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The Typical American

by Samantha Herman

<p>Who is the “typical” American today? According to the most recent census (2000), there are an estimated 270.3 million people living in the United States. Nearly a third of all Americans chose to identify themselves as minorities. Here’s how we describe ourselves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 223.2 million (82.5 percent) of us are white• 34.4 million (12.7 percent) of us are black• 2.3 million (0.9 percent) of us are Native American• 10.5 million (3.9 percent) of us are Asian and Pacific Islanders• 30.2 million (11.2 percent) of us are Hispanic.	<p>1. According to this article, what year was the last census taken?</p> <p>2. Rank the ethnic groups from highest to lowest:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p>
<p>According to the <i>World Almanac</i>, more than 25 percent of America’s immigrants—6.7 million—were born in Mexico. Other common immigrant homelands include the Philippines (1.2 million Americans come from there), China/Taiwan (816, 000), Cuba (797,000), Poland (538,000), Canada (695, 000), the Dominican Republic (509,000), El Salvador (650,000), Great Britain (617,000), Germany (598,000), and Jamaica (531,000).</p>	<p>3. Why does the author mention the <i>World Almanac</i> in the first sentence?</p> <p>4. According to the statistics in this paragraph, where do most immigrants to the United States come from?</p> <p>5. Where do the fewest number of immigrants come from?</p>
<p>The sharpest increase in population has occurred in the Asian population: a 30.77 percent increase from 1980 to 1998 (Wright 125). The Hispanic population increased 26.10 percent in the same time; the black population, 12.91 percent. White Americans saw their numbers swell by 10.46 percent.</p>	<p>6. What kind of citation is being used in this paragraph?</p> <p>7. What information is being given in the citation?</p> <p>8. What ethnic group’s population grew the most between 1980 and 1998?</p>

<p>Just how diverse are we? Here are some statistics that underscore the way American is changing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 100 languages are spoken in the school systems of New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Fairfax County, Virginia. • More than 30 million people speak English as a second language, which means that roughly 14 percent of the American population speaks about 140 different languages. • More than 40 percent of the people living in California are black, Hispanic, or Asian. • There are over 2,000 Hmong from Laos living in Wisconsin alone. 	<p>9. Approximately what number of Americans speak English as their first language? (You'll need to look back in the article to figure out this number.)</p> <p>10. Roughly what percentages of people living in California are white?</p>
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<p>Web Page</p> <p>http://www.factfinder.census.gov/home.htm Article title: American Fact Finder Date updated: 2004 Date accessed: July 25, 2004</p>	<p>Book</p> <p>Title: <i>New York Times Almanac</i> Author: John W. Wright City of publication: New York Publisher: Penguin Putnam Copyright: 2004</p>
<p>Web Page: Census Bureau Home Page</p> <p>http://www.census.gov/ Date updated: 2004 Date accessed: July 20, 2004</p>	<p>Book</p> <p>Title: <i>The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2004</i> City of publication: Chicago Publisher: World Almanac Books Copyright 2004</p>

Bibliography
