

**Grades: 6-8**

## **The Latino Americans, Part 6 “Peril and Promise”**

Examine the past 30 years, as a second wave of Cubans and hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans, Nicaraguans and Guatemalans flee to the U.S., creating a debate over undocumented immigrants that leads to calls for tightened borders, English-only laws and efforts to brand the undocumented as a drain on public resources. Simultaneously, the Latino influence is booming in business, sports, media, politics and entertainment. Latino Americans become the largest and youngest growing sector of the American population.

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

### **Question Box 1**

- What is the central message to this episode? Support your theory with evidence from the show.
- What is the author trying to say through the TV program? What from the text makes you believe this?
- What are some of the reasons for the second wave of immigration over the last 30 years?
- What examples can you give of the Latino influence in business, sports, media, politics and entertainment?
- What is this program “saying”? Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support your analysis.

### **Question Box 2**

- What is one thing I would like to add to this topic or expand upon?
- What impact do you believe the largest and youngest growing sector of the American population will have on society going forward?
- What would you change about this episode?
- Think of influential Latino figures in the areas that were highlighted in this episode, which stands out for you and why is this person important?
- If another part of this program was created, what would you like them to focus on?
- What would you like to research and learn more about? Why?
- As you reflect on *The Latino Americans* series, what do you think is the most important part of the Latino Americans’ story? Why?

### **Box 3 (Tasks)**

- Create a timeline of significant events that impacted and shaped Latino Americans

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throughout history.

- In 1990, the Latino and Hispanic population was approximately 22,400,000, 9.0% of the US population at the time. In 2000, they were 4.4% of the population, In 1980 they were 12.5%. In 2010, they were 16.3% of the population. Graph the percentage of the population over time. How would you describe this growth? To what do you attribute it?
- In 1993, the average income of families in 1993's dollars was \$36,959. For white families it was \$39,300. For black families it was \$21,542. For Hispanic families it was \$23,654. Use these numbers, mathematical reasoning and complete sentences to create an argument for or against the disparity in the numbers.
- This episode discusses some issues that continue to create debate. Look for articles that support some of the stories you heard in this episode. Create a visual representation using these primary sources.

#### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- 10th and 11th) Compare what you learned in this program to what's in your history textbooks about Latino's in this time period. Do the stories sync up? How much more was covered in the program than your history book. Why do you think that is?
- Research what life was like for people of your ancestry during this time period. What did you uncover and discover? Find a creative way to share your learning with other people in your community.
- Find out more about some of the Latino Americans featured in this episode. Who was most intriguing to you: a sports figure, an entertainer, businessman, politician...?

#### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- The U.S. has a long history of debate over immigration policy that works. Currently the U.S. is limiting immigration and reducing the number of waivers for illegal immigrants. This will impact many aspects of our economy.
- How could restricting immigration impact companies who have a high need for immigrants with a specific skill set?
- There are many immigrants who are here illegally yet find a way to work and provide for their families. What impact could it have on our economy if the government implements more policies and procedures that keep illegal immigrants from working?
- Has limiting immigration increased career opportunities for the non-immigrant population, explain your answer?
- What industries are known for hiring illegal immigrants? Why do you think those industries hire illegal immigrants? Read this article if you are not sure, click: [here](#)
- Would you consider a career that deals with immigration law some examples are: Border Patrol, Immigration Attorney, Paralegal, ICE, Non-profit organization? Why or why not? What type of work would it be and why?