

Section 1 Who Americans Are

Objectives

1. Discuss the variety of places where Americans live.
2. Find out how the American workforce is changing.
3. Learn why the average age of Americans is increasing.
4. Explore how our varied backgrounds contribute to what it means to be a United States citizen.

 Target Reading Skill

Read Ahead As you read, you may come across words and ideas whose meanings are not clear to you. To understand the meaning of new words and ideas, it sometimes helps to read ahead in the text. As you continue to read, the meanings of new words and ideas often become clear. Read the following paragraph. Do not stop reading when you come to the underlined words. Instead, read ahead to see if their meaning becomes clear.

Americans have always been on the move. At first most people lived on farms or in small towns. Later, people began to concentrate in urban areas. Why? They found jobs in factories and offices in cities and the large towns near them.

When you read ahead, it becomes clear that *concentrate* means “to gather together or come together in a place.” You also find out that an urban area is a city and the towns around it.

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Word Parts You can use the meanings of word parts to help you figure out the meaning of words as you read. Roots, prefixes, and suffixes are word parts. A root is the base of a word. It gives a word its basic meaning. A **prefix** is a word part that comes before a root. A **suffix** is a word part that comes after a root.

Take the word *terrain*, for example. The root, or base, of the word *terrain* is *terr-*. The root *terr-* means “land or earth.” The suffix *-ain* is added to *terr-* to make the word *terrain*. This added part means “having to do with.” You might define *terrain* then simply as “land,” “land feature,” or “landform.”

Section 1 Summary

1 Not all Americans are alike. We can get information about who Americans are from the study of demography.

Where Americans Live

5 The United States is a huge country. Americans live in all kinds of places, from high mountains to flat prairies. Americans also live in many different types of homes.

Americans have always been on the move. At first most people lived on farms or in small towns. Later, more people arrived. They and other settlers began to move west, where there was more land. Little by little, people began to live and work in cities and the large towns near them. They found jobs in factories and offices. Today, four out of five Americans live in or near cities. Some Americans from the North and East have moved to the South and West to live in the mild climate of the Sunbelt.

The Workforce

Americans have always worked hard. The first settlers from Europe cleared land to farm in the east. Since that time, Americans have farmed land on both coasts and in other places. Americans have built houses, stores, factories, and office buildings. We have made many kinds of products. These products are sold here and around the world.

25 About 60 million women and 70 million men make up the American workforce. They work at about 30,000 different jobs. Young people who work part-time or during the summer are also part of the workforce.

Key Terms

demography (dih MOG ruh fee) *n.* the study of the number of people in an area, the growth of that number, and the places where people live

Sunbelt (SUN belt) *n.* states where the weather is warm, such as Georgia, Florida, Texas, and Arizona

✓ Reading Check



Underline the phrases that tell why Americans have moved to urban areas and to the Sunbelt.

Target Reading Skill

Read Ahead The underlined sentence says that Americans have always worked hard, but it does not say how. Read ahead to get a clearer picture of the kinds of work Americans do. Circle ways that Americans worked in the past. Underline the kind of job most Americans will have in the future.

✓ Reading Check

Describe how the American work force has changed over the last hundred years.

✓ Reading Check

Circle the age group of the "baby boom generation." What effect has this group had on our society?



Vocabulary Strategy

Using Word Parts The root of the underlined word is *ethn-*. This root means "culture or nation." The suffix *-ic* means "having to do with." Use the root and suffix of the underlined word to explain what an ethnic group is.

✓ Reading Check

Describe a challenge our diverse society may face in the future.

One hundred years ago, most Americans worked on farms and in factories. Modern machines have changed
30 most jobs. By 2006, nearly 75 percent of American workers will have **service jobs**.

Ages of Americans

The number of Americans in different age groups has changed over time. In 1850, more than half of Americans were children. Today, there are more older
35 Americans than ever before. There are different reasons for this. Better medical care helps people live longer. A large number of people were born during the **baby boom**. They are now between the ages of 40 and 60. People also have fewer children today. In the future,
40 there may not be enough medical benefits and services for these aging Americans.

Americans' Varied Backgrounds

Americans are known for their **diversity**. Our jobs, hometowns, ages, and backgrounds show our differences. Our backgrounds differ because we are from different
45 cultures. We also belong to different races and ethnic groups.

Review Questions

1. What kinds of jobs did most American workers have one hundred years ago?

2. Why are there more older Americans today than ever before?

Key Terms

service job (SER vis JAHB) *n.* a job in which a person does something for other people

baby boom (BAY bee BOOM) *n.* the rise in the number of babies born from 1946 to 1964

diversity (dih VER sih tee) *n.* differences

Section 2

America: A Cultural Mosaic

Objectives

1. Explain what is meant by the American identity.
2. Discuss the contributions of European, Hispanic, African, Asian, and Native Americans to American society.
3. Describe the U. S. population today.

