

**Curriculum Unit
Title**

Perspectives On Cultural Identity Among Latinx Immigrants to the U.S.
Presented Through Authentic Film, Music, and Literature

Author

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KEY LEARNING, ENDURING UNDERSTANDING, ETC.

Students will interpret authentic materials in the target language.
Students will relate cultural practices and products to perspectives unique to the target culture.
Students will make connections between immigrant experiences and U.S. history, politics, current events, and literature.
Students will compare immigrant experiences and their own personal experiences.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) for the UNIT

- What factors contributed to the influx of Mexicans into the U.S.?
- How have Mexicans and Mexican Americans historically been treated in the U.S.?
- What were the Zoot Suit Riots?
- What role did the media and the police play in the Zoot Suit Riots?
- How does the film “Zoot Suit” connect to the reality of many Mexican immigrants and their children in the 1940s?
- How were the outcomes of the Sleepy Lagoon murder trials justified?
- What does all of this information mean to you?
- What factors contributed to the influx from the Caribbean into the U.S.?
- How do you analyze a Spanish-language infographic about immigration?
- How can charts and graphs help us see trends and make inferences?
- How do Cuban, Puerto Rican, and Dominican immigration stories relate to and differ from one another?
- What themes connect Caribbean immigration and Mexican immigration to the U.S.?
- Why does statelessness occur and what can be done to prevent it?
- How do political cartoons present different perspectives on immigration?
- How does the song “Un besito más” relate to immigration?
- How have American attitudes toward immigration changed over the years?
- What factors contribute to your cultural identity?
- What common themes are prevalent among Latinx immigration stories, as voiced through poems and essays?
- How can poetry illustrate a Latinx immigrant perspective?
- How have my attitudes and perceptions changed since the start of this unit?
- How can I teach what I have learned to others?

CONCEPT A**CONCEPT B****CONCEPT C**

Mexican Immigration to the U.S.

Caribbean immigration to the U.S.

Voices of immigration in the U.S.

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VOCABULARY A**VOCABULARY A****VOCABULARY A**

English: Mexican*Mexican American*territorial Shift*discrimination*racism*Latinxs*repatriation*zoot suit*Zoot Suit Riots*metatheatre* pachuco* blackout poetry
Spanish: ese*raza*gringo

English: push factors*pull factors*infographic*biculturalism*Americanization*cultural identity*imagery*assimilation
Spanish: EUA*viven*migrantes*estado*pobreza

English: statelessness*nationality*citizenship laws*political cartoons*linguistic structure*symbol*diaspora*nepantla*linguistic borders*indigenous
Spanish: enfrentar*peor*peligro*empleo incomprensión*me siento...*besito*marcharte*quedar*hace*deslenguadas*mestizaje*frontera*isla*¿A dónde vamos?*el deseo*la esperanza*el viaje*el encuentro*la realidad

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MATERIAL/TEXT/FILM/RESOURCES

- Maps of territorial shifts
- Several online articles
- Photographs taken during and after the Zoot Suit Riots
- The Luis Valdez film "Zoot Suit"
- Spanish-language infographic about Latinxs currently living in the U.S.
- Charts and graphs representing different aspects of Latinx immigration to the U.S.
- PBS "Latino Americans" video series
- Biographies of Esmeralda Santiago, Julia Alvarez, and Cristina García
- The novel, "When I Was Puerto Rican" by Esmeralda Santiago
- The novel, "How the García Girls Lost Their Accents" by Julia Alvarez
- The novel, "Dreaming in Cuban" by Cristina García
- Brief video on statelessness
- Quotes from several Latinxs
- The poem "To live in the borderlands" and the essay "nepantla...torn between ways" by Gloria Anzaldúa
- The poem "Child of the Americas" and the essay "Puertoricanness" by Aurora Levins Morales
- The poem "Borderbus" by Juan Felipe Herrera
- The poem "La frontera" by Alicia Gaspar de Alba
- The poem "El otro lado" by Sylvia S. Lizárraga
- The poem "Dedication" by Gustavo Pérez Firmat