

# DIVERSITY

in the United States

When J.E.B. Stuart High School opened in Falls Church, Virginia<sup>1</sup>, nearly all its 1,600 students had been born in the United States. That was in 1959. Today, more than half of the school's 1,400 students are from 70 different countries! The change in this high school's population reflects<sup>2</sup> the change in the population of the entire United States. The diversity of people moving to the United States is greater than ever before.

1. Virginia 弗吉尼亚州  
2. reflect v. 反映



## 美国人种的多样性

Members of J.E.B. Stuart High School's senior class pose<sup>1</sup> for their class picture.

1. pose v. 摆姿势



**B**efore 1965 most immigrants<sup>1</sup> to the United States came from Europe. An immigrant is a person who comes to a new land to live. Today, 60 percent of immigrants come from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America<sup>2</sup>. The remaining immigrants come from Europe and Canada.

Why do so many people leave their countries to move to the United States? Many people move to the United States to find a better way of life. They hope to find better jobs, schools, and housing in their new homes. For one high school student, originally from the Asian country of Vietnam<sup>3</sup>, moving to the United States offered a lot of opportunity<sup>4</sup>. “What makes America special is that things [that] are more ‘wishable’ [are] more likely to happen here,” she explained.

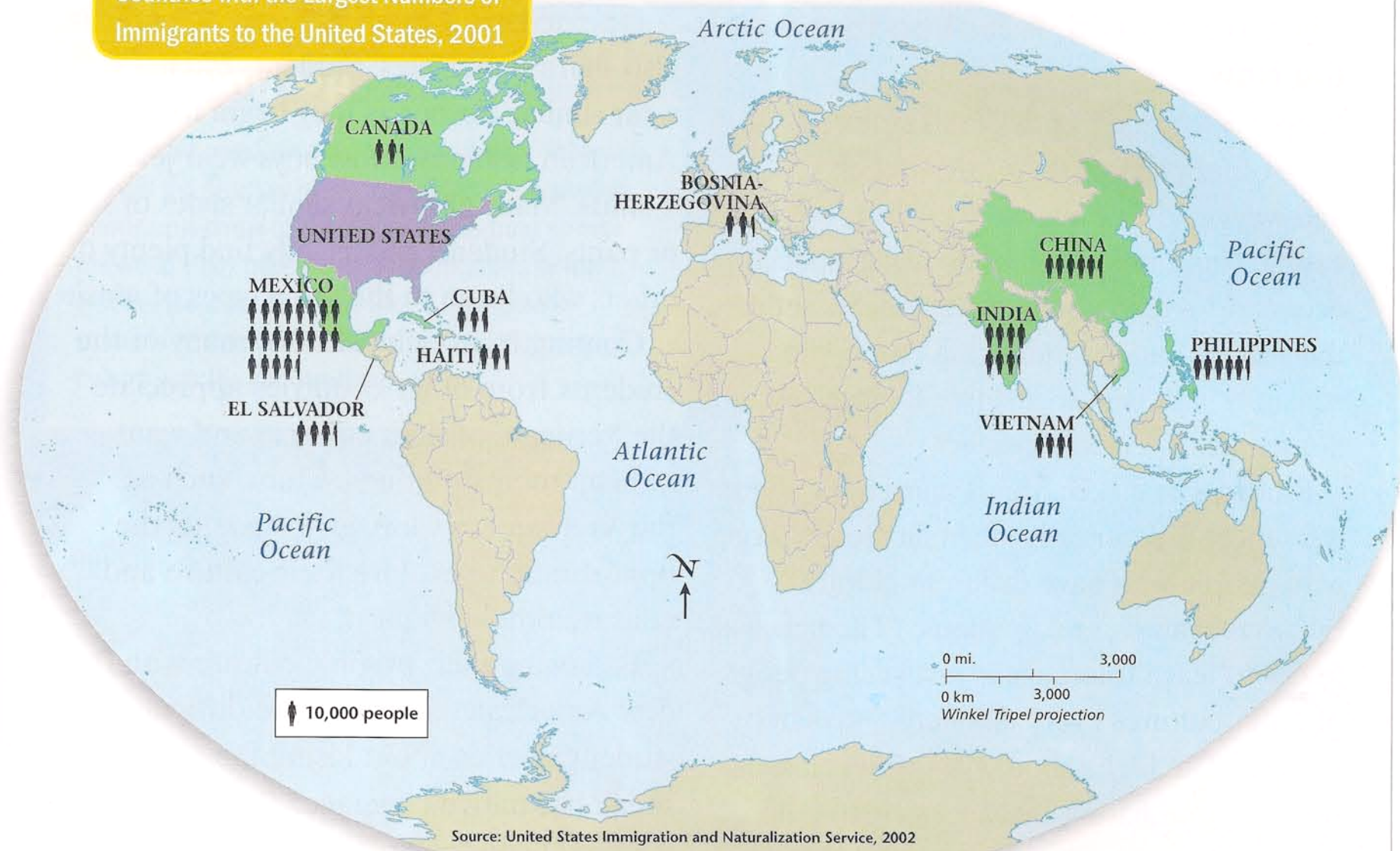
### Working for the Future

Moving to a new country is not easy for many people. In many cases immigrants must leave family members behind because they cannot afford to travel. When they arrive, they often must work lower-paying jobs because they lack<sup>5</sup> training and higher education or because they do not speak English.