Target Reading Skill

Reread Rereading is another way to figure out the meaning of words and ideas that you do not understand. If what you read is not clear, try rereading it. As you read the text a second time, look for connections between words and sentences.

Read the following paragraph. Then reread it to find connections that help make the meaning of the word *immigrants* clear.

America is sometimes called a nation of immigrants. Immigrants not only brought their dreams for a better life to America, they also brought ways of life from their homelands.

Words and sentences in the paragraph help explain that immigrants are people who move from one country to make their homes in another.

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Word Parts Many words can be divided into parts. To find the meaning of a word with a prefix or suffix, put the meanings of the root and other word parts together. The suffix *-ness*, for example, means "quality or state." It can be added to many different roots.

Root	+	Suffix	=	Word
empty	+	-ness	=	emptiness "quality of being empty"
lonely	+	-ness	=	loneliness "state of being lonely"

Section 2 Summary

✓ Reading Check

Underline the two sentences that explain why it is not correct to say that America is a melting pot.



Vocabulary Strategy

Using Word Parts Use what you know about the meaning of the suffix *-ness* to explain the meaning of the underlined word.

✓ Reading Check

Circle the sentence that tells whether European immigrants were more alike or more different.



✓ Reading Check

List three areas in which Hispanic culture has affected culture in the United States.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

1 People from many countries have made their homes in America. These different groups add to the richness of American society.

The American Identity

America has been called a nation of **immigrants**.

5 Immigrants have helped make America diverse.

The United States is sometimes called a “melting pot.” The idea is that immigrants melted into American society. They gave up ways of life from the lands where they were born. But all Americans are not the same.

10 Americans have kept parts of their different cultures.

Americans are really part of a mosaic, not a melting pot. A mosaic is made up of small tiles. The tiles are different sizes, shapes, and colors. Together the tiles make a whole picture. Together the groups in the

15 United States form a whole nation.

European Americans

Europeans were among the first immigrants. These people had different governments, languages, religions, and customs. The number of European immigrants is smaller today than in the past. But European

20 Americans are still the largest part of our population.

Hispanic Americans

Hispanic Americans, or Latinos, share a culture from Spanish-speaking countries. They can be of any race. Latino foods, music, and architecture have added to United States culture.

African Americans

25 African Americans have suffered from **discrimination**.

They could not attend schools with white people or live in neighborhoods with whites. Such unfair treatment

Key Terms

immigrants (IM i gruhnts) *n.* people who move from one country to another

discrimination (dih skrim i NAY shun) *n.* being unfair to one group

was caused by **racism**. Since the 1960s, African Americans and others have worked for change. More choices in education, jobs, and housing are available to African Americans. But there is still work to be done.

Asian Americans and Native Americans

Some of the first Asians came here after the discovery of gold in 1849. Other groups said Asians were taking away jobs. In 1882 and 1907, **exclusion laws** were passed to keep immigrants from China and Japan from coming to America. These laws ended in 1952. Since then many Asian immigrants have come here.

Native Americans had been living here for thousands of years before Columbus. Then Europeans settled on land Native Americans used. Native Americans fought for their lands. But they were pushed west. By the late 1800s, thousands had died. Today, Native Americans are only a small part of the population.

Our Population Today

The 2000 census showed that about 25 percent of the United States population is not white, compared with 20 percent in 1990. Our ancestors come from all over the world. Each group adds to the richness of America.

Review Questions

1. Why is America like a mosaic? Explain.

2. What does the 2000 census show about the United States population today?

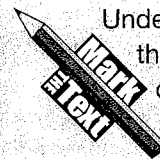
Key Terms

racism (RAY sih zum) *n.* the belief that your own race is better than others

exclusion laws (ek SKLOO shun LAWZ) *n.* laws that stopped people from China and Japan from moving to America

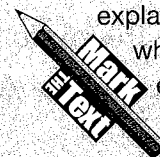
census (SEN sus) *n.* a count of people made every ten years

✓ Reading Check



Underline the sentences that give examples of discrimination against African Americans.

✓ Reading Check



Underline the sentence that explains what happened when the exclusion laws ended.

✓ Reading Check

Circle two words or phrases that tell how European settlers affected Native Americans in the 1800s.

✓ Reading Check

How did the United States population change between 1990 and 2000? List one possible social effect of this change.



Target Reading Skill

Reread Reread the paragraph under “Asian Americans” to understand why laws were passed to keep Asian immigrants from coming to America. Circle the sentence that explains the reason for the exclusion laws.

Section 3
The Values That Unite Us

Objectives

1. Learn why equal respect is part of the American Dream.
2. Describe the basic values that unite us as a nation.
3. Understand how Americans can help achieve our ideals.

 Target Reading Skill

Paraphrasing Paraphrasing is another tool that can help you better understand what you read. Paraphrasing is putting what you have read in your own words. Read the sentence below out loud.

Everyone, regardless of age, sex, race, wealth, opinions, or education, has worth and importance.

