

Vietnamese Americans

LESSONS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Supplemental Activities

ACTIVITY ONE

Ask students to write about where they were born, how many different towns they've lived in, and what factors lead them to the town where they now live. Discuss the results as a class. How many students came to your city or town from other places? Who came from farthest away?

ACTIVITY TWO

Ask students to seek and clip out newspaper stories about current conditions in other countries using these as a jumping-off point to discuss the various reasons why immigrants come to the United States (i.e. political, economic, religious).

ACTIVITY THREE

Assign students to write an essay about a time or situation when they felt different from everyone, when things around them were unfamiliar or threatening. Ask students to examine how they felt and if it affected the way they now treat people who they recognize are in similar situations.

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Why are people sometimes misperceived as “stupid” if they don't speak or understand English? What frustrations have you encountered with people still learning your language? How does it make you feel?

ACTIVITY FOUR

Assign each student a country from which immigrants have come to United States. Their assignment is to research that country for information on any or all of the following issues:

- In what years did the greatest numbers immigrate to the United States?
- What was life like in that country during those years?
- What dreams or goals did most people have?
- How and where did they enter this country and where did most people choose to settle?
- In what ways have these immigrants contributed to American society?

ACTIVITY FIVE

Form a list of ethnic and racial groups that are represented in the United States population and ask students to name as many of each group's contributions to American culture and society as possible (for example, business, food dishes, academics, labor, science, music, politics, film, literature, civic participation, art, dance, community activism, etc.).