

Biographical Profile¹

America is a nation of immigrants. Our country has gained tremendously from contributions by people from many different ethnic groups. In this activity, you will research and create a biographical profile on one historical or current American.

1. Select one of the following persons:

Alvarez, Aida	LaGuardia, Fiorello
Armstrong, Louis	Lin, Maya
Baca, Elfego	Marshall, Thurgood
Brandeis, Louis	Means, Dennis
Campbell, Ben Nighthorse	Picotte, Susan LaFlesche
Cayetano, Benjamin	Resnick, Judith A.
Crazy Horse	Rockefeller, John D.
Douglass, Frederick	Salk, Jonas
Drew, Charles Richard	Scalia, Antonin
Du Bois, W.E.B.	Smith, Al
Escalante, Jaime	Tan, Amy
Huerta, Dolores	Truth, Sojourner
Hurston, Zora Neale	Valdez, Luis
Inouye, Daniel K.	Washington, Booker T.
Jordan, Barbara	Woods, Tiger
Kwan, Michelle	Yang, Jerry
Korematsu, Fred T.	

2. Use the questions in "Diversity Checklist: BIO" to help you think of questions to answer in your profile. The vast majority of your profile should focus on the questions under "Outcome in America."

3. Research. Use a variety of sources for your profile. Consider the following:

The Internet. Start at Constitutional Rights Foundation's Research Links. It has a section devoted to biography links. URL: <http://www.crf-usa.org/links/research1.html>

Library. Start with more general reference books like encyclopedias and history books before looking at magazine and newspaper articles. Biographies, autobiographies, and oral histories are rich sources. Ask the reference librarian for help.

4. Write your biographical profile.

5. Be prepared to present your biographical profile in an interesting way to the whole class.

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Diversity Checklist: Immigrant Stories

B I O

The United States is a nation of immigrants. Almost everyone has come to America from another place. Some have come recently. Others have been here for generations, even centuries. Many people know enough about their family history to create a profile of their immigrant experience. Below are some questions you can use to gather information about the immigrant experience of a friend, relative, or historical figure.

Beginning questions about the country the person's family came from:

1. Where did this person's family come from?
2. What was life like in this country?
3. Why did the family (or person) decide to immigrate?

Immigration questions:

4. When did the family (or person) immigrate? Who immigrated?
5. What route and means of transportation did the immigrants take? What was the journey like?
6. What hopes did the immigrants have about coming to America?

Outcome in America questions:

7. Where in the United States did the family originally settle? Where else in America did the family live?
8. What challenges or obstacles did the family (or person) encounter?
9. What did the person accomplish in America?