

The Hispanic Migration into Iowa

Joan Lehman – School not available

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| Grade Level (Req.): 6th grade | Content Area (Req.): Human Geography, American History, English/Reading | Unit (Opt.): |
| Connections to Other Disciplines (Opt.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • | | |
| Time Frame (Req.): 1 to 2 class periods | Goal (Req.): To become aware and realize the positive and negative impact of Hispanic migration to Hispanics and to Iowa. | |
| | Objective (Req.): Students will list, compare, and contrast the positives and negatives of Hispanics to Iowa. Students will interpret data from census. | |
| Materials Needed (Req.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa maps • Colored pencils • Pro and con sheet • Teacher sheets on immigration diaries and Hispanic farmer • Voting strips (red-no, yellow-abstain, and green-go) • • | New Vocabulary (Opt.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • | |
| Anticipatory Set/Introduction [Inquiry Question is required] (Req.): How do Hispanics have a place in Iowa? | | |
| Instructional Sequence/Procedure (Req.): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have two students read the excerpts from the 1900 diaries. Point out that these people did not agree about immigration. 2. Next read “The Problem to Solve”. 3. Appoint one student as the father who is trying to survive, read about him. 4. Next divide students into groups, tell them to “act” as the family, and brainstorm the positives and negatives of moving, then the family votes by holding up the paper strips. (A quick glance gives you the results, usually.) 5. Lastly, look at the census information about Hispanic migration into Iowa and plot it on the Iowa maps. Summarize what was discussed in journals or orally. 6. EXTENSIONS: Look at the test for immigrants wanting citizenship. 7. Research or debates on NAFTA. 8. Essential Spanish words or phrases needed / Match-up game with English and Spanish. 9. Research Cesar Chavez or other Hispanics. 10. Use “Josephina” books to contrast cultures. 11. Possibility of visiting with a census taker. 12. Research poverty levels in the area from county. 13. | | |

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Formative Evaluation (Req.): Class participation and discussion

Assessment (Req.): Pros and cons chart. Map of Iowa's Hispanic migration.

Iowa Core Curriculum Standards Used (Req.):

- Geography, grade 6-8: Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.
- Geography, grade 6-8: Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development society and the movement of populations.
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Common Core Curriculum Standards Used (Opt.):

- Reading for Literature, grade 6-12: Read and comprehend literature at a specific grade level with scaffolding striving to do independently.
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NGS Standards Used (Req.):

- The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human population on Earth's surface
- The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement
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Five Themes of Geography Used (Req.):

- Location
- Place
- Human-Environmental Interaction
- Movement
- Region

School District Standards and Benchmarks (Opt.):

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21st Century Universal Constructs (Opt.): Critical Thinking, Collaboration

Other Disciplinary Standards (Opt.):

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Other Essential Information (Opt.):

Other Resources (Opt.):

- Exploring Canada and Latin America, Heath Social Studies, 1991
- Iowa census books
- Internet
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EXCERPTS FROM THE 1900 DIARIES

"What did I myself look forward to when I left my home, my mother, and my little sisters? My way was hard, harder than many of those emigrants because I was all alone, no help from anyone could I expect, and I was not very big, never worked before. I had just graduated from high school when I decided to run away. What made me take the hardships of the long way? Not the looking forward made me go, but the looking backward made me search for a new life and struggle a hard battle. . .America means. . .a promised land that came out true, a land that gives all they need for their work, a land which gives them human rights, a land that gives morality through her churches and education through her free schools and libraries."

"My dear sister, in America it is not better than in our country: whoever does well, he does, and whoever does poorly, suffers misery everywhere. I do not suffer misery, thanks to God, but I do not have much pleasure either. Many people in our country think that in America everybody has much pleasure. No, it is just as in our country, and the churches are like ours, and in general everything is alike

Excerpt made by immigrants in 1900 from Exploring Canada and Latin America, Heath Social Studies, 1991.

THE PROBLEM TO SOLVE

In the twenty-first century you are a farmer who lives 200 miles (320 kilometers) northwest of Mexico City. Your home is made of adobe and you have no electricity or running water. Your six children sleep in a single room. You farm 3.5 acres (1.4 hectares)* of land. Last year your corn harvest was not good enough to cover your expenses. As a result, you borrowed money from the bank for expenses and for seed for the coming year. You need an **unusually** good harvest. The rains have not come and the seeds have not sprouted. You are thinking of going to the United States. In Mexico you make \$7 a day if you are lucky and in the United States you could make that much an hour.

You and your family are going to brainstorm the positives and negatives of this decision. After the brainstorming you and your family will vote on the decision. Of course, **you** will decide what you want to do, even if your decision does not coincide with the family.

*hectare.....a unit of surface or land measure equal to 100 acres, or 10,000 square meters (2.47 1 acres). Abbr. ha

Students will produce this sort of list.

Examples of Pros and Cons for migration to Iowa for Hispanics

Pros

Make more money

Better living

Can send money to family

Can get visa for short time

Away from persecution

Better housing

Help from gov. agencies

Able to go home soon

Make new friends

Learn new things

Better medical care

Better employment

More money

Education

Cons

Have to take lower paying job

Language barrier

Must leave family

Visas run out

Limited affordable housing

Stereotyping

Schools not prepared

Churches not prepared

Outcast back home

Adjust to food

Adjust to weather

Low pay

Can you obtain medical care?

Transportation

Map of Counties in Iowa