Many people move to the United States so that their children can get the education needed for better jobs. J.E.B. Stuart High School prides itself on the number of its diverse group of students who go to college. Nearly 80 percent of students go on to a two-year or four-year college.

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|------------------|-----------|------|
| 1. immigrant     | <i>n.</i> | 移民   |
| 2. Latin America |           | 拉丁美洲 |
| 3. Vietnam       |           | 越南   |
| 4. opportunity   | <i>n.</i> | 机会   |
| 5. lack          | <i>v.</i> | 缺乏   |

Countries with the Largest Numbers of Immigrants to the United States, 2001



## Many people move to the United States hoping to find a better life.

### Learning the Language

One way J.E.B. Stuart High School helps students is by teaching them English. More than half of the students must learn English as a second language. Special classes are held at the high school in which teachers help students learn how to read, write, and speak English.

J.E.B. Stuart students come from so many different countries that classrooms have dictionaries in many languages including

Italian, Korean<sup>1</sup>, Persian<sup>2</sup>, Russian, Hindi<sup>3</sup>, Spanish, Portuguese<sup>4</sup>, Vietnamese, and Swahili<sup>5</sup>. Special counselors<sup>6</sup> who speak a variety of languages are also available to help students communicate<sup>7</sup> with teachers.

- |                |           |          |
|----------------|-----------|----------|
| 1. Korean      | <i>n.</i> | 朝鲜语      |
| 2. Persian     | <i>n.</i> | 波斯语      |
| 3. Hindi       | <i>n.</i> | 印地语      |
| 4. Portuguese  | <i>n.</i> | 葡萄牙语     |
| 5. Swahili     | <i>n.</i> | 斯瓦希里语    |
| 6. counselor   | <i>n.</i> | (学生) 辅导员 |
| 7. communicate | <i>v.</i> | 沟通; 交流   |



