French, Czech, Italian and Polish.⁵ Today they are available in English, Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Russian and Vietnamese.⁶
4. **A** - 6.1% of Minnesota's residents in 2004 were foreign born, meaning they were naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, refugees, asylees, foreign students or undocumented workers.⁷
5. **B** - Not only is Minnesota the home to the largest Somali population in the U.S. but to the largest Oromo population as well.⁸ The Oromo are members of an ethnic group from Ethiopia. In addition, Minnesota has the second largest population of Tibetans in the nation.⁹ Minnesota is second only to California in its Hmong population,¹⁰ though St. Paul is the city with the most Hmong residents.¹¹
6. **C** - In a given year, 25-50% of Minnesota's immigrants are refugees while nationally 8% of all immigrants admitted legally are refugees.¹²
7. **A** - 13,500 refugees from about 30 countries were resettled in Minnesota from 1999-2003. This is just over 2% of all the refugees admitted nationally. Though the number each year may fluctuate, the percentage resettling in Minnesota is expected to be stable.¹³
8. **D** - The estimated Hmong population is 60,000 and both the Vietnamese and Somali populations are estimated at 25,000. In addition there are approximately 13,000 Laotians, 12,500 refugees from former Soviet Republics, 7,500 Ethiopians, and 7,500 Cambodians.¹⁴
9. **B** - 60% of the Hispanic population was born in the United States.¹⁵ The majority of the foreign born Latinos are from Mexico. In the 2000 census, there were 41,592 Mexican born Minnesotans. The other leading Latin American countries of birth for Minnesotans were El Salvador with 2,769 and Ecuador with 2,621. ¹⁶
10. **C** - At least 103 languages and dialects are spoken by Minnesota students and their families. In St. Paul Public Schools, 41% of students come from a home where a language other than English is spoken. ¹⁷

Sources of Information:

- ¹ Holmquist, June Drenning. *They Chose Minnesota*. Minnesota Historical Press. 1981.
- ² Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. "Overview of Indian Tribes in Minnesota." Accessed in March 06 from: http://www.cri-bsu.org/IA_web/htdocs/tribes/
- ³ Davies, Phil. "Faces of Change." The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Accessed in March 06 from: <http://minneapolisfed.org/pubs/fedgaz/04-09/change.cfm>.
- ⁴ Holmquist, June Drenning. *They Chose Minnesota*. Minnesota Historical Press. 1981.
- ⁵ *ibid.*
- ⁶ Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, Mary Kiffmeyer. "Register to Vote." Accessed in March 2006 from: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp?page=204>.
- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. "American Community Survey 2003 Data Profile: Minnesota." Accessed March 2006 from: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2003/ACS/Tabular/040/04000US272.htm>.
- ⁸ The McKnight Foundation "Immigrant Gateway: Framing the Issue." Accessed March 2006 from: http://www.mcknight.org/hotissues/framing_immigrants.aspx and League of Women Voters and Minnesota's Education Fund. "Immigration in MN: Changing Faces Changing Communities." Accessed March 2006 from: <http://www.lwvmn.org/EdFund/ImmigrationInMinnesota.asp>.
- ⁹ The Minneapolis Foundation. "Immigration in Minnesota: Discovering Common Ground." Accessed March 2006 from: www.minneapolisfoundation.org/immigration/ImmigrationBrochure.pdf.
- ¹⁰ "Hmong Population in the U.S." Accessed March 2006 from: http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/special_packages/hmong_war/11639650.htm.
- ¹¹ The Minneapolis Foundation. "Immigration in Minnesota: Discovering Common Ground." Accessed March 2006 from: www.minneapolisfoundation.org/immigration/ImmigrationBrochure.pdf.
- ¹² Davies, Phil. "Faces of Change." The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Accessed in March 2006 from: <http://minneapolisfed.org/pubs/fedgaz/04-09/change.cfm>.
- ¹³ *ibid.*
- ¹⁴ Minnesota Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis. "Minnesota's Immigrant Populations Continue to Increase." June 17, 2004. Accessed March 2006 from: <http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/resource.html?ID=7193>. Estimates include U.S.-born children and refugees resettled in other states who subsequently moved to Minnesota.
- ¹⁵ Ronningen, Barbara. "Estimates of Selected Immigrant Populations in Minnesota: 2004." Minnesota Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis. June, 2004. Citing the 2000 U.S. Census. Accessed March 2006 from: <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/PopNotes/EvaluatingEstimates.pdf>.
- ¹⁶ "Non-citizens and Minnesota Law: A Guide for Legislators." Accessed March 2006 from: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/mn/hrd/pubs/noncitizen.pdf>.
- ¹⁷ Saint Paul Public Schools. Accessed March 2006 from: http://www.spps.org/About_us2.html.

