

Immigrant boat arrives in Granadilla



A boat which arrived on the Granadilla coast last week carrying a total of 37 illegal immigrants could have set out from Mauritania rather than the more customary Moroccan point of departure, according to Guardia Civil sources.

1. Why do people immigrate to other countries?
2. Is immigration from one country to another a problem? In what ways do you see it as a problem?
3. Do you know any immigrants?
4. Would you ever think of emigrating? Why would you think of emigrating?

Packed patera rescue



An overloaded patera with 35 African men on board was spotted, apparently in difficulties, by a coastguard patrol a few miles off Fuerteventura last week.

The operation to transfer the men onto the rescue launch proved to be an extremely difficult process owing to the swell and the boat's lying so low in the water. The immigrants were disembarked in Puerto del Rosario where two were taken to hospital for observation. The rest were placed under arrest and taken to a detention centre pending deportation or release.

5. Do you think that immigrants are treated well in most countries?
6. Do you think there is a relation between immigration and crime?
7. Should any government limit the number of immigrants entering the country? What would be a good number?
8. Is local culture threatened by immigration?
9. To what extent has the culture of your community become richer by immigrants?
10. How far should immigrants retain their culture?
11. Do immigrants in your community isolate themselves into a certain area?
12. Should immigrants be required to learn the local language?
13. How does immigration affect the economic situation in your community?

Deportation for illegals

Recently released deportation statistics for the Canary Islands in 2005 reflect the government's tougher line over the repatriation of illegal immigrants.

Exactly 2,472 illegals were sent back to their own countries last year, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. A breakdown of the figures shows that the biggest group were 808 men and women from Mali. They were followed, in numerical order, by 766 from Gambia, 281 from Morocco, 161 from the Ivory Coast, 141 from Guinea-Conakry and 98 from Guinea-Bissau. There were also smaller groups from India, Mauritius, Nigeria, Ghana and just six from South America.

Source of the extracts above: Tenerife News, January 2006.

14. What should be done with the illegal immigrants entering a country? Should the country of origin of illegal immigrants be held responsible?

15. How long should immigrants be required to live in the new country before they can become naturalized?

16. What should be the requirements for naturalization?

Poverty



"The most commonly used way to measure poverty is based on incomes. A person is considered poor if his or her income level falls below some minimum level necessary to meet basic needs. This minimum level is usually called the "poverty line". What is necessary to satisfy basic needs varies across time and societies. Therefore, poverty lines vary in time and place, and each country uses lines which are appropriate to its level of development, societal norms and values." (The World Bank Organisation)

Source: http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/int/ms/health/wealth/def_of_poverty/definitions.shtml

1. What are the main causes of poverty? (Unequal income distribution, geographic factors, education, age/gender/racial discrimination, familial causes (which attribute poverty to upbringing), subcultural causes (which attribute poverty to common patterns of life in a community), war (including genocide), political corruption within government, economic factors ...).
2. Is it morally right to spend a lot of money on pets, rather than helping people in need?

Eliminating poverty



The Sachs Report (for the UN Millennium Project) proposes a series of "quick wins", approaches identified by development experts which would cost relatively little but could have a major constructive effect on world poverty. The quick wins are:

- Eliminating school fees.
- Providing soil nutrients to farmers in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Free school meals for schoolchildren.
- Supporting breast-feeding.
- Deworming school children in affected areas.
- Training programmes for community health in rural areas.
- Providing mosquito nets.
- Ending user fees for basic health care in developing countries.
- Access to information on sexual and reproductive health.
- Drugs for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.
- Upgrading slums, and providing land for public housing.
- Access to electricity, water and sanitation.
- Legislation for women's rights, including rights to property.
- Action against domestic violence.
- Appointing government scientific advisors in every country.
- Planting trees.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty>

3. Which of the previously mentioned "quick wins" would be more effective to eliminate poverty? Why?
4. What kind of aid should the governments of rich countries give to poor countries?
5. Would you like to be an overseas volunteer in a Third World country? If so, which one and how could you contribute to that country's development?