

ProTalk

Discussion Files

afaq

Language Center

C1. Migration to the USA

Afaq Language Center

Goals

- Can read and understand a text about migration to the USA.
- Can give a detailed view on the concept of migration and its role in shaping American culture.



The awe-inspiring Grand Canyon, the world's leading film industry, the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge – there are a lot of reasons to love the USA, but would you like to live there? The USA attracts **migrants** from all around the world but what is it exactly that draws so many people to the so-called **land of the free**?

What do you know about the USA?



Imagine your teacher has never heard of the USA before. Describe it to them from what you know.

Different cultures

Have you ever been to the USA? From what you know of it, what are some of the differences between American culture and the culture in your own country? What other differences are there between the two countries?



language and people

food

geography and landscape

society

Migration

Tell your teacher a little about your home country and what you know of the history of migration there. Has there been a lot of migration to your home country over the last 50 years? What is your family's history in the place you live?

Read the text and summarize it.

Migration to the USA

Have you ever been to New York City before? If so, maybe you've already seen the Statue of Liberty up close; even if you haven't visited **the Big Apple** yet, you've probably heard of this iconic sculpture.

Lady Liberty, as she's often nicknamed, was a gift from the nation of France to the American people. She stands on Liberty Island, a **federally** owned island that's an **exclave** of the New York City **borough** of Manhattan. For the many millions of migrants who arrived in the land of the free by boat during the late 19th and early 20th century, the lady with the torch was the first sight they had of their new home. As such, the statue has become a **poignant** symbol of hope for immigrants in the country.

Read the text and summarize it.

Migration to the USA

The USA has always prided itself on being a country built of migrants, and open to migration. The migration of people from all over the world to the USA has been a **driving force** of population growth and cultural change throughout the country's life so far. What is it about the United States that has ensured its enduring appeal to migrants throughout the centuries?

Vocabulary review

Look over the words below from the text. Do you know what they mean? Tell your teacher!



the Big Apple

exclave

borough

federal

poignant

driving force

A long journey

In the past many migrants to the USA arrived after a very long journey by boat. What's the longest journey you've ever taken? How would you feel about having to spend more than a month on a ship to get to another continent, like many migrants did in the past?



distance

solitary

a chance to unwind

entertainment

Excerpt from a diary

Read the quote from below, from the diary of an early migrant to the USA. How do you think they must have felt on board the ship? Why might they have been reluctant to leave?

> "The trip was long, we spent over 7 days at sea. The boat was dirty and there was little room for privacy, and yet, despite my discomfort, when the ship pulled into the dock I found myself almost reluctant to leave."

Role play!

Take yourself back in time, 100 years ago. You have decided to emigrate to the USA, but you have yet to tell your family. Stage the dialogue of you explaining to them your reasons for taking this opportunity. Alternate roles with your classmates and teacher.

I have an important announcement to make!





The distance will make me worry...

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!





Maybe I'll finally get some peace and quiet with you packed away!

Dreams versus reality

Do you agree or disagree that the American Dream can be true for at least some people? Discuss in relation to the quote below. What kind of emotions is this person feeling?

> "The American Dream is exactly that – a dream, an elaborate fantasy. I came here with plans for success and happiness, but I'm working 2 different jobs just to afford my rent."

Would you do it?

Have you ever lived out of your home country before? If so, tell your teacher about your experience. If not, would you like to? Why (not)? What would you find difficult? What would you like?



family

employment

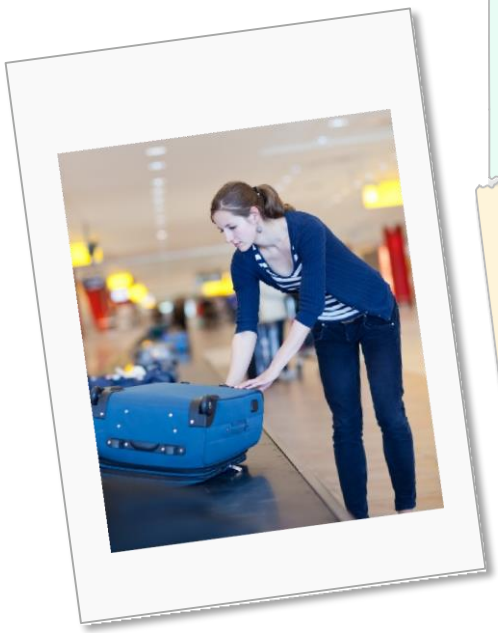
language

culture

identity

Tell a story

The picture below shows a girl who is emigrating from her home country. Tell her story so far using the words below to help you. How is she feeling? Who did she have to say goodbye to at the airport? What is in store for her?



letter
understand
tired
panic
language
tearful goodbyes
unknown
loved ones
packing
scared
transport
passport
crying
suitcase
outcome
nervous

Welcome to my country!

Imagine you work at the welcome service of your home country. You are meeting a family who have just emigrated from a very different culture. Tell them about your country, the society, the culture, the landscape, the food and any traditions.



All the little things

If you had to leave your home country, what funny things would you miss? Think of 5 different things to tell your teacher - for example, your favourite TV programme, an unusual food, a certain kind of weather, etc. Remember to explain why!






Presentation

Imagine you have emigrated to another country. Give a presentation about your new home. How was the journey there? How do you like it so far? What do you miss from home? What are you favourite things that you have experienced so far?

Prepare a two-minute presentation. Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback