

English and Social Studies Curriculum Guide

for the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns



SECTION 3: IMMIGRATION



Mercy Education
System of the Americas

Educación de la Misericordia
de las Américas

Immigration



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Definition

On the current immigration crisis, Pope Francis has stated that “those who build walls, and not bridges, are not Christian.” The heart of Christianity calls for “welcoming the stranger.” Amidst the growing movement of migrants and refugees fleeing violence, climate change, and war, Christians are called to protect migrant families, lobby for just immigration policies, respect the inherent dignity and rights of migrants, and address the root causes of migration in the world today.

Characteristics

- The Sisters of Mercy believe that government policies or individual actions that do not welcome immigrants are a form of violence.
- Other critical concerns, like care for the earth, racism, and nonviolence, have a direct connections to the issue of immigration.
- The Sisters of Mercy reverence the dignity of each person and believe everyone has the right to a decent home, livelihood, education, and healthcare. In the United States we work for just and humane immigration laws, a reduction in deportations that tear families apart, and an end to the detention bed quota. We look at the root causes of immigration, including U.S. policies that contribute to the economic and social conditions that push people to flee their countries, and the global impact of migration through our reality as an international community of women religious.

Essential Questions

- What are the similarities and differences between these terms: migrants, immigrants, emigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers?
- What are some of the root causes of immigration?
- How should the United States balance the need to defend its borders and the need to “welcome the stranger?”

- What can individuals do in support of immigrants and immigration policies that reflects Mercy priorities?
- How is climate change related to migration?
- What strategies are used to inflame anti-immigrant sentiment?

Recommended Topics

- European Refugee Crisis
- Syrian Civil War
- U.S./Mexico Border
- Climate Change and Migration
- U.S. Quota System
- Americanization/Assimilation
- Cultural Values
- Nativism

Recommended Resources

- [Catholic Charities: Immigration and Refugee Services](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy Justice Site on Immigration](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy Links on Immigration](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy Links on Mass Migration of Hondurans](#)
- [Podcasts & Videos - Institution for the Study of International Migration](#)
- [USCCB on Immigration](#)
- [Kennedy, Jennifer. Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute. "Crossing the Border, A Study of Immigration Through Literature." \(lesson plan\).](#)
- [Conceptual Unit Outlines](#)
- [NETWORK](#)
- [Tenement House Museum Website](#)

Recommended Readings

Articles

- [Immigration and the Gospel](#)
- [10 Myths About Immigration](#)
- [The Roots of Our Immigration Crisis](#)
- [Obama's Statement on DACA](#)
- [Strangers No Longer Together On The Journey of Hope](#)

Fiction

- Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle*
- Malamud, Bernard. *The Assistant*
- Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*

- Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club*
- Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies*
- Desai, Anita. *Fasting, Feasting*
- Jewett, Sarah Orne. *The Irish Stories*
- Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*
- Henriquez, Cristina. *The Book of Unknown Americans*

Nonfiction

- Fleming, Melissa. *A Hope More Powerful Than The Sea*
- Gillan, Maria Mazziotti and Jennifer Gillan eds. *Growing Up Ethnic in America: Contemporary Fiction About Learning to Be American*
- Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior*
- Bausum, Ann. *Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration*

Recommended Videos

- [The Journey from Syria](#)
- [Syria's War: Who is fighting and why](#)
- [DACA, explained](#)
- [What does the bible say? Refugees, migrants and foreigners](#)
- [Let's help refugees thrive, not just survive](#)

Lesson with Link and Source	Lesson Topics	Connection to English Curriculum	Connection to Social Studies Curriculum
<u>The Refugee Crisis and Human Responsibility</u> by Facing History and Ourselves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Refugee Crisis - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - The 1951 Refugee Convention and Protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying fictional works involving refugees - How do the events in the plot of the work relate to the refugee crisis today? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use when exploring the US response to WWII European refugees and the Marshall Plan (USHIS 1948-1951) and the Cuban Refugee Crisis (USHIS 1959-1980)
<u>The Immigration Debate</u> by PBS SoCal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposing Views on Immigration - Immigration Myths and Realities - Debate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying fictional works involving immigrants - Use when studying debate skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use when exploring mass deportations of Mexican Americans (USHIS 1930s)
<u>Immigration Policy - Past and Present</u> by PBS SoCal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timeline of U.S. Immigration Policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying fictional works involving immigrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use when exploring nativism during the Adams administration (USHIS 1798) and The Know Nothings party (USHIS 1840-50s)
<u>Myths About Immigration</u> by Teaching Tolerance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immigration Myths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying fictional works involving immigrants, especially those with conflicts that resolve with character's humanity overriding but respecting culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use when exploring the decline of American manufacturing jobs (USHIS 1979-2009)
<u>What Is An American?</u> by Library of Congress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crèvecoeur - Culture and Folk Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying fictional works in which characters' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when covering any immigration issues in history, the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary Sources - Oral History 	identity as Americans is key.	Chinese Exclusion, Act, the Know Nothings
<u>Immigration Patterns and Stereotypes</u> by The Opper Project at Ohio State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immigration Patterns - Immigrant Stereotypes - Effects of Immigration - Political Cartoons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying fictional works involving immigrants like <i>Interpreter of Maladies</i> and <i>The Woman Warrior</i>, that have conflicts involving clashes in cultural values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when covering any immigration issues in history