Immigration Resources
Curriculum Materials Center
David & Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

This is a selected list of materials that can be used for teaching about immigration in the K-12 classroom. Additional internet resources can be found at: Curriculum Materials webpage, http://www.wpunj.edu/library/cmc/lessonplans.html

Teaching Aids:


Call Number: Curr.Mats. JV6465 .I4724 2006

Call Number: Curr.Mats. HN90 .G56 U65 2015

The era of colonization and settlement Call Number: Curr.Mats. E175.8 .S25 1997 v.2

Juvenile Literature:

**Picture Books**

A young child describes what is like to be a migrant as she and her father travel north towards the US border.
**Call Number: PJ Bui**

A boy finally comes to understand why his grandmother insists that the family come to Ellis Island each year to celebrate Lady Liberty’s birthday.
**Call Number: PJ Bun**

While on a school trip a young immigrant, Farah, gains self-confidence when the green apple she picks perfectly complements the other students’ red apples.
**Call Number: PJ Bun**

When Saya’s mother is sent to jail as an illegal immigrant, she sends her daughter a cassette tape with a song and a bedtime story, which inspires her to write her own story.
**Call Number: PJ Dan**

When his father leads him on a trip of discovery through new fallen snow, a young boy who emigrated from his warm island home overcomes fears about living in New York.
**Call Number: PJ Fig**

During the Great Depression Pura Belpré, New York City’s first Puerto Rican librarian, introduced the public library to immigrants living in El Barrio.
**Call Number: PJ Gon**

Three children from other countries struggle to adjust to their new home and school in the United States.
**Call Number: PJ Obr**
A homemade quilt ties together the lives of four generations of an immigrant Jewish family, remaining a symbol of their enduring love and faith.
**Call Number: PJ Pol**

When Wei Fong loses his first tooth while going to his family’s naturalization ceremony many soon-to-be Americans join in the search.
**Call Number: PJ Pom**

Yoon, a Korean American, is excited to hear about Santa Claus and Christmas at her school, but her family tells her that such things are not part of their Korean tradition.
**Call Number: PJ Rec**

A mother and her two children set out on a journey, filled with fear and hope, after the war took their father.
**Call Number: PJ San**

A Japanese American recounts his grandfather’s journey to America and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries.
**Call Number: PJ Say**

When Papa Rabbit does not return home from working in the carrot and lettuce fields of El Norte, his son Pancho sets out on a dangerous trek to find him, guided by a coyote.
**Call Number: PJ Ton**

Two cousins leave their Russian shtetl with the rest of their family to come to America, hopeful that they will all pass the dreaded inspection at Ellis Island.
**Call Number: PJ Woo**
Fiction

When her beloved country, Chile, is taken over by a militaristic government, Celeste is sent to America for safety, her parents go into hiding.

*Call Number: J Ago*

Tyler’s family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their farm. When Tyler becomes friends with the oldest daughter he realizes friendship has no borders.

*Call Number: J Alv*

A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.

*Call Number: J An*

Three immigrant girls from different countries meet and become friends in a small New Jersey town where their mothers have found domestic work. Their relationships are tested when one girl’s mother is accused of stealing a precious heirloom.

*Call Number: J Bud*

Naeem tries to outrun the eyes of his hardworking Bangladeshi parents, their gossipy neighbors, and the other forms of surveillance in his neighborhood. Then the police offer a dark deal, will Naeem be a hero or a traitor?

*Call Number: J Bud*

Jaime makes the treacherous journey from his home in Guatemala to his older brother in New Mexico after his cousin is murdered by a drug cartel.

*Call Number: J Dia*

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland’s potato crop in 1845, Nory Ryan’s courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive their journey to America.

*Call Number: J Gif*
Johann and his family board a ship to immigrate to Youngstown, Ohio, where they make a new life as Americans.
Call Number: J Gun

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in America.
Call Number: J Lai

Sofia is quarantined at the Ellis Island Immigration Station after arriving in America with her family. She makes a good friend but endures nightmarish conditions.
Call Number: J Las

Drita is teased about not speaking English well when she and her family immigrate from Kosovo to New York. After popular student, Maxine, is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita they form a bond.
Call Number: J Lom

A Mexican boy tells of his journey to the U.S. with his family. They must face many dangers to cross the border, and experience the uncertainty felt by all illegal immigrants.
Call Number: [Special Format] J Mat

Jake, an American boy, and Rosa, an immigrant girl, form an unlikely friendship when her mother sends her to Vermont so she won’t work in a mill like her sister. Her mother wants her to be known as an “American” not a despised “immigrant girl.”
Call Number: J Pat

In this wordless graphic novel, a man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new country, where he must build a new life for himself and his family.
Call Number: J Tan

Ray Lui is struggling to adjust to North American life. When his father discovers Ray is searching gay websites, he is kicked out of the house and heads to downtown Toronto.
Call Number: J Yee
   (Korea).
   Daniel, the son of Korean shopkeepers, and Natasha, whose family is here illegally from Jamaica cross paths in New York City on an eventful day in their lives.
   **Call Number:** J Yoo

*Nonfiction*

   (Grades 7-12).
   The author uses photos, oral history, and archival documents to describe what life was like in coal mines and coal towns especially for children and immigrants.
   **Call Number:** j331.382 Bar

   Examines the history of American immigration through stories of lesser-known immigrants who were denied entrance into the States or detained for security reasons.
   **Call Number:** j325.73 Bau

   Presents profiles of fourteen teenagers from countries around the world, revealing their struggles to fit into American society and their personal triumphs.
   **Call Number:** j920 Bud

   A history of the “other Ellis Island” traces how Angel Island served as an entry point for one million Asian immigrants to the United States in the early twentieth century.
   **Call Number:** j979.46 Fre

   Tells the stories of several famous immigrants whose lives and accomplishments impacted the twentieth century.
   **Call Number:** j304.8 Hou

   Highlights the lives and accomplishments of major industries and the immigrants who helped to develop American industry.
   **Call Number:** j330.973 Hou
Howell, S. (2015). *The path to citizenship.* New York, NY: Powerkids Press. (Grades K-5). Many Americans were born citizens but not everyone who lives here is a citizen. Learn about the many facets of becoming a citizen including the citizenship test and character checks.

**Call Number:** j323.6 How


**Call Number:** j304.809 Osb

Staton, H. (2010). *Ellis Island.* New York, NY: Chelsea Clubhouse. (Grades 3-6). Introduces the history of Ellis Island as an American immigration port during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries describing how the island is used as a monument and museum today.

**Call Number:** j304.8 Sta

**Websites**

*Immigration: Stories of yesterday and today.*
Explore Ellis Island through a virtual field trip, hear the stories of immigrants, and explore the facts through data. Includes teaching resources, book lists, and activities. (Grades PreK-12).


*Library of Congress: Immigration*
Teacher created, classroom-tested lesson plans using primary sources from the Library of Congress. (Grades 3-12).


*Migration Policy Institute: Fact sheets*
Fact sheets provide primary source research articles and data for papers and lesson planning which includes demographics and policies about refugees and immigrants. (Grades 3-12).

[http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/fact-sheets](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/fact-sheets)

*Teaching Tolerance: Toolkit for “Immigrant and refugee children: A guide for educators and school support staff.”*
Resources to support and affirm your immigrant students. Can be used for counseling and lesson planning. (Grades 3-12).


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