

WRAP UP

Today, one in four Americans has African, Asian, Hispanic or Native American ancestry. According to the Bureau of Census in the U.S. Department of Commerce, that number will be one in three by the year 2050.

The United States has had official immigration quotas since 1921. A quota is a set amount, decided in advance. The Immigrant and Nationality Act Amendments of 1965 ended national quotas but introduced the family-reunification principle for people seeking to come into the country. Today, some 600,000 legal immigrants enter the country each year.

There is a growing debate in this country about how many more people should be allowed to immigrate into this country.

WHAT ABOUT IT

Here are some of the questions in the immigration debate, provided by Lynn Duvall's book, *Respecting Our Differences: A Guide to Getting Along in a Changing World*.

- Is this country diverse enough?
- Should the government set quotas on the number of new immigrants? Do you know that some countries like China, South Korea, Jamaica and Egypt do not accept immigrants?
- Do you think that the United States has enough "foreigners"? Should we admit more while millions of Americans are jobless, homeless, hungry and without health insurance?
- If your answer is "No" what does that say about your attitude? Does it make you non-tolerant or practical? Is race part of your decision?
- Do you believe that the United States has a duty as a wealthy democratic nation to share our resources? How do you reach that goal if there are shortages of basics for people who already live here?



STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty is the most famous symbol of the United States' willingness to allow people to come here to make a better life.

The famous poem by Emma Lazarus on the Statue of Liberty expresses the power of that hope by stating "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to be free?"

Write a poem of your own that speaks to this country's history and role as a haven for people from around the world.

Start each line of the poem with the words: ***We offer liberty when...***

Work in teams, or as a class. The lines don't have to rhyme, but fill them with *feeling*.

CREDITS

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- Jennifer Stoner created the photoillustration on the cover.

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P.O. Box 183
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Advertising Layout & Sales

• Sybil Lynch

The Chronicle

NIE/WIN Coordinator

Phone: (336) 722-8624 ext. 107

Fax: (336) 723-9173

• Kathy Wiley

The Dispatch

Advertising Director / NIE Coordinator

Phone: (336) 249-3981

Fax: (336) 249-2944

• Randall Henion

Special Sales & Education Consultant