TEACHING RESOURCE: "IMMIGRANT QUOTIENT" (I.Q.) TEST



Interesting information about refugee and immigrant issues!

I. Match the numbers with the reasons why people are legally admitted to the U.S.

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|----|-----|
| 1.) | _____A. Family reunification | a. | 8% |
| | _____B. Work (legally) | b. | 10% |
| | _____C. Freedom | c. | 16% |
| | _____D. Other | d. | 66% |
- 2.) What is an "immigrant"? _____
- 3.) What is a "refugee"? _____

II. Please circle your answer for questions 4-11.

4. Of the following countries, which has the lowest percent of foreign-born people in its population?
- Canada
 - Switzerland
 - United States
 - Australia
5. The percent of *new* legal immigrants each year represents what percent of the total U.S. population?
- Less than 1%
 - 5%
 - 10%
6. Immigrants do not pay taxes.
- True
 - False
7. More immigrants come to the U.S. legally than illegally.
- True
 - False
8. Undocumented (illegal) immigrants make up approximately what percent of the total U.S. population?
- 3.5%
 - 10%
 - 25.5%
9. Undocumented immigrants are eligible for which of the following benefits?
- TANF (cash support)
 - Food Stamps
 - Medicaid
 - None of the above
10. Of over 9 million refugees worldwide, up to what percent may settle in the U.S. each year?
- Less than 1%
 - 25%
 - 75%
11. Immigrants currently constitute a bigger proportion of the total U.S. population than ever before in history.
- True
 - False

Answers

1. U.S. immigration policy is based mainly on family, freedom, and work.

Family: Approximately 66% of new arrivals came to be with close family members.

Freedom: Approximately 8% of new arrivals came as refugees and asylees escaping persecution.

Work: Approximately 16% of new arrivals came at the invitation of the U.S. employers to fill a position where there was a shortage of U.S. workers.

Other: The remaining 10% of new arrivals came for other reasons under special immigration programs. About half of these immigrants came as part of the green card lottery system.¹
2. **Immigrants** are people who come to a country where they intend to settle permanently and obtain citizenship. Immigrants come to work in the U.S. or to reunite with family members already living in the U.S.²
3. The term **refugee** means any person who is outside any country of such persons nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.³
4. **C** The United States. While the U.S. is known as “a country of immigrants,” many other countries have a higher percent of foreign-born residents than the United States, including Luxembourg, Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand, and Canada.⁴ Many other countries have percentages that are very similar to the U.S., including Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Ireland, and Greece.⁵ The percent of foreign-born people living in the U.S. is approximately 12% of the total population⁶ - a group that includes naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, refugees, asylees, foreigners with temporary status (for example, foreign students), and undocumented (illegal) immigrants.
5. **A** Each year, there are a little less than one million new legal immigrants to the United States. This represents less than 1% of the total U.S. population.⁷
6. **B** False. Immigrants are required to pay taxes, just like everybody else. They pay real estate tax, sales tax, and income taxes. A study in 2005 found that undocumented immigrants pay \$6-7 billion in Social Security taxes alone that they will never be able to claim.⁸
7. **A** The Urban Institute estimates that in the past decade, legal immigration has averaged 800,000 persons a year, and net illegal immigration has averaged 500,000 persons a year.⁹ Note: In general, estimates on illegal immigration are difficult, because the same person might cross back and forth across the Mexican or Canadian border multiple times. This inflates the number of perceived illegal immigrants.
8. **A** Recent estimates show the total population of undocumented persons in the U.S. is between 10-11 million people.¹⁰ This amounts to 3.4% to 3.7% of the total U.S. population (approximately 296 million).
9. **D** In 1996, a federal law was passed that heavily restricted legal **and** illegal immigrants from utilizing public assistance programs. Undocumented (illegal) immigrants are excluded from all federal public welfare programs.¹¹ The only assistance they may receive is medical attention in the case of a health- or life-threatening condition.
10. **A** The UNHCR estimated that by the end of 2004, there were 9.2 million refugees worldwide.¹² The United States accepts up to 70,000 refugees each year. In 2004, the U.S. accepted approximately 53,000 refugees.¹³
11. **B** False. In fact, the current percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign born (now at 12%) is still lower than it was throughout the peak immigration years of 1870-1920 (when it was 15%).¹⁴

