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*2016 Teachers Guide:  
Immigration Part I*

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**Written for the National Student/Parent Mock Election**

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## **Teachers Guide To Immigration Part I**

**“Arizona - No Roosters in the Desert,”**

**Borderlands Theater, Tucson Arizona,**

### **Script Excerpt**

**Interviewee:** “There’s no ground.”

**Researcher:** “There’s no ground? What do you mean?”

**Interviewee:** “The river took the ground away. We tried to put in the plants, but there’s no ground.”

**Researcher:** “Oh, the soil is gone. There was lots of erosion and you couldn’t farm anymore?”

**Interviewee:** “In my community, everyone does to help the other person. ‘We are a family, we must stay together.’ We always did that way.

**Girl with braids:** “So what are they like?”

**Lead:** “Migra?”

**Girl with braids:** “No, the officers.”

**Lead:** “Most are fine. If you don’t run they’re polite. They make you dump your food. They give you water and four crackers. One asked us what kind of music we wanted to listen to on our way to detention center. When he dropped us off, he even wished us better luck next time.”

**Hurt Girl:** “Really?”

**Girl with braids:** “That’s so nice.”

**Lead:** “Well that’s most, but some are angry. ‘You silly Chicanos,’ they don’t want to think how close they came to being us.”

**Girl with braids:** “What do they do?”

**Lead:** “They make you lie on the ground, and kick you. Even if you’re just laying there doing nothing, they kick you in the stomach over and over.”

**Hurt Girl:** “The women too?”

**Lead:** “No, mostly the men. The women they just call ugly whore.”

**Hurt Girl:** “You would think they’d remember where they came from.”

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*Do you believe the script above was accurate? Why? Why not?*

*Why are some parents in Latin America willing to send their children alone through the desert to reach the United States?*

*What happens to the children if they manage to get here? What happens to undocumented adults?*

*What press reports have you read about the filth and disease to be found in some of the border detention centers? Who is responsible? Who is ultimately responsible?*

*Do you agree with our current procedures for confinement? For children? For adults? Why? Why not?*

*What do you believe Americans should do about the current waves of immigrants seeking to escape the dangers in their own country?*

*Use your classroom blackboard, or a roll of wrapping paper, to create a time line of the history of immigration through the ages. Use colored paper or index cards for each point on your timeline.*

The bible describes Abraham's separation from Lot:

"The land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together" (Gen. XIII, 6)

*Which biblical stories of immigration can you find?*

The Mongol invasion consisted of 100,000 men, women, and children in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It continued for a century.

*Can you see any connection between the Turkish tribes pushed to the west by the Mongol invasion and the discovery of America?*

*Where were they going?*

Also in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, British colonies were established in Virginia, Massachusetts, Bermuda, and Barbados.

*How did the abolition of serfdom in Russia (1861) and the opening of the trans-Siberian railroad (1896) change the map?*

*What affect did it have on America?*

Before the 19<sup>th</sup> century enslaved Africans were the largest group of newcomers to America. They were estimated at 10,000,000 or higher.

*Why had the Declaration of Independence accused the king of endeavoring "to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands?"*

*Did the Declaration mention enslaved Africans?*

*Why did it take until 1830 for the flow of European immigrants to begin?*

*How did the potato famine in Ireland in 1847 break the dam?*

*Why was the most violence directed against the Irish “Papists” and the German “red republicans” who followed them?*

*Why did the Consolidating Immigration Act of 1854 prohibit the entry of illiterates over 16 years of age?*

*Why did American trade unions begin to feel resentful about the competition of “cheap labor” from Europe? What restrictions were imposed by the Alien Contract Labor Law of 1885?*

By 1890 in America the opportunities to secure a “land grant” of free land in the west were almost gone.

In 1920, 430,000 immigrants entered the United States. In 1921 there were more than 800,000. *Why the difference?*

In a famous play, later to become a famous movie “Watch on The Rhine” about the threat of Nazi Germany, a father states, “My children are not the only children in the world.”

