



**nick
NEWS**

**KIDS, IMMIGRATION
AND EQUALITY**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The *Nick News Special: Kids, Immigration & Equality* explains the complicated issue of immigration in the United States for kids. The special introduces the history of immigration and shares stories from individuals about their or their family's experience.

**HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO CONTINUE THE
CONVERSATION WITH KIDS FROM A PERSONAL,
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE.**

The fabric of America is made up of Indigenous peoples, formerly enslaved persons and immigrants. 25% of kids under the age of 18 have an immigrant parent or grandparent. Kids and families shared their immigration experiences in the special. Some people remembered the trip they took from their home country to the United States and some brought up memories of the first time they felt like an American. You can use this time to share your own experience or ask kids about their own.

- Do you, a friend or family member have an immigration experience?
- What is your/their home country and why did you/they leave?
- How did you/they feel when you/they learned you/they were moving to America?
- Did you/they ever feel scared or worried during this time? What made you/them feel better?
- What is your/their first memory of being in the United States?
- When did you/they feel accepted as an American?
- Is there anything about your/their experience you/they would change and why?

The *Nick News Special: Kids, Immigration & Equality* spoke about Hazleton, PA. This city generated headlines because the mayor created a law that fined landlords and businesses if they rented to or hired undocumented immigrants. The people of the city spoke up, protesting the law and won! Hazleton is now a beautiful blend of different cultures and ethnicities.

- What do you think about what happened in Hazleton?
- What do you notice about the place where you live? Are there any ways in which Hazleton is similar to your community, town or city?
- What would you want to tell others, especially immigrants, about the place where you live?
- Are there things you would like to be different about your community?
If so, what are some ways you can make those changes?
- Are there any special celebrations, parades, or other events your community uses to celebrate its diversity?

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KEY TERMS

14TH AMENDMENT

An amendment to the U.S. Constitution that recognizes citizenship of “all persons born or naturalized in the United States.” Passed after the Civil War, this included former enslaved people. Importantly, the amendment also guarantees to all persons both “due process” and “equal protection of the laws.” This amendment did not extend to Indigenous peoples. It was not until the passing of the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924 that all Indigenous persons were granted citizenship.

CITIZEN

A person who by place of birth, nationality of one or both parents, or naturalization is granted full rights and responsibilities of a political community.

DACA

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, is a policy created in 2012 by then-President Obama that protects certain young people who entered the United States illegally as children. It protects them from deportation and allows them to apply for a driver’s license and a work permit. DACA status must be renewed. New applications were suspended starting in 2017, but a federal judge in 2020 ruled that first time DACA applicants are allowed to apply. The Biden Administration has also reinstated the DACA program for existing recipients and new applicants.

DEPORTATION

The removal of an immigrant from a country for a legal reason. People may be deported for overstaying their visa or otherwise breaking immigration laws.

DREAMER

A person protected under the proposed “DREAM Act.” The DREAM Act was first proposed in 2001 but has never been passed or signed into law. To become a law a bill has to be passed by both houses of the United States Congress and signed by the President. The DREAM Act has been reintroduced several times and was recently passed in the House of Representatives in March 2021, but no action has been taken in the Senate. The proposal would permanently protect certain undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children but are vulnerable to deportation.

EMIGRATION

The act of leaving one country to live in a different country.

IMMIGRATION

The act of moving to one country from a different country with the intention of living there permanently.

IMMIGRANT

A person who makes the decision to move to a foreign country with the intention of settling there.

NATURALIZATION

The process of becoming a citizen of a country.

REFUGEE

A person who has been forced to leave their home because of war or violence, to find safety in another country.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT

A person living in the United States without U.S. citizenship or other legal permission.

VISA

A permit, or permission, for a person to enter a country for a specific reason like travel, residence, or work and for a specific period of time.