FACT SHEET: “IMMIGRANT QUOTIENT” (I.Q.) TEST



Sources of Information:

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2004*, Table 5. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/yearbook/YrBk04Im.htm>.

² Immigration and Nationality Act sect. 101 (a) (15). July, 2005. Accessed Feb. 06 from <http://uscis.gov/lpBin/lpext.dll/inserts/slb/slb-1/slb-22/slb-459?f=templates&fn=document-frame.htm#slb-act101>

³ Immigration and Nationality Act sect. 101 (a) (42) July, 2005. Accessed Feb. 06 from: <http://uscis.gov/lpBin/lpext.dll/inserts/slb/slb-1/slb-22/slb-459?f=templates&fn=document-frame.htm#slb-act101>

⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *International Migration Report 2002*. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/ittmig2002/ittmigrep2002.htm>.

⁵ Government of New Zealand. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/DC842417-969E-4F6F-9532-46D6434CD883/0/ImmigrationGraphofForeignbornResidents.xls>.

⁶ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2004*, Table 1.1a. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/yearbook/YrBk04Im.htm>.

⁷ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2004*, Table 5. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/yearbook/YrBk04Im.htm>

⁸ Capps, Randy and Fix, Michael. “Undocumented Immigrants: Myths and Reality.” Urban Institute and Migration Policy Institute. Oct, 2005. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://www.urban.org/publications/900898.html>.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Capps, Randy and Fix, Michael. “Undocumented Immigrants: Myths and Reality.” Urban Institute and Migration Policy Institute. Oct, 2005. Pew Hispanic Center. “Estimates of the Size and Characteristics of the Undocumented Population.” 2005. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=44>.

¹¹ Fix, Michael and Haskins, Ron. “Welfare Benefits for Non-citizens.” The Brookings Institution. Policy Brief #15 – 2002. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://www.brookings.edu/dybdocroot/es/wrb/publications/pb/pb15.htm>.

¹² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). “2004 Global Refugee Trends.” June 17, 2005. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/statistics/opendoc.pdf?tbl=STATISTICS&id=42b283744>.

¹³ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2004*, Table 14. Accessed Jan. 06 from: <http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/yearbook/YrBk04Im.htm>.

¹⁴ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2004*, Table 1.1a. Accessed from: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410654_NABEPresentation.pdf. Also, Fix and Passel. Urban Institute. 2003.

FACT SHEET: DISPELLING THE MYTHS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS



MYTH: Immigration is a drain on the U.S. economy.

FACT: Immigration grows the U.S. economy. An estimated 17.9 million immigrants are currently working in the U.S.—accounting for 14% of the total civilian labor force.(1) Compared to the native-born, a significantly higher percentage of immigrants are or working age (between 28 and 54 years of age).(2) Immigrants are just as likely to be self-employed and start new businesses as the native-born. They generate employment, and bring new innovations and creative diversity to our communities. Additionally, new immigrants often take positions that U.S. workers are less likely to fill – in manufacturing, computer technology, service work, and engineering. These immigrants help to keep the U.S. internationally competitive and give U.S. businesses a more global perspective—and outlook that is becoming increasingly necessary in this era of globalization.

MYTH: Immigrants abuse the Social Security and welfare systems.