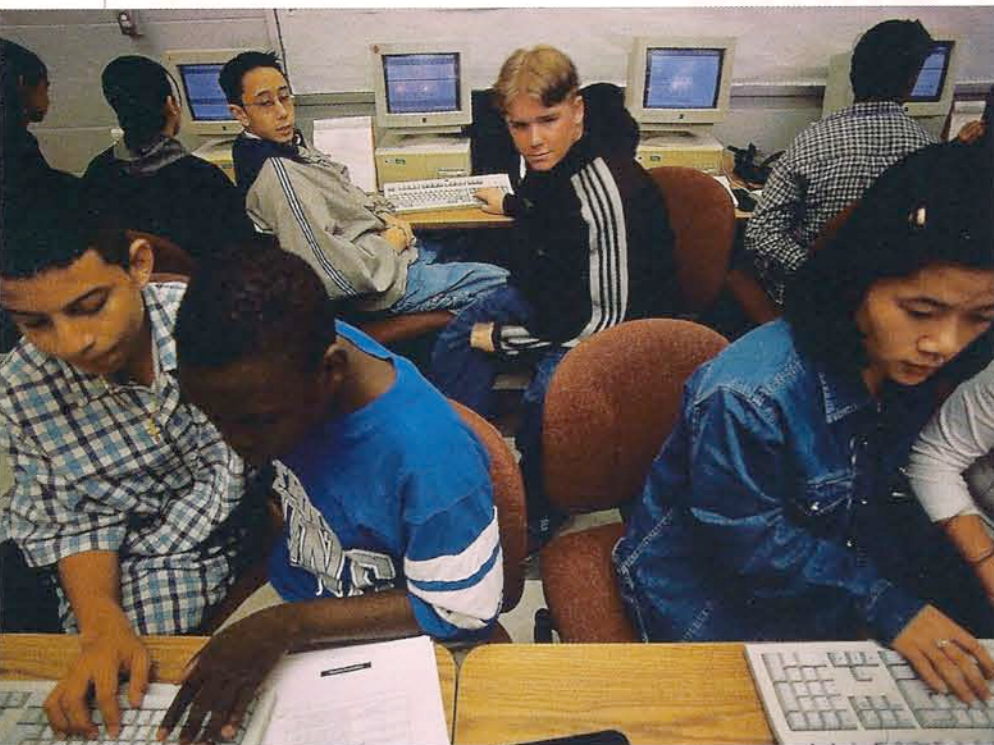
Spanish-speaking immigrants learn English in Arlington, Virginia.



## Keeping the Old, Adapting to the New

People often don't understand cultures from other parts of the world. Beliefs<sup>1</sup> and ways of doing almost everything—eating, communicating, celebrating<sup>2</sup> special occasions<sup>3</sup>—vary among countries. Sometimes this lack of understanding makes people stay only with people just like themselves. Sometimes it leads to conflict<sup>4</sup>.

Students at J.E.B. Stuart learn a lot about tolerance<sup>5</sup>. Tolerance is the ability to get along with people who have different cultures, religions<sup>6</sup>, values, and opinions. "The best way for us to learn tolerance is just seeing people of other cultures every day here," says one student. The high school also offers classes, such as "Combating Intolerance," to help students learn how to accept people from cultures outside of their own.



Computer classes at J.E.B. Stuart help students improve their English and learn how to use the Internet.

Despite having many differences, students also share similarities. Students often wear similar clothes as they begin to adopt American fashions. Most boys wear jeans and T-shirts. Many girls wear similar styles of skirts or pants. Students can usually find plenty of others who listen to the same types of music.

Coming from rich cultures, many of the students from other countries appreciate the heritage<sup>7</sup> of their cultures and want to keep their traditions. Clubs, such as the Vietnamese Club, give students the opportunity to explore their culture and educate others about it.

Balancing their original culture with the new American culture can be difficult. One student worries about losing the ability to speak her native language. "I'm forgetting Arabic<sup>8</sup>. I can feel it fading away<sup>9</sup>," she says.

Students begin to realize that in a world of global connections, being able to understand a variety of cultures is valuable. Many already travel between the country of their heritage and the United States, and many are likely to cross national borders in the future. Knowing two cultures helps in building bridges between them.

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|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. belief    | <i>n.</i> | 信仰        |
| 2. celebrate | <i>v.</i> | 庆祝        |
| 3. occasion  | <i>n.</i> | 重大(或特殊)活动 |
| 4. conflict  | <i>n.</i> | 冲突        |
| 5. tolerance | <i>n.</i> | 宽容; 容忍    |
| 6. religion  | <i>n.</i> | 宗教信仰      |
| 7. heritage  | <i>n.</i> | 继承物; 遗留物  |
| 8. Arabic    | <i>n.</i> | 阿拉伯语      |
| 9. fade away |           | 逐渐消失      |

## Summing Up

The diverse population of J.E.B. Stuart High School reflects the diversity of the United States population. Immigrants come to the United States from all over the world. They hope for new opportunities to make a better life. Like all United States immigrants, students at the school learn to balance their original culture with the new American culture.



Students celebrate graduation at J.E.B. Stuart High School. Nearly 80 percent of graduating students go on to college.