

Lesson 1: The American People

Vocabulary

culture way of life of a group of people

ideals important beliefs

ethnic group a group of people who share the same customs and language

census official count of all the people in the United States

immigrants people who leave one country to go live in another

Out of Many, One

The United States has a motto, or saying. It is *E Pluribus Unum*. This is Latin for “Out of many, one.” This is a good motto for the United States because many different types of people form one country. Our country has a mix of many different **cultures**. All these different people are able to form one country because they share many **ideals**, or beliefs. These ideals include freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom to live and work where we choose. Americans also believe in equal rights for all people.

Our Varied Population

Many **ethnic groups** are found in the United States. Ethnic groups are made up of people who share the same language and customs. Their families may have come to the United States from the same part of the world. People of different ethnic groups can be Americans. Every ten years the government counts all the people in the United States. This count is called a **census**.

Where We Came From

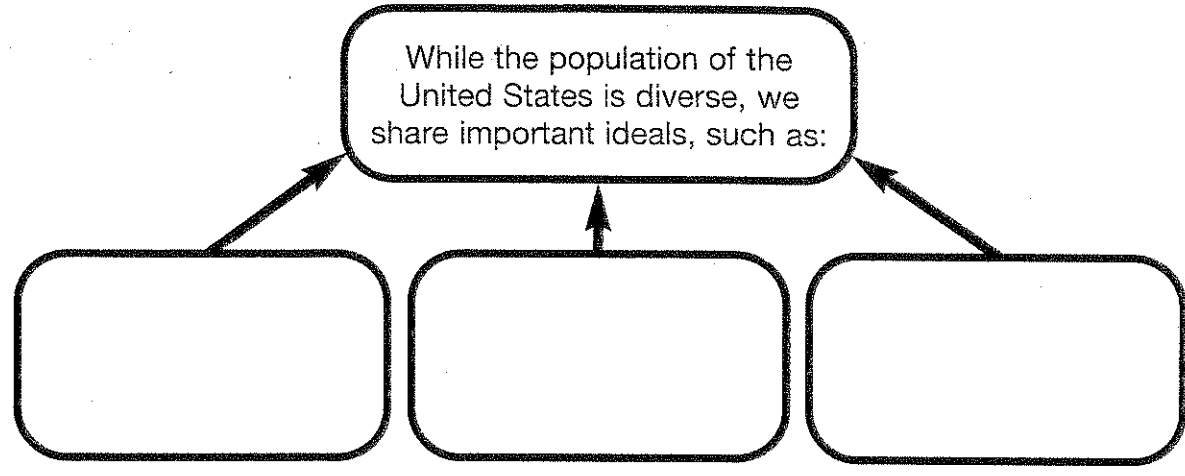
Immigrants have come to the United States from all over the world. They brought many different customs with them. Native Americans lived on this land before it became the United States. Europeans came to the area looking for land and freedom. People from Africa were brought as slaves. Many immigrants still come to the United States. Many are looking for work and freedom.

One Nation

The Pledge of Allegiance is important to the United States. It helps bring together the many different people who live in the country. The Pledge of Allegiance says that Americans believe in the ideals of freedom and fairness for all people.

Lesson 1: Review

1. **Main Idea and Details** Fill in some examples of the ideals most Americans share.



2. Why is *E Pluribus Unum* a good motto for the United States?

3. Why do immigrants continue to come to the United States?

4. What basic ideals unite most Americans?

5. **Critical Thinking: Point of View** How does the Pledge of Allegiance unite Americans?