*Do you believe that each American family today is responsible only for its own children? Who bears responsibility for the children whose parents cannot take care of them?*

*If you were the President of the United States today, what responsibility would you feel for the children who are immigrants and alone? For the parents the children so badly need but do not have? Where would you try to find the money to deal with the problem? What claims would others have?*

*Should there be a separate world agency to protect children? Why? Why not? Is there one? Where? How is it/should it be funded?*

*Should there be a children’s campaign? How would it start?*

*Can you write to the candidates for President and ask how they would help protect children everywhere? Can your entire class write?*

*Can you send a letter to the editor of you local paper sharing some of your letters to the candidates?*

*Why was an immigration quota system adopted in the United States? Why was the research that established the quota system considered to be of little scientific value?*

*How did the depression of the 1930's affect the quotas? Why didn't immigrants want to come then? How did the influx of refugees from Nazi Germany affect America?*

*Why was a boatload of Jews fleeing concentration camps and the probability of being gassed to death not permitted to dock in America, but forced, with President Roosevelt's knowledge, to turn around and return to Nazi Germany?*

*Why were Anne Frank and her family unable to come to America?*

*Who were the non quota immigrants? Why were they not allocated places?*

*After the rise of Hitler, 6,000,000 Jews and others were executed. What can make "never again" possible in today's world?*

*Why did today's immigration rights advocates and Latino leaders feel "betrayed" by a series of recent deportation raids launched by the Obama administration, "mostly against women and children from Central America," according to The Washington Post (Jan. 18, 2016)?*

*What led the White House to both continue the raids and to announce an expanded State Department partnership with the United Nations to resettle Central America's refugees in the United States and elsewhere?*

"The goal of this effort is to provide a safe and legal alternative to the dangerous journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers," White House spokesman Peter Boogaard said.

"Unlike previous generations of illegal immigrants, who came across the Southwest border seeking economic opportunity, the new migrants are fleeing violence and physical abuse," The Washington Post pointed out.

"Instead of ensuring access to legal counsel and due process so eligibility for asylum can be properly determined, the federal government is sending these families back to the terror and violence they fled," Ali Naorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, said.

A few conclusions from the “Fatal Journeys” report of the International Organization for Migration are: “A grisly record was set last year with 5,400 migrants worldwide dying in their attempts to cross national borders, up from 5,000 in 2014. In the first five months of 2016 three thousand people died....”

“More than 90 percent of refugee and migrant children who arrived in Europe via Italy this year were unaccompanied. At least 7,009 unaccompanied children made the crossing from North Africa in the first five months of this year — twice as many as in all of last year.

“An unknown number of migrants were sexually abused and exploited. Based on information from Italian social workers, the “Fatal Journeys” report said that both girls and boys had been sexually assaulted and forced into prostitution in Libya, and that some of the girls were pregnant when they arrived.”

The IOM said, “thousands of migrants have died trying to cross seas and deserts,” (The New York Times, 06/15/2016)

“As many more families tried to cross the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece, children accounted for a third of the dead. Most were under the age of 10, and at least 40 percent were younger than 2.”

See <https://www.iom.int/statements/iom-releases-new-data-migrant-fatalities-worldwide-almost-40000-2000>

*What is the solution? Should we build a wall? Why? Why not?*

*Which of our founding fathers was an immigrant? Should we have kept him out?*

*Why has America been called “The Melting Pot”? “A nation of Immigrants?”*

*Interview your parents, and, if possible, your grandparents. Where did your family come from?\* Do they want to go back? Why? Why not?*

(For Hispanic bilingual families please see Cuentame! at [http://192.185.226.129/~mockelection/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/curriculum\\_cuentame-with-cover.pdf](http://192.185.226.129/~mockelection/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/curriculum_cuentame-with-cover.pdf) )

The historian Doris Kearns Goodwin recalled that “The aroused demagogic fear after Pearl Harbor led to the internment of tens of thousands of Japanese - Americans during World War II.”

Ms Goodwin described a young Japanese - American man who asked, as he was being herded off to a camp, *“Is this the same America we have known?”*

*Is this the same America you have known?*

*Why are there some whose own grandparents were immigrants, willing to accuse today’s immigrants?*

*What can you do to help the young children in a troubled world?*

Dr. Marilyn Heins, pediatrician and counselor, has written, “Let’s be courageous. We are all descended from immigrants who had to be brave to make a new life for themselves in a strange place with a new language and new customs. If they could do it, so can we.”

*What principles did the founding fathers leave us with to face the future?*

*Do we have the courage they had?*

