

Immigration Myths & Realities Quiz

- 1. Most immigrants come to the United States from where?**
The Middle East The Middle East and Africa
Africa Asia and Latin America
Asia All of the above
Latin America
- 2. What percentage of the world's immigrants come to the United States?**
More than 35 percent 15 percent
22 percent Less than one percent
- 3. What is the most common reason people from other countries come to the U.S. to live?**
To join a close family member
For employment
To escape persecution (as a refugee)
All of the above
- 4. Most immigrants come into the United States illegally.**
True False
- 5. Where did the most refugees who were resettled in the United States come from in 2002?**
Former Soviet Union Sudan
Iran Afghanistan
Vietnam Cuba
- 6. Immigrants made up what percentage of the total U.S. population in 2000?**
6 percent 15 percent
11 percent 28 percent
- 7. In southern California, the average income of an immigrant day labor worker was \$8,500 per year. On average, what percentage of this income did workers send back to their home countries?**
15 percent 31 percent
26 percent 40 percent
- 8. Undocumented immigrant workers take jobs away from native workers.**
True False
- 9. Recent immigrants tend to speak a language other than English in the home.**
True False
- 10. Which of the following personalities was born in the United States?**
Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State
Andrew Grove, founder, Intel Corporation
Jennifer Lopez, actor, musician
Gene Simmons, rock musician, Kiss
Patrick Ewing, basketball player, New York Knicks
- 11. According to the U.S. Census, the total number of immigrants living in the U.S. in 2000 was more than 31 million. By INS estimates, how many undocumented immigrants were living in the U.S. that same year?**
75.3 million 12.5 million
46.8 million Seven million
- 12. In 2000, nearly three quarters of all immigrants settled in how many states?**
2 6 10 15

The Immigration Myths & Realities Quiz reprinted courtesy of ITVS <www.itvs.org>.

Answers to Immigration Quiz

1. ANSWER: Asia and Latin America

Most immigrants come to the United States from Asia and Latin America. From 1900 to 2000, the proportion of immigrants from Asia and Latin America increased from less than 1.5 percent to 26 percent and 52 percent, respectively.

2. ANSWER: Less than 1 percent

Of the 175 million migrants in the world, the U.S. admitted 1,063,732 documented immigrants in 2002. Undocumented immigration adds approximately 350,000 people per year by INS estimates.

3. ANSWER: To join a close family member

Most legal immigrants (about 75 percent) come to the U.S. to join close family members, although employment and escaping persecution are two of the other main reasons people come to the U.S.

4. ANSWER: False

Of the approximately 1.4 million immigrants who entered the U.S. in 2002, only about 25 percent came illegally. Although these figures do not account for some homeless immigrants and undocumented migrant workers who return to their native countries when their seasonal work is over, the proportion of illegal immigrants to legal immigrants is still quite small.

5. ANSWER: Former Soviet Union

In 2002, the U.S. resettled nearly 10,000 refugees from the former Soviet Union. While upheaval in Afghanistan has produced an unmanageably large number of refugees (estimates put the 2002 number between 3.5 and 4.5 million), only 1,649 of those were resettled in the U.S. There is a yearly limit of how many refugees the U.S. will admit. In 2003, that limit was 70,000 although in many years the actual number of refugees admitted can be much lower than the limit.

The U.S. makes a distinction between immigrants and refugees. According to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of

that country." An immigrant is a person who voluntarily leaves their place of birth in order to migrate to another country.

6. ANSWER: 11 percent (11.1 percent to be exact)

In 1910, immigrants made up nearly 15 percent of the U.S. population but in 2000, immigrants made up a little more than 11 percent of the population. Immigration was at its peak during the late 19th and early 20th centuries when Europeans arrived to work in the factories of the industrializing cities and the Western territories.

Census Bureau statistics for 2000 report that out of approximately 281.4 million people living in the U.S., 31.1 million were born outside the country U.S. So far, no single decade has topped 1901-1910 for immigration admissions.

7. ANSWER: 31 percent

On average, each day labor worker sent home \$2,600, or 31 percent of his or her yearly income. Seventy-seven percent of these workers were from Mexico and 20 percent from Central America.

8. ANSWER: False

Studies show that undocumented immigration either has no effect on native workers or actually increases their labor market opportunities by boosting the industries that create new jobs. Immigrants create more jobs than they themselves fill. They do so directly by starting new businesses and indirectly through their expenditures on U.S. goods and services.

Undocumented immigrants often take jobs that others in the community refuse to perform. For example, the railroads across the West were largely built by Chinese immigrants, and large-scale agricultural production still relies on Mexican workers, many of whom are seasonal workers, not immigrants.

9. ANSWER: True

About 83 percent of the immigrants who live in the U.S. do not speak English at home.

Continued on page 8