

Migration and cultural identity



What words come to mind when you think about migration? Why do you think people usually migrate to/from Colombia?



Vocabulary: Match each word from the box to its definition. Then find and underline them in the text below.

1. Acculturation	2. Emigrant	3. Immigrant	4. Relocate
5. Sojourner	6. Refugee	7. Asylee	8. Demographics

a. A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.
b. A person who leaves their own country in order to settle permanently in another.
c. Statistical data relating to the population and particular groups within it.
d. To move to a new place and establish one's home or business there.
e. Assimilation to a different culture, typically the dominant one.
f. A person who is seeking or has been granted political asylum.
g. A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.
h. A person who resides temporarily in a place.



Write your answers below:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.



Read the following article and highlight the main ideas from the text:

A world of migration

By Fred E. Jandt, 2021

One of the most researched areas in the intercultural communication studies is that of individuals crossing cultural boundaries and adapting to a new culture through the process of **acculturation**. *1 The estimated number of people counted as living outside their country of birth has been increasing dramatically; there were an estimated 84 million in 1975, and the latest numbers in 2015, with 244 million of immigrants, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2017). People moving within countries and across borders, are most frequently looking for better employment opportunities and better



lifestyles.

Migration is an umbrella term which includes both emigration and immigration, and it basically describes moving from one country to settle in another. Migrants are both **emigrants** and **immigrants** at the same time. While many immigrants may **relocate** with their immediate family or close friends, everything else in their world changes. Most individuals face the challenge of learning a new language; all are challenged with a new culture-everything from living arrangements to food, landscapes, social customs, government, education, popular culture and more.

There are several reasons why someone decides to live in another country and these could be related to



study or work *2

Hence, a tourist visits a country for a short period of time for such goals as relaxation and self-enlightenment. A **sojourner** lives in a country for a limited time, from as little as 6 months to as long as 5 years, with specific goal oriented purposes, such as education or work. Both tourists and sojourners fully expect to return home and hence don't really face the same challenges as migrants.

It is immigrants who relocate permanently to a new culture who face the greatest challenges; these include **refugees** and **asylees**. *3 Naturally, a country's immigration policies are tied to their citizenship policies. Some nation-states have attempted to secure their borders to either keep people out or keep people in.

Moreover, migration and intercultural communication are related in at least two important ways: (1) the process and extent to which a migrant learns a new culture and (2) how migration affects identity both of the immigrant and of those in the receiving country.

*4 Those who migrate are forced to change some of their most distinctive characteristics and, whether they like it or not, even those who welcome them, are also forced to change. As a result, immigration can also alter the **demographics** of the destination countries and in some cases, it is being perceived as a threat as potentially changing the country's national identity. Some of the receiving nations use a point system based on education, occupation, age, language ability, and other criteria and adjust their system as needs change. *5

Finally, immigration has been a very controversial issue because of the numerous advantages and disadvantages that it can provide to a nation. There are substantial economic benefits, such as a more flexible labor market, greater skills base, increased demand and a greater diversity of innovation. However, immigration can cause issues of overcrowding, congestion, and extra pressure on public services, downward pressure on wages and even unemployment of native workers. Whether the cons outweigh the pros is up to each receiving nation and the success of such a process can be guaranteed only through proper law regulation.

Adapted from: An introduction to intercultural communication, Chapter 10. Migration and acculturation.



Five paragraphs have been removed from the text. Where would the following sentences (A to E) most logically occur in relation to the marked sentences (*1 to *5) in the passage?

- A. Depending on the length of time that an individual decides to remain in a place, the migration status can vary.
- B. Other countries consider religious identity, such as Israel, which guarantees admission of persons of Jewish descent, while Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy and Japan give consideration to ethnic origin.
- C. Globalization has brought the world closer and that's why migration has increased in the last decades.
- D. At this moment in human history, marked by movements of migration, identity is not a secondary issue.
- E. Generally, refugees are seeking safe haven because their home country is no longer safe due to a natural disaster or war, while asylees are seeking refuge in another country for political reasons.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____



Short answer questions:

1. What is the purpose of the text?
_____.
2. Why has the number of immigrants increased so much?
_____.
3. Why is immigration a controversial topic?
_____.

Identify and research the advantages and disadvantages of migration and complete the table below:

Migration	
Advantages	Disadvantages

Do you think the disadvantages outweigh the advantages? Why? Why not?	