FACT: While all immigrants are required to pay taxes—including sales, income, and property taxes—most immigrants are barred from receiving public assistance. Only refugees, asylees, and some legal immigrants are eligible to receive any public benefits, and even those who are eligible for benefits are subject to time limits. Undocumented persons are not eligible for any public benefit program, with the exception of emergency medical assistance.(3) According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1999, approximately one in five foreign-born householders received benefits such as food stamps and housing assistance.(4) This use, however, is heavily concentrated among refugees and elderly immigrants – populations we are committed to and legally obligated to assist. Furthermore, immigrants are large contributors to – rather than recipients of – Social Security, and will play an integral role in financing Social Security as the U.S. population ages. A study in 2005 found that undocumented immigrants pay \$6-7 billion in Social Security taxes alone that they will never be able to claim.(5)

MYTH: Immigrants cause urban problems.

FACT: The U.S. Census Bureau reports that “the foreign-born population is more concentrated than the native population in metropolitan areas and in their central cities.”(6) However, areas that receive new immigrants are most often transformed and revitalized by these newcomers. Dominican immigrants revitalized Washington Heights in Manhattan’s Upper West Side, and an array of new arrivals revitalized Nicollet Avenue (“Eat Street”) and Lake Street in South Minneapolis. These examples are repeated hundreds of times across the country. According to Alexis de Tocqueville Institute, a study carried out over an 18 year period in Washington D.C. revealed that there is a positive correlation between the number of immigrants in a neighborhood and increasing property values. As one real-estate agent put it, with immigration “there goes the neighborhood—up.”(7)

MYTH: There is a higher percentage of immigrants in the U.S. now than ever before in U.S. history.

FACT: Although the actual number of immigrants currently living in the U.S. continues to grow, when considered as a percentage of the population, the levels are not as high as they have been in the past. Currently, about 12% of the U.S. population is foreign born.(8) However, between 1890 and 1910, about 15% of the population was foreign born.(9)

Currently, about two-thirds of immigrants settle in six states: California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, and New Jersey.(10) European immigrants—historically a large portion of immigration to the U.S.—today make up 14% of newcomers; 52% come from Latin America; 27% come from Asia; and 6% from other parts of the world.(11) In 2004, the top ten countries of immigration to the U.S. were: Mexico, India, the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Cuba, and Korea.(12)

MYTH: The United States is being overrun with illegal immigrants.

FACT: The estimated number of illegal aliens living in the U.S. ranges from 10 to 11 million.(13) Even the highest estimate accounts for less than 4% of the U.S. population. Many people that currently do not have legal permission to reside in the country did, in fact, enter legally. Experts estimate that between 25-40% of all undocumented immigrants came legally to this country and became illegal by remaining here after their visas expired.(14)

MYTH: Most immigrants to the United States are illegal, undocumented aliens who come only for economic reasons.

FACT: According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 946,142 immigrants were legally admitted to the U.S. in FY2004, compared with a much smaller number of people who entered the U.S. without permission.(15) This number includes both people who were adjusting their status and new arrivals. Smaller numbers of people came to the U.S. without legal permission. It is estimated that a net average of 500,000 people came annually in the last decade.

U.S. immigration policy allows immigration for three main reasons: 1) family, 2) work, and 3) freedom – in that order. Of the immigrants coming legally to the U.S. in 2004, 66% came to be reunited with immediate family members (parents, children, siblings, or spouses), 16% were sponsored by U.S. employers to fill in positions for which no U.S. worker was available, and an additional 8% came as refugees or asylees, fleeing persecution and looking for safety and freedom in the U.S.(16) Undocumented people come for a variety of reasons. We often talk about these reasons in terms of “push” and “pull.” “Push” factors are the reasons at home that cause someone to leave – examples include poverty, lack of job opportunities, natural disasters, and political instability. “Pull” factors are the reasons elsewhere that cause someone to arrive – examples include increased freedom, job opportunities, and joining family members. Like generations of immigrants before them, *all* of these immigrants come to this country looking for a better life, and their energy and ideas enrich all of our communities.

FACT SHEET: DISPELLING THE MYTHS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS



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