

TEACHING TOLERANCE



A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

UPPER GRADE ACTIVITY

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General Statistics of the United States of America

Unless otherwise indicated, statistics are taken from the U.S. Bureau of Statistics

Ethnicity (out of 100%)

Whites—66%

African Americans—12.8%

Native Americans—1%

Asian Americans/Pacific Islander—4.6%

Latino/Hispanic—15.1%

Gender (out of 100%)

Women—50.7%

Men—49.3

LGBT (Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender) out of 100%

(from the USBS)

4–10%

Religious Affiliation

(from the Pew Research Center, U.S. Congress of Catholic Bishops)

Jewish—5.2 million

Catholic—72 million

Protestants—159 million

Muslim—estimated 5 million

Mormon—5.5 million

Median Income

Average American \$32,140

Average American with a professional degree such as law \$82,473

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What statistics about America surprised you? Did you expect more or less (numerically speaking) of a specific ethnicity or religion?

1. What ethnicity/race is the United States mostly?
2. What religion is the United States mostly?
3. What gender is the United States mostly?
4. What sexual orientation is the United States mostly?
5. Do you find yourself in the majority or minority based upon race, religion or sexual orientation? What do you think about that? How does that make you feel?
6. Does being in the minority mean that you should receive less political power, less privilege or less ability to get what you want in life? Why or why not?
7. The creators and writers of the United States Constitution believed in majority rule but also minority rights. They felt that the majority of the country decides what the rules and guidelines of the country are but that there are protections for minority opinions. Do you agree with majority rule with minority rights? Why or why not?