Check Your Assumptions
What you know versus what you think you know about immigration

In this activity, you will measure your baseline knowledge about immigration to the United States, and about immigrants themselves. Although this is in a quiz format, you are not going to be graded on how many correct answers you choose. Instead, it’s a way to look at your current understanding so that you can contrast that with actual data in a later activity.

1.) What is your best guess as to the number of immigrants (including authorized and unauthorized) living in the United States?
   A.) 12 million       C.) 80 million
   B.) 44 million       D.) 120 million

2.) What percentage of the overall U.S. population consists of immigrants?
   A.) 23%             C.) 44%
   B.) 14%             D.) 4%

3.) Immigrants are the foreign-born population of the U.S. They come from all corners of the world. Using numbers 1 – 10, rank the countries(regions from which you believe the most immigrants originate. Mark 1 for the country that you believe is the birth nation of the most immigrants and 10 for the least immigrants.

   _____ China
   _____ India
   _____ México
   _____ Vietnam
   _____ El Salvador

   _____ Guatemala
   _____ Philippines
   _____ Cuba
   _____ Korea
   _____ Dominican Republic
4.) The majority of immigrants have lived in the U.S. for:
   A.) 1 year  C.) 0 – 6 months
   B.) 5 years  D. 15 years

5.) Undocumented or unauthorized immigrants make up ___ percent of the total population of all immigrants in the U.S. (In media, these are immigrants that are sometimes called “illegal”).
   A.) 40%  C.) 24%
   B.) 82%  D.) 9%

6.) Immigrants make up ___ percent of the U.S. workforce.
   A.) 7%  C.) 4%
   B.) 17%  D.) 14%

7.) About ___ percent of immigrants over the age of 5 are proficient in the English language.
   A.) 11%  C.) 78%
   B.) 27%  D.) 50%

8.) Of the 35.2 million legal immigrants living in the U.S., how many have become citizens?
   A.) 21 million  C.) 2 million
   B.) 11 million  D.) 30 million

9.) For an immigrant to become a citizen, they must first become a legal permanent resident by:
   A.) Crossing a border  C.) Proving persecution in another country
   B.) Obtaining a green card  D.) Filling out an application at the DMV

10.) The majority of green cards (permission for legal permanent residence) are issued to immediate family members of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. But, the wait time for an extended family member can take more than:
    A.) 2 years  C.) 10 years
    B.) 5 years  D.) 20 years
11.) Mark all that apply: The following are ways that immigrants can legally live in the United States permanently.
   A.) H-1B Visa (STEM skills)  
   B.) Temporary Student/Work Visa  
   C.) Applying as a refugee from outside the country  
   D.) Applying for asylum after reaching the U.S.

12.) True or False?
The current presidential administration has limited legal as well as illegal immigration.

13.) If you do not have a family, work or study connection, and are not fleeing persecution, your only hope of a green card is through the Diversity Lottery. As an example, in 2017, had you entered the lottery, you would have been competing against how many other people from around the world to get a green card?
   A.) 800,000  
   B.) 4 million  
   C.) 22 million  
   D.) 1 billion

14.) True or False?
The number of immigrants entering the United States without authorization has risen over the past 10 years.

15.) How many unauthorized immigrants are estimated to live in the U.S.?
   A.) 975,000  
   B.) 10.5 million  
   C.) 41.2 million  
   D.) 19 million

16.) Mark all the countries/regions from which immigrants enter the U.S. illegally.
   Mexico  
   Central America  
   Asia  
   East Africa  
   Canada  
   Middle East  
   Europe  
   Caribbean

17.) True or False?
The number of unauthorized immigrants having babies in the U.S. has risen in recent years.
17.) Circle the top 6 states where the majority of unauthorized immigrants live.

Washington  California  Illinois  Arkansas
New York  Texas  Florida  Georgia
Oregon  Hawaii  Arizona  New Jersey

18.) Young adults who were brought to the U.S. without documents (illegally) as children are currently eligible for DACA status (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). DACA allows these young people who grew up here to continue to live and study or work in the United States. But, DACA is currently being challenged in the Supreme Court by the Trump Administration. If DACA is ended, about how many young workers and students could be deported?

A.) 150,000  C.) 2 million
B.) 700,000  D.) 4 million

19.) TPS (Temporary Protected Status) is a program that historically has allowed people from Central America and the Caribbean to reside and work in the U.S. on a short term basis. It was designed to provide relief for people from those regions who have been affected by dangers like disease, natural disasters and conflict. The current administration declared it is ending Temporary Protected Status for the majority of affected nations. As an example, 60,000 Haitians received TPS after the devastating earthquake of 2010. In contrast, Bahamans displaced by Hurricane Dorian in 2019 were denied Temporary Protected Status.

As Temporary Protected Status winds down, it will most affect people fleeing danger in which countries:

A.) El Salvador  C.) Venezuela
B.) Cuba  D.) Honduras

20.) True or False?

Apprehensions of people trying to cross illegally on the U.S.-Mexico border have risen in past years, to crisis levels never before imagined.