

# Guide for Immigration Quilt

To be used in community settings

**Objectives:** To tell the stories of immigration throughout history and time; to connect people together through their own or their families' immigration stories; to celebrate diversity and build solidarity; to showcase our differences and highlight our commonalities

**Supplies:** Fabric squares, fabric markers and paints

*Begin the activity by explaining what the objectives are. The immigration quilt is meant to serve as a visual representation of our own or our families' journeys to the US and the stories that tie us all together. (Refer to the objectives above as well).*

Part A: Why do people migrate?

1. Brainstorm a list of reasons why people move from one place to another both in the present and historically and talk to the person beside you about some of those reasons.
2. Report back to the larger group about what are some reasons that people migrate.

Part B: Where in the world has your family been?

1. Encourage people to think about "Where in the world has my family been?" Do this individually and silently for about two minutes. Remind participants to think about even within the same country, if they have been to different cities or regions.
2. Merge two pairs (for a group of four!) and share a little bit about where in the world your family has been. Encourage everyone to share for about 30 seconds and to share only what is comfortable for them.
3. Thank people for sharing in their small groups.

Part C: What is my or my family's immigration story?

1. Encourage people to close their eyes or take a deep breath, and think about their own or their family's immigration story. Encourage them to think about the reasons that they left and what their journey was like.
2. Hand out the fabric squares and ask participants to use the materials in front of them to represent that story in some way on the fabric.