

Have you ever tasted a Latin American empanada, a Columbian arepa or Jamaican beef patty? Where did you have it? Was it in your house or at a restaurant? It is not hard to find these different types of food in Miami. This is because Miami is a “gateway city.” Many people coming from other countries to live in the United States settle in or pass through Miami. Any person who moves to a new country is called an IMMIGRANT. You are most likely an immigrant too. You either came to this country yourself, or a parent or ancestor came to this country a long time ago. The United States, especially Miami, is a place made up mostly of immigrants. When people immigrate to Miami they bring with them their customs and beliefs as well as their food, music and dance. These cultures blend together to form Miami’s diverse society.

Survey your class, ask each person where their family originally migrated from and color in the continents on the map below.

Gateways



Try to imagine what life is like for these new Americans: new language, new schools and new jobs. What day-to-day problems might they face? How did their lifestyle change?

Use the interview form on the next page to find out more about someone who has migrated to Miami and share it with your classmates.

Interview Worksheet

Person's name _____

Native Country _____

Immigration Date _____

Special events of the trip

Reasons immigrated

Arrival place in USA and first impression

How is the USA different from your native land?
