

Diversity in America

A. Before You Read

1. Fill in the chart below by writing the correct form of the words for the country, nationality, or language. Use your dictionary if necessary.

Country	Nationality	Language
United States	American	English
	Vietnamese	
Korea		
		Persian (Farsi)
		Hindi
Portugal		
		Swahili
	Egyptian	

2. Use the words below to complete the sentences that follow. You may scan the text for answers.

immigrants reflects Latin America beliefs
 opportunity communicate counselors lack
 tolerance occasions celebrating religions
 fading away heritage conflict

- a. The change in J.E.B. Stuart High School's population reflects the change in the population of the entire United States.
- b. Before 1965 most _____ to the United States came from Europe.
- c. Today, 60 percent of immigrants come from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and _____.
- d. When immigrants arrive, they often must work lower-paying jobs because they _____ training and higher education or because they do not speak English.
- e. For one high school student, originally from the Asian country of Vietnam, moving to the United States offered a lot of _____.
- f. Special _____ who speak a variety of languages are also available to help students _____ with teachers.
- g. _____ and ways of doing almost everything—eating, communicating, _____ special _____—vary among countries.
- h. Sometimes this lack of understanding makes people stay only with people just like themselves. Sometimes it leads to _____.

- i. Students at J.E.B. Stuart learn a lot about _____.
- j. Tolerance is the ability to get along with people who have different cultures, _____, values, and opinions.
- k. Coming from rich cultures, many of the students from other countries appreciate the _____ of their cultures and want to keep their traditions.
- l. "I'm forgetting Arabic. I can feel it _____," she says.

B. While You Read

Read "Diversity in the United States," about students at J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church, Virginia (U.S.A.).* Write down as many answers as you can find in the article for:

- What difficulties do immigrants face when they go to the United States?
- What can be done to make the adjustment to life in America easier?

C. After You Read

1. Compare your notes for Part B with a partner. Make a chart like the one below matching the problems immigrants face with the help they receive.

Problems	Solutions
Cannot speak English	ESL classes offered

2. Ask, answer and discuss the following questions with your partner or group.
 - a. Do you believe enough is being done to assist immigrants with their adjustment to life in the United States? Why or why not?
 - b. Do you think most immigrants recognize the range of problems they will face in going to the United States, or are they chasing a dream? Why?
 - c. Can you think of any reasons some native-born Americans are against allowing a lot of immigrants into America? What are they?

* From Steve Sheinkin and Minnie Ashcroft, *World Regions and Cultures: North America* (Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2006), 66-71.