

Family Histories

by G. L. Perkins

Fun Facts

- In 2003 almost 706,000 immigrants came to the United States.
- El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America. It is about the size of Massachusetts.
- Many Bantu celebrate Deb-Shid, a festival in which people dance and sing around a bonfire to greet the new year.

Genre	Comprehension Skill	Text Features
Nonfiction	Recall and Retell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossary • Map • Headings

Scott Foresman Social Studies





In this book you will read family histories of two students, Malik and Sofía. They will tell you about how their families came to live in the United States.



Vocabulary

immigrant
holiday
custom



Family Histories

by G. L. Perkins



ISBN: 0-328-14820-2

Copyright © Pearson Education, Inc.

All Rights Reserved. Printed in the United States of America. This publication is protected by Copyright, and permission should be obtained from the publisher prior to any prohibited reproduction, storage in a retrieval system, or transmission in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or likewise. For information regarding permission(s), write to: Permissions Department, Scott Foresman, 1900 East Lake Avenue, Glenview, Illinois 60025.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 V0G1 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05



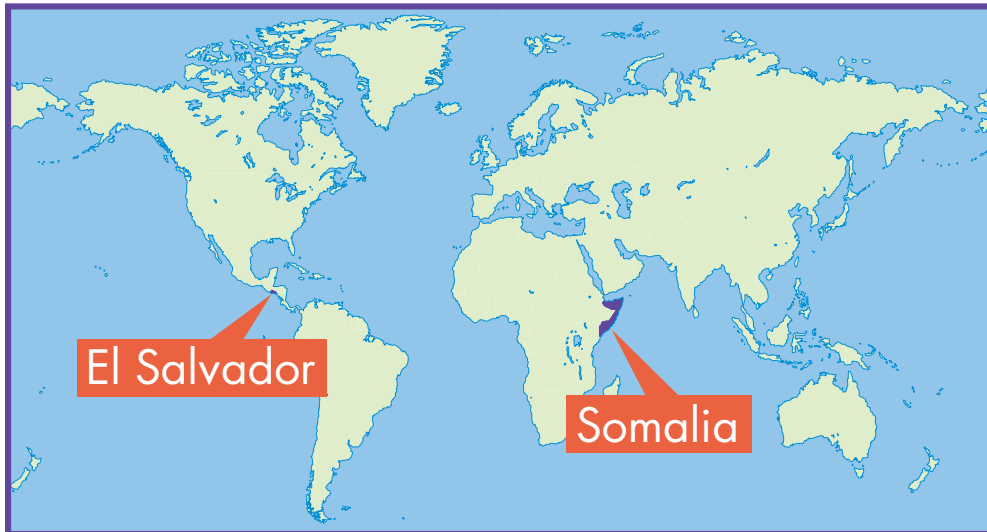
Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York
Sales Offices: Needham, Massachusetts • Duluth, Georgia • Glenview, Illinois
Coppell, Texas • Sacramento, California • Mesa, Arizona





Do you ever wonder where all of the people living in the United States come from? Many are **immigrants**. Immigrants are people who have moved here from other countries.

My name is Malik. My family is from Somalia. My friend Sofía's family is from El Salvador. These are the stories of our families and how they came to live in the United States.



Malik's Story

My family is from an African country called Somalia. It is about the size of the state of Texas. My family is known as Bantu. My family speaks a language called Maay Maay (my-my), one of many languages spoken by Bantu people.





I was very young when I lived in Somalia. My parents tell me that life in Somalia was hard. In most places there are no schools for Bantu children. Jobs for adults are very difficult to find. Most Bantu families have small farms so that they have enough to eat.

My parents wanted to come to the United States. They had heard that life would be easier.



Before we left Somalia, people came to talk to my parents about what life would be like in the United States. In Somalia we did not have some things that many people in the United States use every day. For example, in Somalia there were no banks. Instead of grocery stores, there were outdoor markets. The clothing we wore was very different from what people in the United States wear.



When we finally arrived in the United States, we were excited but also a little scared. Everything was very different! People helped us find a place to live and answered our questions.


My parents took classes to learn English. After several months my father got a job at a warehouse. He says the job helps him learn English because he gets to practice every day!

I am learning English at school. I am also learning about the **holidays** and **customs** of the United States. I learned about Independence Day and the custom of celebrating with parades and fireworks.

I am learning how to play baseball from my friends at school. It is lots of fun!






 My family is getting used to all of the new things in the United States. The things that were so different when we first came finally seem familiar to us.

Sofia's Story

My name is Sofía. I was born in the United States, but my grandparents are from El Salvador. El Salvador is part of Central America, between North America and South America. El Salvador is a small country. It has a tropical climate. El Salvador has several volcanoes. Earthquakes also happen from time to time.





 Life in El Salvador was difficult for my grandparents. They worked very hard but did not earn much money. My grandparents had a young son, my father. They wanted him to have more opportunities, so they decided to come to the United States.



My grandparents packed their belongings and said good-bye to their families. They made the long trip from El Salvador to Los Angeles, California.

My grandparents were very happy when they arrived in the United States. They met other people from El Salvador who helped them find a place to live. In El Salvador my grandparents spoke Spanish. Now, one of their biggest challenges was learning English.

The jobs that my grandparents were able to get were very hard. They were glad to be in this country, though. They wanted my father to have a good life.



My father saw how hard his parents worked. He knew that it was important for him to get a good education. He studied hard in school and learned English quickly. At home our family spoke Spanish. My father learned to speak both languages well. When he finished high school, my father went to college. While at college, he met my mother. Her family was also from Central America.



Soon after they finished college, my parents were married. They were able to get good jobs. My mother is a nurse at a hospital. My father owns a restaurant that serves Central American food. People in the neighborhood like his restaurant because they can get food that reminds them of El Salvador.

My parents have learned a lot about different cultures in this country. We celebrate holidays from both countries and are proud of our history.



With my parents and brothers and sister, I often visit my grandparents. They tell us how lucky we are to be living in the United States. I am glad we have so many opportunities.

I work hard in school so that I can go to college. I love animals and think I would like to be a veterinarian when I grow up.



People in the United States come from many other countries. Each person has a family history and culture to share. It is wonderful to live in a country where you can meet people from so many different places!



Glossary

custom a special way that a group does something

holiday a special day

immigrant a person who settles in a new country



Write to It!

Malik and Sofía have learned many things about the United States. What do you think you could learn from them? Write one paragraph about your ideas.

Write your paragraph on another sheet of paper.

Every effort has been made to secure permission and provide appropriate credit for photographic material. The publisher deeply regrets any omission and pledges to correct errors called to its attention in subsequent editions.

Unless otherwise acknowledged, all photographs are the property of Scott Foresman, a division of Pearson Education.

Photo locators denoted as follows: Top (T), Center (C), Bottom (B), Left (L), Right (R), Background (Bkgd)

Opener: Christophe Calais/Corbis, Michael Newman/PhotoEdit; 1 Christophe Calais/Corbis; 3 Christophe Calais/Corbis; 4 Peter Turnley/Corbis; 7 Ariel Skelley/Corbis; 8 Corbis; 9 Michael Newman/PhotoEdit; 10 Corbis; 12 Corbis; 14 Corbis; 15 Frank Siterman/PhotoEdit