

## 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. Menomence 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. 6.8%
- 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 / Laotian / Cambodian
- 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 - Ojibwe and Dakota.** Diverse Native American tribes settled in the region now known as Minnesota as early as 6000 B.C. The Ojibwe and Dakota both had well-established societies in the early to mid-19th century.<sup>1</sup> Today in Minnesota there are seven Anishinabe (Chippewa, Ojibwe) reservations and four Dakota (Sioux) communities.<sup>2</sup>
2. **A - Peaked around 1900.** 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.<sup>3</sup> More than 60% of the immigrants came from Sweden, Norway and Germany.<sup>4</sup>
3. **D - 9 languages.** The 9 languages in which election instructions were issued in Minnesota in 1890 were: English, German, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, French, Czech, Italian and Polish.<sup>5</sup> Today they are available in English, Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Russian and Vietnamese.<sup>6</sup>
4. **A - 6.8%.** In 2005, nearly 6% of Minnesota's residents in 2004 were foreign born, meaning they were naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, refugees, asylees, foreign students or undocumented workers.<sup>7</sup>
5. **B - Somali.** Not only is Minnesota the home to the largest Somali population in the U.S. but to the largest Oromo population as well.<sup>8</sup> The Oromo are members of an ethnic group from Ethiopia. In addition, Minnesota has the second largest population of Tibetans in the nation.<sup>9</sup> Minnesota is second only to California in its Hmong population,<sup>10</sup> though St. Paul is the city with the most Hmong residents.<sup>11</sup>
6. **C - 25-50%.** In a given year, 25-50% of Minnesota's immigrants are refugees while nationally 8% of all immigrants admitted legally are refugees.<sup>12</sup>
7. **A - 2%.** 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.<sup>13</sup>
8. **D - Hmong / Vietnamese / Somali.** 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.<sup>14</sup>
9. **B - False.** 60% of the Hispanic population was born in the United States.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup>
10. **C - 103.** 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.<sup>17</sup>



## Sources for “Minnesota Immigrant Quotient (I.Q.) Test”

<sup>1</sup> Holmquist, June Drenning. *They Chose Minnesota*. Minnesota Historical Press. 1981.

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. “Overview of Indian Tribes in Minnesota.” Accessed in March 06 from: [http://www.cri-bsu.org/IA\\_web/htdocs/tribes/](http://www.cri-bsu.org/IA_web/htdocs/tribes/)

<sup>3</sup> 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>.

<sup>4</sup> Holmquist, June Drenning. *They Chose Minnesota* Minnesota Historical Press. 1981.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> 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>.

<sup>7</sup> “International Immigration and Foreign-born Population.” Minnesota Department of Administration. 2005 data accessed in September 2006 at: <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/immigration.htm> using information from Table 1 contained in “Immigrants to Minnesota by Region and Selected Country of Birth available at: <http://www.demography.state.mn.us/documents/ImmigrationJuly2006.csv>.

<sup>8</sup> The McKnight Foundation “Immigrant Gateway: Framing the Issue.” Accessed March 2006 from: [http://www.mcknight.org/hotissues/framing\\_immigrants.aspx](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>.

<sup>9</sup> The Minneapolis Foundation. “Immigration in Minnesota: Discovering Common Ground.” Accessed March 2006 from: [www.minneapolisfoundation.org/immigration/ImmigrationBrochure.pdf](http://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/immigration/ImmigrationBrochure.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> “Hmong Population in the U.S.” Accessed March 2006 from: [http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/special\\_packages/hmong\\_war/11639650.htm](http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/special_packages/hmong_war/11639650.htm).

<sup>11</sup> The Minneapolis Foundation. “Immigration in Minnesota: Discovering Common Ground.” Accessed March 2006 from: [www.minneapolisfoundation.org/immigration/ImmigrationBrochure.pdf](http://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/immigration/ImmigrationBrochure.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> 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>.

<sup>13</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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>.

<sup>16</sup> “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>.

<sup>17</sup> Saint Paul Public Schools. Accessed March 2006 from: [http://www.spps.org/About\\_us2.html](http://www.spps.org/About_us2.html).