

Energy of a Nation: Immigrants in America - Resources for Learning about Immigration

Name of organisation:
The Advocates for Human Rights

**TEACHING RESOURCE: “IMMIGRANT QUOTIENT”
(I.Q.) TEST**

Interesting information about refugee and immigrant issues!

I. Match the numbers with the reasons why people are legally admitted to the U.S.

1.)

- _____ A. Family reunification a. 8%
- _____ B. Work (legally) b. 10%
- _____ C. Freedom c. 16%
- _____ D. Other d. 66%

2.) What is an “immigrant”?

3.) What is a “refugee”?

II. Please circle your answer for questions 4-11.

4. Of the following countries, which has the lowest percent of foreign-born people in its population?

- a. Canada
- b. Switzerland
- c. United States
- d. Australia

5. The percent of new legal immigrants each year represents what percent of the total U.S. population?

- a. Less than 1%
- b. 5%
- c. 10%

6. Immigrants do not pay taxes.

- a. True
- b. False

7. More immigrants come to the U.S. legally than illegally.

- a. True
- b. False

8. Undocumented (illegal) immigrants make up

approximately what percent of the total U.S. population?

- a. 3.5%
- b. 10%
- c. 25.5%

9. Undocumented immigrants are eligible for which of the following benefits?

- a. TANF (cash support)
- b. Food Stamps
- c. Medicaid
- d. None of the above

10. Of over 9 million refugees worldwide, up to what percent may settle in the U.S. each year?

- a. Less than 1%
- b. 25%
- c. 75%

11. Immigrants currently constitute a bigger proportion of the total U.S. population than ever before in history.

- a. True
- b. False

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Answers

1. U.S. immigration policy is based mainly on family, freedom, and work.

A.) D - 66%. Approximately 66% of new arrivals came to be with close family members.

B.) C - 16%. Approximately 8% of new arrivals came as refugees and asylees escaping persecution.

C.) A - 8%. Approximately 16% of new arrivals came at the invitation of the U.S. employers to fill a position where there was a shortage of U.S. workers.

D.) B - 10%. The remaining 10% of new arrivals came for other reasons under special immigration programs. About half of these immigrants came as part of the green card lottery system.¹

2. Immigrants are people who come to a country where they intend to settle permanently and obtain citizenship. Immigrants

come to work in the U.S. or to reunite with family members already living in the U.S.²

3. The term refugee refers to a person who is outside his or her country of nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside a country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.³

4. C - The United States. While the U.S. is known as “a country of immigrants,” many other countries have a higher percent of foreign-born residents than the United States, including Luxembourg, Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand, and Canada.⁴ Many other countries have percentages that are very similar to the U.S., including Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Ireland, and Greece.⁵ The percent of foreign-born people living in the U.S. is approximately 12% of the total population⁶ – a group that includes naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, refugees, asylees, foreigners with temporary status (for example, foreign students), and undocumented (illegal) immigrants.
5. A - Less than 1%. Each year, there are a little less than one million new legal immigrants to the United States. This represents less than 1% of the total U.S. population.⁷
6. B - False. Immigrants are required to pay taxes, just like everybody else. They pay real estate tax, sales tax, and income taxes. A study in 2005 found that undocumented immigrants pay \$6-7 billion in Social Security taxes alone that they will never be able to claim.⁸
7. A - True. The Urban Institute estimates that in the past decade, legal immigration has averaged 800,000 persons per year, and net illegal immigration has averaged 500,000 persons per year.⁹ Note: In general, estimates on illegal immigration are difficult, because the same person might cross back and forth across the Mexican or Canadian border multiple times. This inflates the number of perceived illegal immigrants.
8. A - 3.5%. Recent estimates show the total population of undocumented persons in the U.S. is between 10-11 million people.¹⁰ This amounts to 3.4% to 3.7% of the total U.S. population (approximately 10.4 million).
9. D - None of the above. In 1996, a federal law passed that heavily restricted legal and illegal immigrants from utilizing public assistance programs. Undocumented (illegal) immigrants are excluded from all federal public welfare programs.¹¹ The only assistance they may receive is medical attention in the case of a health- or life-threatening condition.
10. A - Less than 1%. The UNHCR estimated that by the end of 2004, there were 9.2 million refugees worldwide.¹² The United States accepts up to 70,000 refugees each year. In 2004, the U.S. accepted approximately 53,000 refugees.¹³
11. B - False. In fact, the current percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign born (now at 12.4%) is still lower than it was throughout the peak immigration years of 1870-1920 (when it was 15%).¹⁴

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⁸ Capps, Randy and Fix, Michael. "Undocumented Immigrants: Myths and Reality." Urban Institute and Migration Policy

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¹⁴ "Census Bureau Data Show Key Population Changes across Nation." Census Bureau News. August 15, 2006. Accessed

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