

# **HUDDLED MASS OR SECOND CLASS?**

## **Challenging Anti-Immigrant Bias in the U.S.**

*Students Handouts and  
Supporting Materials for Teachers*

**Elementary Level Lesson (Grades 3 – 5)**

**“What is it Like to be an Outsider?”: Building  
Empathy for the Experiences of Immigrants**

You Have to Live in Somebody Else’s Country to Understand ...	Page 2
Native Americans .....	Page 4
A Nation of Immigrants .....	Page 5
One Nation, Many Languages .....	Page 6
Gifts from Many Lands .....	Page 7
Contributions of Native Americans and Immigrants .....	Page 8

## **YOU HAVE TO LIVE IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S COUNTRY TO UNDERSTAND**

By Noy Chou



What is it like to be an outsider?

What is it like to sit in the class where everyone has blond hair and you have black hair?

What is it like when the teacher says, "Whoever wasn't born here raise your hand."

And you are the only one.

Then, when you raise your hand, everybody looks at you and makes fun of you.

You have to live in somebody else's country to understand.

What is it like when the teacher treats you like you've been here all your life?

What is it like when the teacher speaks too fast and you are the only one who can't understand what he or she is saying, and you try to tell him or her to slow down.

Then when you do, everybody says, "If you don't understand, go to a lower class or get lost."

You have to live in somebody else's country to understand.

What is it like when you are an opposite?

When you wear the clothes of your country and they think you are crazy to wear these clothes and you think they are pretty.

You have to live in somebody else's country to understand.

What is it like when you are always a loser?

What is it like when somebody bothers you when you do nothing to them?

You tell them to stop but they tell you that they didn't do anything to you.

Then, when they keep doing it until you can't stand it any longer, you go up to the teacher and tell him or her to tell them to stop bothering you.

They say that they didn't do anything to bother you.

Then the teacher asks the person sitting next to you.

He says, "Yes, she didn't do anything to her" and you have no witness to turn to.

So the teacher thinks you are a liar.

You have to live in somebody else's country to understand.

What is it like when you try to talk and you don't pronounce the words right?

They don't understand you.

They laugh at you but you don't know that they are laughing at you, and you start to laugh with them.

They say, "Are you crazy, laughing at yourself? Go get lost, girl."

You have to live in somebody else's country without a language to understand.

What is it like when you walk in the street and everybody turns around to look at you and you don't know that they are looking at you?

Then, when you find out, you want to hide your face but you don't know where to hide because they are everywhere.

You have to live in somebody else's country to feel it.



# NATIVE AMERICANS

In *Who Belongs Here?* by Margy Burns Knight, the author writes: "For at least 10,000 years before [immigrants made the U.S. their home], the U.S. was inhabited by thousands of tribes of native people. Descendents of these tribes live in the U.S. today."

What Native American Nations still exist in the U.S. today? Where do they live? What can you learn about their culture?

Name of Nation	Location	Cultural Facts
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

# A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

In *Who Belongs Here?* by Margy Burns Knight, the author writes: "In the last five hundred years millions of people have made the U.S. their home. Some came by choice, while others were forced from their homelands by war, slavery, or famine...From 1892 to 1954 more than 12 million immigrants from at least 50 countries arrived on boats at Ellis Island, an immigration station in New York City."

What are some of the immigrant groups that make up our nation today? How many people from each of these countries live in the U.S.? Why did they leave their homelands?

<b>Immigrant Group/Country</b>	<b>Number of People in U.S.</b>	<b>Reasons for Immigrating</b>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

## ONE NATION, MANY LANGUAGES

In *Who Belongs Here?* by Margy Burns Knight, the author writes: "At least 350 languages are spoken in the U.S. today, and many English-language words come from other languages. Kindergarten is a German word that means children's garden, and Mississippi is a Chippewa word for large river. Jeans became the English word for Gênes, which is the French spelling of Genoa, a city in Italy. The original material for jeans was imported from Genoa."

What are the main languages spoken in the U.S. today in addition to English? How many people in the U.S. speak those languages? What are some words or expressions from each language that have become a part of our everyday speech?

Language	Number of Speakers in U.S.	Common Words/Phrases
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

## GIFTS FROM MANY LANDS

In *Who Belongs Here?* by Margy Burns Knight, the author writes: "Peanuts, peppers, corn, squash, and avocados are among America's native foods. Bagels, tortillas, olive oil, curry, potatoes, pretzels, and rice are some of the many foods brought to the U.S. from other countries."

What other foods or products originate from foreign countries? When and how did they arrive in the U.S.? How are they prepared or used?

Products from Other Places	When/How They Arrived	How They are Used
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

# CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND IMMIGRANTS

In *Who Belongs Here?* by Margy Burns Knight, the author writes: "Parts of the U.S. Constitution were modeled after the Great Law of Peace, a political system that six nations of Iroquois people developed in the 1500s and used for several hundred years. Representatives of each nation spent long hours talking about ways to build peace and cooperation among their people."

What are some other contributions from Native Americans or immigrant groups? What person or nation is responsible for the contribution? How has each contribution helped to shape the way we live in the U.S.?

Contribution	Who Introduced It?	How It Affects Our Lives
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		