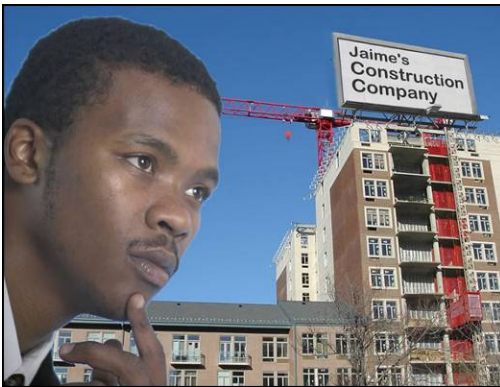


Civics READER



COMING TO AMERICA

Picture Story
COMING TO AMERICA



Thousands of adults and children immigrate to the United States of America each year.



They come from different places, and they have different reasons for coming.



Some immigrants want to unite with their families.



Others want opportunities, education, and jobs.



They want a better life, and they want to use their skills.



They want to be safe.



They have different hopes for the future.



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Picture Story
I CAME TO BE SAFE



My name is Milan and I am from Bosnia.



I am fifty-five. I came to the United States to be safe.



I escaped a terrible situation in my home country. There was a civil war.



I am a refugee, and I live in Denver, Colorado. I like my life now.



I stay at home and take care of my garden, and I visit with other immigrants from Bosnia.



I am content and secure.



My children live in New York City.



Sometimes I read in the newspaper about crime in New York.



I remember September 11, 2001 and I hope my children are safe.

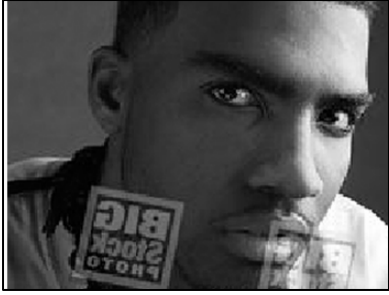


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Picture Story

I CAME TO GET A JOB



My name is Jaime. I came to the United States to get a job.



I am from the Dominican Republic and I am twenty-six.



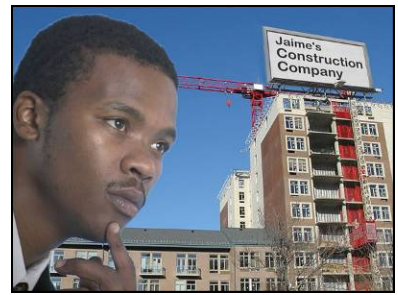
My mother and father are still in Santo Domingo.



I live in Washington, D.C.



I am lucky because I have a job in construction.



I make good money, but my hope is to own a construction company.



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DICTIONARY

Words	Explanations
America	the United States of America, North, South, and Central America (I came to America for a better life.)
chance	opportunity, possibility that something will happen (I came to the U.S. to have a better chance for success.)
civil war	war between people in the same country (The United States had a civil war between the North and the South.)
college	institution of higher learning (After I get my GED, I'm going to college.)
completed	finished, accomplished (I completed my homework. Now I can watch television.)
construction	building trade (My job is in construction.)
content	feeling satisfied (I am content with my new life.)
crime	illegal act (There seem to be more and more robberies. The crime rate is going up.)
escape	run away from a dangerous situation (I walked many days to escape from civil war.)
father	male parent (My father works in construction.)
garden	a place with plants and flowers (I have flowers and vegetables in my garden.)
hopes	wishes and expectations (I hope I win the lottery!)
husband	man who is married to a woman (My husband and I have three children.)
job	work or profession (I have a job as a truck driver.)
legal	related to law, within the law (I swear your honor. I thought it was legal to turn right on a red light.)
lucky	fortunate (I just won the lottery. I am very lucky.)
mother	female parent (My mother gave birth to twins.)
opportunity	good option, favorable condition (I am lucky. I have the opportunity to go to school.)
own	possess (I want to own a construction company.)
perfect	without fault, excellent, ideal (This house has three bedrooms and a family room. It is perfect for my family.)
permanent	everlasting, never changing (I'm tired of temporary employment. I wish I had a permanent job.)
place - places	an area or space (There are many places in the world to visit.)
provide	supply somebody with something (I will provide you with the information you requested.)
reasons	motivation (I have many reasons for coming to America.)
refugee	a person who escaped his or her country. (He escaped civil war. He is a refugee.)
reunite	join together again (Many family members come to America to reunite with their relatives.)

reunited	unite again, come together again (After three years, I was finally reunited with my family.)
safe	secure, not in danger (I feel safe when I am home.)
secure	safe, not worried (I live in a safe neighborhood. I feel secure in my home.)
separated	no longer together, detached (I live in the U.S. My children live in Europe. I am separated from my family.)
situation	circumstance, existing conditions (Here's my situation: I need work but I do not have skills.)
skills	things you can do (I am a good welder and cook. I can also play a guitar. These are some of my skills.)
thousands	1,000, 2,000, 3,000, etc. (I have thousands of dollars in the bank.)
twins	two identical persons or things (My sister has twin boys.)
unhappy	sad, not happy, displeased (I am very unhappy to be separated from my family.)
unite	join (The people will unite under one leader.)
Washington D.C.	city, the capital of the United States (The president lives in Washington, D.C.)
weekend	the end of the week, Saturday and Sunday (This weekend I'm going to shop for clothes.)

Phrases	Explanations
each year	2004, in 2005, in 2006, etc. (I go back to Mexico to visit my parents each year.)
good money	a lot of money (I am paid good money to do my job.)
home country	where you are from (I am from Bosnia. My home country is Bosnia.)
join us	come together with others (Please join us for the Christmas party.)
stay at home	remain in the house (I don't work. I stay at home.)
still in	remaining (She is still in Africa.)
take care of	comfort, support (I need a babysitter to take care of my children.)
terrible situation	very unpleasant occurrence (We had no food or water. It was a terrible situation.)



I CAME TO GET BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MY CHILDREN

My name is Silvia. I am an immigrant from Mexico. I have a husband and five children. I came to the United States to provide better opportunities for my young children. I have twins and three older girls, who are 24, 26, and 28. My family is separated. We have two homes: one is in El Paso, Texas, and the other is in Juarez, Mexico. I live in El Paso with the twins. They are five years old. I want my children to learn English and get an education in the United States. They need a chance for a better life. They need more opportunities.

My husband lives with the three older girls in Mexico. One has completed college. The other two girls don't have jobs. On the weekend, my husband comes to El Paso to visit us. The situation is not perfect. My husband cannot join us permanently. He has no job in El Paso and cannot work in the United States legally. Sometimes I am unhappy. I hope that my family can be reunited one day.