

Migration to the United States: The Impact on People and Places

8.1 Introduction

Has your family moved recently? If so, was the move a big change or a small change? Many families change their neighborhood when they move to a new place. Others change their city or state. Some families change the country in which they live.

Making the decision to **emigrate**, or move away from one's home country, is never easy. It means leaving behind family and friends. And yet millions of people around the world make this decision every year. Many come to the United States.

When people **immigrate**, or move to a new country, they experience many changes. They leave familiar things behind and come to a place where most things are new to them. Often they need to learn a new language. They also need to learn how to make a living in a strange place. These changes can be very hard to adjust to at first. People also bring their culture and traditions with them. Their different ways can sometimes be hard for their new neighbors to adjust to.

In this chapter, you will learn why people decide to emigrate from their home countries. You will find out why people immigrate to the United States. You will also learn about the impact that different **migration streams**, or flows of immigrants, have had on this country. And you will see how migration affects the countries that people leave behind.

Essential Question

How does migration affect the lives of people and the character of places?

This map shows the migration of people from around the world to the United States in 1998. Each arrow represents a migration stream. Each arrow's thickness reflects the number of people in that migration stream. Keep this map in mind as you try to answer the Essential Question.

Graphic Organizer

