Contemporary America

Changing Patterns of Immigration
Essential Questions

- What factors have drawn immigrants to the United States?
- What immigrant groups account for the bulk of immigration?
- What issues are currently being debated related to immigration to the United States?
- What are some contributions made by immigrants?
New immigrant groups have increased American diversity and redefined American identity.

New and increasing immigration to the United States has been taking place from many diverse countries, especially Asian and Latin American countries.
Reasons for immigration

- **Political freedom** from oppressive governments (Cambodians from the 1970’s and Modern Haitians)
- **Refugees** from devastating wars (Southern Europe as well as Africa)
- **Economic opportunity** through jobs
Effects of Immigration

- Strain on government services
- Filling low-paying jobs in the United States
- Border issues
Effects of immigration

- Bilingual Education
  - English as a Second Language (ESL) courses
- Pathway to citizenship
- Increasing cultural diversity
Contributions of immigrants

- Popularity of ethnic food, music, and the arts
- Role in labor force – Immigrants continue to do jobs that others will not do, as well as work for less.
- Expanded source of scientists and engineers