Now try paraphrasing what you have read by saying it again in your own words. One way to paraphrase the sentence is:

Everyone is important. It does not matter what a person's age, sex, or race is. It does not matter what his or her views are. Worth is not measured by money or education.

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Word Parts Prefixes and suffixes can change the meaning of a word. Some prefixes, such as *un-*, *non-*, *dis-*, and *im-*, mean "not." When one of these prefixes is added to a root, it changes the root's meaning. Take the word *uncommon*, for example. When *un-* is added to the root *common* it changes the meaning to "not common."

Section 3 Summary

1 America is a diverse nation. What brings us together as one people?

Equal Respect: The American Dream

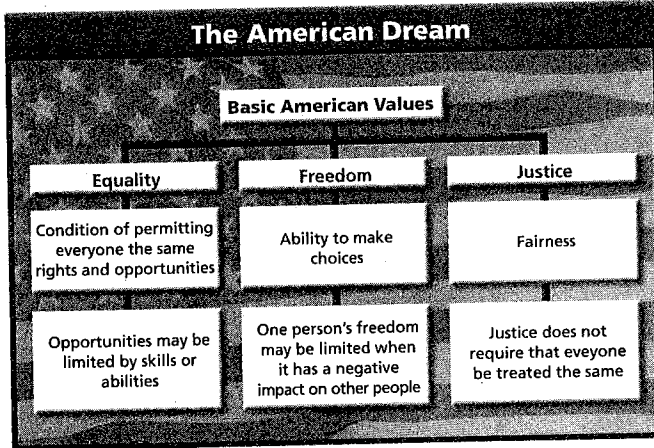
Certain beliefs and values hold Americans together. Our nation was founded on these beliefs and values.

5 Many people from other countries have come here because of these beliefs. Immigrants to America often have dreams of a better life. They believe that people are important no matter what their age, sex, race, wealth, or education. This is a basic American belief.

Basic American Values

10 Americans believe that everyone should have the same chance to become what he or she can be. In other words, every person has the right to be treated with equal respect.

15 Three basic values stand behind the American belief that all people deserve equal respect.



20 In order for each person to become the best that he or she can be, there must be equality. Equality is one of our basic values. Part of equality is equal opportunity. This means that our race, gender, religion, background, and opinions should not prevent us an equal

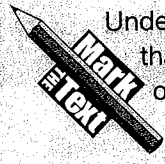
Key Terms

beliefs (bih LEEFS) *n.* things thought to be true

values (VAL yooz) *n.* things thought to be important

equality (ih KWahl ih tee) *n.* having the same rights and chances

✓ Reading Check



Underline the sentence that tells about the role, or part, that beliefs and values play in American society.

↻ Target Reading Skill

Paraphrasing Paraphrase the underlined sentence.

✓ Reading Check

Give an example of each American value.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Word Parts Use what you know about the meaning of the prefixes *im-* and *dis-* to define the underlined words.

✓ Reading Check

Which of the following in Thomas's story shows that Americans need to work harder to give all equal respect? Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- a. freedom
- b. racism
- c. equality

chance to succeed in life. **Freedom** is a second basic value. A third basic value is **justice**.

Citizens and the American Ideal

Our beliefs are an idea of how we want the United States to be. But our society is not perfect. It is imperfect. We try to live up to our beliefs and values. But we do not always reach these goals.

Thomas Pham came from Vietnam to live here. He heard that everyone in the United States has freedom and equality. He found out that this is not always true. At school here, Thomas felt that people did not treat him the same as citizens who were born here. He was treated differently because of his race.

Not everyone in the United States shows equal respect for others. We sometimes distrust people who are different. We still need to work to make sure that all Americans enjoy equality, freedom, and justice.

Review Questions

1. What beliefs and values bring Americans together as a nation?

2. How can Americans achieve our ideals?

Key Terms

freedom (FREE dum) *n.* being able to make choices

justice (JUS tis) *n.* fairness

Objectives

1. Learn why people form groups.
2. Describe the five major social institutions.

 **Target Reading Skill**

Set a Purpose To better understand what you read, try setting a purpose for reading. Before starting, look at the headings and visuals in the text. Headings are short titles that tell about parts of the text. Visuals include all kinds of images such as photographs, tables, and maps. Headings and visuals give you information about the text. This information can give you a purpose, or focus, for reading what follows.

The title of this section is "Groups and Institutions." This title tells you the section is about groups and institutions. You know what a group is. One purpose for reading would be to find out what an institution is. You might also read to find out how groups and institutions affect you.

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Context Clues to Determine Meaning Sometimes you may read a word you recognize, but the word is used in a new way. To get a clearer idea of the meaning of the word, you can look at its context. The words, sentences, and paragraphs surrounding the word are its context. The context gives clues to the word's meaning.

For example, the word *dashes* commonly means "runs quickly." But it has a different meaning in this sentence: She *dashes* her new doll on the floor, breaking it into pieces." The clue is that the doll is broken into pieces. This clue tells you that here *dashes* means "throws down with force and anger."

