

Immigration Famous Immigrants

The United States has a rich history of immigrants. Many have overcome great odds to rise to the top of their fields. Find out more about their **remarkable**¹ **feats**² by reading the chart below.

| Name | D.O.B. | Origin | Profession | Interesting Facts |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Peter Jennings | 1938 d. 2005 | Toronto, Canada | T.V. Broadcast Journalist | Anchor of ABC's <i>World News Tonight</i> . |
| Martina Navratilova | 1956 | Prague, Czech Republic | Professional Tennis Player | Winner of a record 167 singles titles, including Wimbledon, the French Open, and the U.S. Open. |
| Madeleine Albright | 1937 | Prague, Czech Republic | Former Secretary of State | Escaped both Nazi and Communist governments in Europe. |
| Gene Simmons | 1949 | Haifa, Israel | Singer | Co-founder of the rock group KISS. Used to be a schoolteacher. |

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|-----------------------|------|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Gloria Estefan | 1957 | Havana, Cuba | Singer | Received her B.A. in Psychology at the University of Miami. |
| Arnold Schwarzenegger | 1947 | Thal, Austria | Actor, Former Governor | Named Mr. Universe five times for bodybuilding. |
| Alex Trebek | 1940 | Sudbury, Canada | TV Game Show Host | First worked as a newscaster. |

¹ **remarkable** – worthy of notice

² **feats** – acts showing great skill, strength, or daring

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Albert Einstein | 1879 d. 1955 | Ulm, Germany | Scientist | Lived and worked in Princeton, NJ for nearly 30 years, until his death in 1955. |
| Mikhail Baryshnikov | 1948 | Riga, Latvia (U.S.S.R.) | Ballet Dancer | Starred in several motion pictures, including <i>The Turning Point</i> (1977), <i>White Nights</i> (1985), and <i>Dancers</i> (1987). |

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| Andy Garcia | 1956 | Havana, Cuba | Actor | Garcia's family fled Cuba's communist government when he was five and started a perfume company in Miami, FL worth millions of dollars. |
| Bob Hope | 1903 d. 2003 | London, England | Actor, Comedian | Appeared in over 50 films. Winner of five Academy Awards. |
| Henry Kissinger | 1923 | Furth, Germany | Former Secretary of State | Came with his family to the U.S. in 1938 to escape Nazi persecution of Jews. Won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1973. |

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| Hakeem Olajuwon | 1963 | Lagos, Nigeria | Professional Basketball Player | Leading shot-blocker in NBA history with 3,830 blocked shots. |
| Alexander Graham Bell | 1847 d. 1922 | Edinburgh, Scotland | Inventor | Patented the telephone, which revolutionized ³ communication, at the age of 29. |
| Patrick Ewing | 1962 | Kingston, Jamaica | Professional Basketball Player | Holds New York Knicks' team record for scoring, rebounding, blocked shots, and steals. |
| Audrey Hepburn | 1929 d. 1993 | Brussels, Belgium | Actress | This Oscar-winning film and Broadway star also became an ambassador ⁴ for UNICEF. She worked to aid hungry children in Africa and Latin America. |

³ **revolutionized** – changed completely

⁴ **ambassador** – the top person sent by a country to represent it in another country

| | | | | |
|-------------|------|--------------------|---|---|
| Yoko Ono | 1933 | Tokyo, Japan | Composer ⁵ , poet, singer. | Married John Lennon in 1969, just before the Beatles broke up. Made albums with Lennon. |
| Elie Wiesel | 1928 | Sighet, Romania | Author | Won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, after having survived Nazi concentration camps. |

⁵ **composer** – a writer of music

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the interesting fact about the one dancer on this list?
 - a. He played in the NBA.
 - b. He fled Cuba's communist government.
 - c. She was a professional tennis player.
 - d. He starred in several motion pictures.

2. How does the author organize the information in this passage?
 - a. The author lists and provides information about famous immigrants to the United States.
 - b. The author compares and contrasts famous immigrants to the United States.
 - c. The author uses evidence to persuade the reader of the importance of United States immigrants.
 - d. The author summarizes the accomplishments of immigrants by providing information in groups.

3. Regarding the information on Nazis, what can be inferred about their presence in other countries?
 - a. Nazis were present in several countries and caused people to flee and come to the United States.
 - b. Nazis were present in only Germany, and caused Henry Kissinger to come to the United States.
 - c. Nazis were present only in Romania, and caused Elie Wiesel to come to the United States.
 - d. Nazis were present in all other countries.

4. What can be inferred about the relationship between immigrants and TV and film?
 - a. Several immigrants gained fame in TV and film.
 - b. Immigrants completely took over the TV and film business.
 - c. Immigrants mostly shied away from careers in TV and film.
 - d. Immigrants did not ever enter the TV and film business.

5. Read the sentence:

“The United States has a **rich** history of immigrants.”

Which word could best replace **rich** as used in this sentence?

- a. wealthy
- b. cheap
- c. prosperous
- d. strong

6. This list is mostly about
- a. wealthy immigrants
 - b. notable immigrants
 - c. elderly immigrants
 - d. immigrants who were musicians

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Gene Simmons is the co-founder of the rock group KISS, _____ previously he was a schoolteacher!

- a. but
 - b. except
 - c. in conclusion
 - d. next
8. What can be concluded about the contributions of immigrants to American government?

9. How many immigrants have become notable for their athletics?

10. What can be concluded about the history of immigrants in the United States after reading this passage?

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 750

Featured Text Structure: Enumerative – the writer includes a list, giving examples of something. This text structure is often combined with cause/effect or problem/solution.

Passage Summary: In “Immigration: Famous Immigrants,” the author provides a list of famous immigrants. Each name is accompanied by his or her date of birth (and date of death, if applicable), origin town and country, profession, and one interesting fact.

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 - c. She was a professional tennis player.
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2. How does the author organize the information in this passage?
 - a. **The author lists and provides information about famous immigrants to the United States.**
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 - d. The author summarizes the accomplishments of immigrants by providing information in groups.

3. Regarding the information on Nazis, what can be inferred about their presence in other countries?
 - a. **Nazis were present in several countries and caused people to flee and come to the United States.**
 - b. Nazis were present in only Germany, and caused Henry Kissinger to come to the United States.
 - c. Nazis were present only in Romania, and caused Elie Wiesel to come to the United States.
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 - a. **Several immigrants gained fame in TV and film.**
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Gene Simmons is the co-founder of the rock group KISS, _____ previously he was a schoolteacher!

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8. What can be concluded about the contributions of immigrants to American government?

Suggested answer: Several immigrants contributed to American government, including Madeline Albright, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Henry Kissinger.

9. How many immigrants have become notable for their athletics?

Suggested answer: Four immigrants have become notable for their athletics: Patrick Ewing, Hakeem Olajuwon, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and Martina Navratilova.

10. What can be concluded about the history of immigrants in the United States after reading this passage?

Suggested answer: Immigrants have contributed to and had accomplishments in many areas of United States history, including TV and film, government, athletics, music, and science.