

# THIS IS AMERICA

Humans moving across the world has been a consistent part of human history. The United States has always welcomed the poor huddled masses yearning to breathe free or at least since it was placed on the foot of the Statue of Liberty in 1886. What is the significance of that year? What wave of migration was the US in during this time? In this project, we will be investigating US history through the lens of who was here before 1492 and through the waves of migration and trafficking, which has led to our current population.

## Essential Questions

- ★ Why do people immigrate to the United States?
- ★ What challenges have immigrants faced throughout history?
- ★ What challenges do immigrants face today?
- ★ How do immigrants negotiate between two cultural worlds?
- ★ How do we design school to make sure kids don't have to negotiate between two cultural worlds?
- ★ Do we live in a diverse society that is also inclusive and equitable?



## Historical Content Broken Down by Week:

Students will be learning about these waves of migration and investigating the legacies of that wave.

1. Indigenous History and Legacy
2. European Migration and Legacy
3. Slavery (trafficking) and Legacy
4. Latin American Migration and Legacy
5. Asian/Middle East Migration and Legacy

## Lit Circle Books:

Students will be able to specialize in one particular wave based on the Lit Circle book they select for this project. Students will be in product groups based on their Lit Circle book.

1. Danny Blackgoat by Tim Tingle - Indigenous Experience
2. One Eye Laughing, The Other Weeping by Barry Denenberg - Irish Experience
3. Copper Sun by Sharon Draper - Slavery Experience
4. How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez - Puerto Rican Experience
5. Girl in Translation by Jean Kwok - Hong Konger Experience
6. A Land of Permanent Goodbyes by Atia Abawi - Syrian Experience

## Products:

1. A group painted US map to represent the history learned and the story told in the Lit Circle book.
2. Immersive Exhibition Experience Created by Your Country of Origin Group
  - a. A recorded monologue from the perspective of a person who came from the country of origin you studied - focusing on their ability to assimilate into US culture.
  - b. A 1st person diary from the perspective of a person who came from the country of origin you studied - focusing on their journey to come to the US.
  - c. A research based infographic - focusing on the issues in the country of origin you studied.
3. What Can We Do To Help? Proposal

| Week | Project Learning  |
|------|---|
| 1    | <input type="checkbox"/> MoT Field Trip<br><input type="checkbox"/> Book Selection<br><input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship in the US  |
| 2    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lit Circle Week 1<br><input type="checkbox"/> Constitution<br><input type="checkbox"/> Disenfranchisement  |
| 3    | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous History<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lit Circle Week 2<br><input type="checkbox"/> Start Working in Product Groups   |
| 4    | <input type="checkbox"/> European Migration<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lit Circle Week 3<br><input type="checkbox"/> Continue Product Work   |
| 5    | <input type="checkbox"/> Holocaust Guest Speaker<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lit Circle Week 4<br><input type="checkbox"/> Slavery/Trafficking in the US  |
| 6    | <input type="checkbox"/> International Rescue Committee Guest Speaker<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lit Circle Week 5<br><input type="checkbox"/> Latin American Migration  |
| 7    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lit Circle/KBAR Reading Celebration!<br><input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Middle Eastern Migration<br><input type="checkbox"/> Work on products   |
| 8    | <input type="checkbox"/> Critique on products<br><input type="checkbox"/> Work on final drafts of products<br><input type="checkbox"/> What can we do to help brainstorming   |
| 9    | <input type="checkbox"/> What can we do to help proposals<br><input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition Roles<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prep for exhibition on Thursday 12/20<br><input type="checkbox"/> Clean up and reflect on the 21st |

Stuff just for me:

4. Audience station @ exhibition: what are the 5 things you would take with you if you had to flee? - poll everywhere

Field Trips:

1. [Museum of Tolerance](#)
- 2.

Speakers:

1. Border patrol
2. Holocaust survivor
3. Recent refugee
4. IRC speaker