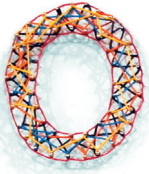


# TELL YOUR IMMIGRATION STORY



In July 4, 1864, the day Abraham Lincoln arrived at the Cottage for his final season here, he signed into law An Act to Encourage Immigration. Signed less than a year before his death, the Act embodied principles that had taken root in Lincoln as a young man.

The United States of America is, and always has been, a nation of immigrants. Abraham Lincoln recognized immigrants as one of America's greatest resources and its best hope for the future. He believed America offered immigrants the full realization of its founding promises and a fair chance to succeed. Our world is different from Lincoln's, but some of these very principles continue to draw immigrants to the United States 150 years later.

This exercise encourages students to trace their own immigration story, and using the world map poster on the reverse of the School Programs brochure, each student will connect their family's country of origin with where they call home today.

This exercise works well as an add-on to American Immigration Council's lesson plan *Crossing Borders with Digital Storytelling*.

The lesson and full outline for this exercise is found at [www.lincolncottage.org](http://www.lincolncottage.org).

President Lincoln's Cottage will open **American by Belief**, a new special exhibit on Lincoln and immigration, on October 16, 2015 in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center. *American by Belief* will remain open for two years.

AMERICAN  
BY BELIEF

## Grade Level:

5th–12th grades

## Time for this exercise:

One, 45-minute class period

## Materials:

- ◆ World Map poster on reverse of the Lincoln's Cottage School Programs brochure
- ◆ Cork board
- ◆ Clear push pins
- ◆ String in a variety of colors: Teal, Red, Orange, Yellow, Blue, Grey

## PROCEDURE:

- ◆ Using the *Crossing Borders with Digital Storytelling* lesson plan from American Immigration Council, students will interview family members about their immigration stories. Once these stories have been created, the class will map their family journeys using the world map poster on the reverse of the Lincoln's Cottage School Programs brochure.
- ◆ Using the world map poster, students will select a colored string that most closely reflects the reason why they, their families, or their ancestors immigrated. Specific categories are color coded by reason for immigrating.
- ◆ Affix the poster to a cork board so that push pins can easily attach to the poster.
- ◆ Students should use the poster to map their journey from their country of origin to their destination site.
- ◆ Once students have selected these points, they should measure the length (in inches) and prepare to cut their colored strings to that measurement. Once their colored string is cut, students should make a loop on each end that is large enough to fit around the push pin.
- ◆ Students should then place the push pin at the two points and slide one eye of their string over the head of the push pin at their country of origin and slide the other eye of their string over the head of the push pin at their destination country.
- ◆ Once each student has mapped their family's immigration journey, the class should discuss each family story.

## Categories & Reasons for immigrating:

Teal:



REFUGE  
& ASYLUM

Red:



FAMILY

Orange:



JOBS

Yellow:



FREEDOM

Blue:



EDUCATION

Grey:



FORCE

