The country where you were born is called your homeland. People who leave their homeland and come to another country—such as America—are called immigrants. America has been called a “nation of immigrants.” Why?

Everyone who lives in America now (except for Native Americans) once came from somewhere else. This may have happened a very long time ago in your family. Or maybe you and your family arrived here recently.

Immigrants leave their homeland for different reasons. Some came to America looking for religious freedom. Others came to escape war or hunger. But mostly, people came looking for a better life.

People came to America from all over the world, but together we are one nation!
A New Life

An *immigrant* is a person who has moved from one country into another. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1990, the foreign-born population in the United States was about 19.8 million. By the year 2000, that number had grown to 37.2 million! Immigrants make up about 12.5 percent of the United States population.

There are many reasons that people have immigrated to the United States. Many people view the United States as a place where people can achieve any goal if they put their minds to it and work hard. Some come here because of the opportunities to build better lives for themselves and their families. Some move here so they can experience the freedom that the United States offers.

Immigrants bring with them their cultural heritage, traditions, and new ideas. They have helped build the United States to make it what it is today.
In 1940, four teenage boys discovered a cave covered with murals of animals. People had painted the murals about 17,000 years ago. Scientists studied the cave paintings and found that the ancient artists made their paint using pigment, which is a powder that gives paint its color. They were able to make very few colors of paint.

There are only three primary colors that, along with black and white, make all other colors. Today we can buy or make any color of paint we want!

**How to Make Green Paint**
1. Choose yellow and blue paint pigment.
2. Add water or oil and mix it together.
3. Add black or white pigment to make the green darker or lighter.
4. Add more blue or more yellow until you have a green you like!
The Ant and the Beetle

Adapted from Aesop’s “The Fox and the Crow”

Annie Ant stole a piece of cheese from an abandoned picnic and scrambled up on a rock. She was about to eat the cheese when she noticed a beetle nearby. The beetle had a plan.

“My, my, I have never seen such a beautiful ant,” flattered the beetle. “From the tip of your antennae to the end of your abdomen, you are simply gorgeous!”

“Finally, someone appreciates my beauty!” Annie thought.

“You must be delicate,” continued the beetle. “Surely you are not strong enough to help the other ants.”

“Hmph!” said the insulted ant. To show him, Annie set down the cheese and lifted a huge rock over her head.

The beetle grabbed the cheese and began to scurry away. “Yes, you are strong, but you are also foolish.”

Strategy Note the time-order clues about to and when. How did the author structure this story?

Skill Summarize the plot. What lesson did Annie learn at the end of the story?
The Famous Thinker, Plato

One of the most famous thinkers of the ancient world was Plato. He was a Greek man who lived about 2,400 years ago. Plato was a student of another famous thinker, Socrates. Some ideas about our world today started with Plato and Socrates.

How did Plato learn so much? Besides studying many writings, Plato traveled far. He observed much on his journeys. Then Plato began a school of science and philosophy. Philosophy is the study of how our minds gather knowledge. This school became a model for today’s colleges.

Many of Plato’s writings have survived through history. He wrote mostly letters and dialogues. His writing covered many topics, including politics, nature, and happiness. In school, you will likely read some of Plato’s famous writings. They have been part of many students’ educations for hundreds of years.

Strategy Why do you think that the teachings of Plato are still popular today?

Skill What generalization can you make about the writings of Plato? Use a key word such as always in your answer.