

Immigration Experiences Activity-Middle School

Type of Teacher Tool: Whole Group/ Individual and/ or Small Group

Targeted Grade Level(s): 6th-8th

Targeted Curriculum Areas: Social Studies

Learning Objectives:

The learner will:

1. explore culture and cultural diversity
2. engage in conversation and reflection about reasons behind immigration and what the experience is like

NATIONAL STANDARDS

National Council for Social Studies Standards

- Theme 1: Culture—Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.
- Theme 3: People, Places, and Environments- Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.
- Theme 4: Individual Development and Identity- Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of individual development and identity.
- Theme 5: Individual, Groups, and Institutions- Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions.

Resources/Materials Needed:

- Writing Utensil
- Student worksheet
- Electronic device
- Videos: Culture- 14-18, 20, 23, 24, 27, 29, 31

Teacher Instructions:

1. Watch one or two of the Culture videos as a class to introduce the activity.
2. After viewing, have students either work independently or in pairs. They will choose 3-5 additional videos from the list (depending on the time you have allocated for this activity) to watch.
3. Have the students pay attention while they watch regarding what is said about the individuals' home country, what led them to come to the United States, adjustments that they had to make living here and challenges/ opportunities they faced, etc.
4. The students will then work through the accompanying questions on the student worksheet.
5. After completion of these questions, have the students discuss their thoughts in small groups or within the whole class.
6. If there is time, students may watch the remaining videos for additional information.

Assessment/Evaluation Option

1. Written answers on the student worksheet.
2. Observation of discussions within small group/partnerships.

Extension Assignment

1. Students can brainstorm what they already know about immigrants in their own families. Then, through research, conversations/interviews with family members write a brief paper about where their own families immigrated from, reasons why, when, challenges they faced, and whatever other information they find. Have students reflect on how this affects them personally.