

## IMMIGRATION TODAY

In 1921 the American Congress decided to pass a law to slow down the pace of immigration to the USA. Immigration laws have become stricter and it is now more difficult to settle in America. Even so, the United States accepts more legal immigrants as permanent members than any other country in the world. In 2006, a total of 1,266,264 immigrants became legal residents. Most of these came from Mexico, China, the Philippines, India, Cuba, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Vietnam, Jamaica, South Korea and Guatemala. The majority of them arrived in search of work and better opportunities for themselves and their families.

## THE AMERICAN DREAM

Immigrants to the USA arrived in the country hoping to build a better life and to become richer than in their countries of origin. The Statue of Liberty, the first thing they saw on arrival, became the symbol of their American Dream.

The American Dream is the dream of a land where it is possible to achieve success and prosperity as a result of individual talent and energy rather than family status and connections. In the American Dream people can make choices without restrictions of class, religion, race or ethnic group and everyone receives equal opportunities. It is still important to American people today.



*'Because what binds us together, what makes us one American family, is that we have to stand up and fight for each other's dreams. It's time to reaffirm that fundamental belief – I am my brother's keeper, I am my sister's keeper – through our politics, our policies and in our daily lives. It's time to reclaim the American Dream.'*

Barack Obama, President of the USA

### Listening

- 4 Listen to an immigrant being interviewed at Ellis Island and tick (✓) the questions asked.

- Do you smoke?
- Can you read or write?
- Do you have a ticket to your final destination?
- How much money do you have with you?
- Can you drive a car?
- Have you ever been in prison?
- Are you a polygamist?
- How many foreign languages can you speak?

### Speaking

- 5 Work in pairs. Imagine you are immigrants who meet at Ellis Island. Ask and answer questions about:

- name and age
- nationality
- job
- reasons for immigration

### Writing

- 6 Write a paragraph outlining why people migrate to other countries.

*People migrate to other countries for many reasons. For example ...*