

## The Top 5 States Immigrants Choose as Home

by Karine Manoukian

### Resources

From [14 Key Info-graphics about America's Immigrant Population](#)

Focus on these two graphs:

- **Six in ten** US immigrants live in just five states...
- ...but **five** other states have seen the fastest growth since 2010.

From KQED's [The Lowdown](#)

Listen to: [My Inspiration](#) by Waldemar Ochoa, from KQED's [Perspectives](#) series, 7/2012

Listen to: [Pronunciation Pronouncement](#), from KQED's [Perspectives](#) series, 2/2013

### Additional Resources

Watch/Listen to: [Immigration Nation](#), Scholastic, 3/2013

For historical background

Listen to: [Rosa's Story](#), [Keeping Families Together](#)

Study: [Snapshot: Global Migration](#), [The New York Times](#), 7/2007.

### Critical Issue

The United States is a nation of immigrants from all over the world. Where do most of these immigrants settle? Which states show the biggest increase in immigration during the last 10 years? According to recent statistics some states in the United States attract more immigrants than others. In the following lesson, students will practice reading skills as they work with up-to-date immigration statistics in the form of *info-graphics*. Students will also learn where most immigrants settle in the United States and will be invited to reflect on reasons for immigration decisions.

### Introductory Questions

### Pair Discussion/Group Discussion

Students discuss the following questions, first with a partner and then with the whole class.

1. Why do people immigrate to the United States?
2. Which states are among the most popular in the United States?
3. What are the reasons people choose to immigrate to certain states?

## Looking at Graphics

### What is an Info-graphic?

Discuss the word parts in this word: info + graphic.

### Skimming for Information

Look at the info-graphic below

**Six-in-ten** *U.S. immigrants live in just five states...*



Pew Research Hispanic Center tabulations of 2011 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS)

[http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/2013/02/PH\\_13.01.23\\_SS\\_immigration\\_06\\_states1-600x387.png](http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/2013/02/PH_13.01.23_SS_immigration_06_states1-600x387.png)

Think about where:

- List the 5 states in which 6 in 10 immigrants live.
- Which state has 25% of all immigrants?
- How many immigrants live in New Jersey?

Think about why? List possible reasons:

- Why do you think immigrants settle in these states?  
Do you know immigrants who live in any of these states?
- Why do you think large numbers of immigrants were attracted to certain states?

- Why do people choose to immigrate to urban areas rather than the country?
- What kind of jobs do you think they do? Do you have any personal examples?

...but **five** other states have seen the fastest growth since 2000.



Pew Research Hispanic Center tabulations of 2000 Census (5% IPUMS) and 2011 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS)

- Which state has seen a 97% growth since 2000?
- Which state has added 220,000 immigrants in the last 13 years?
- Why do you think these states have seen the highest growth in immigrants?

## Discussion

With a partner discuss the following questions:

1. What are some of the reasons you have heard for people choosing to immigrate to the United States?
2. What is The American Dream? Do you or your family have an American Dream?

## Audio Clip #1

**My Inspiration** by Waldemar Ochoa

<http://www.kqed.org/a/perspectives/R20120718W13>

“So my mom decided to look for a job. She had to wake up at five in the morning and drop me off at the neighbor's house, and then begin a job cleaning rich people's houses all over the Bay Area.”

## Vocabulary

Ensure that students know the following vocabulary before listening to the audio clip.

inspiration                      perseverance                      severe  
The American Dream              poverty              (a) role model

### Play the clip: [My Inspiration](#)

Ask students to listen for the answers to the following questions and compare their answers with a partner. Play the clip as many times as needed.

- Who is Waldemar's role model?
- Where was Waldemar's mother born?
- Why did Waldemar's mother and father move to America?
- To which state did Waldemar's family immigrate?
- What did Waldemar's mother do for her first job?
- Why is Waldemar inspired by his mother?

## Audio Clip #2

### Play the clip: [Pronunciation Pronouncement](#)

Youth Radio's Sheila Blandon allowed her name to be mispronounced for almost two decades before correcting people.

### After Listening: Comprehension Questions:

- When did teachers start pronouncing Sheila's name incorrectly?
- What language did she speak at home?
- Where did her family come from?
- Why didn't Sheila correct her teachers when they pronounced her name incorrectly?
- When did Sheila begin to teach other how to pronounce her name? Why did start using the correct pronunciation?

### Class Discussion/Group/Pair

What are ways people change details about themselves when immigrating to a new country (names, jobs, etc). Did you change anything about your name when you moved to the United States? Why or why not?

## Contact Assignment

Interview a person that immigrated to the United States.  
Interview questions could include:

1. Where are you from?
2. When did you come to the United States?
3. Why did you choose this city or state?

Ask students to collect responses to share with the class.

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