

Meet Our Families

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 • Headings

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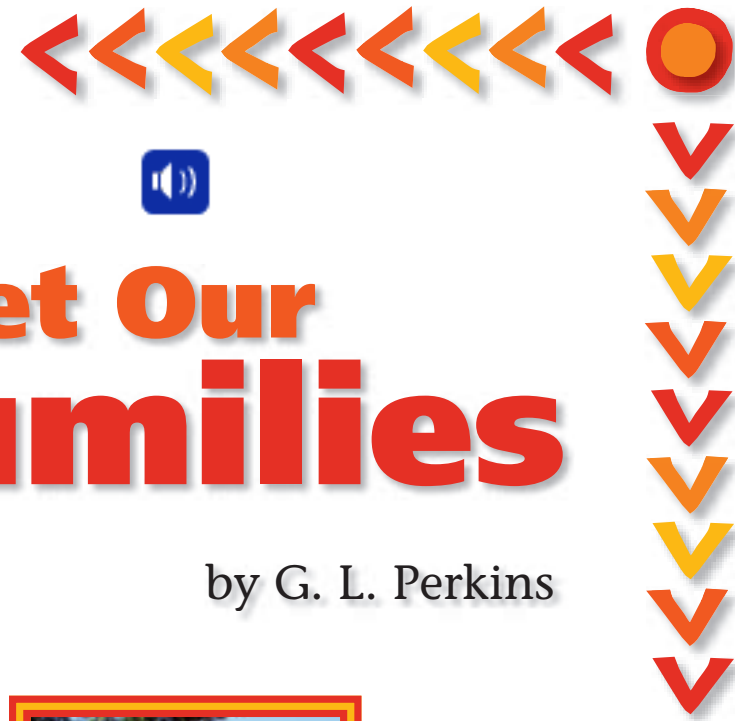


Meet Malik and Sofía. They will tell you about how their families came to live in the United States.



Vocabulary

immigrant
holiday
custom



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Many people living in the United States are **immigrants**.

Immigrants are people who have moved here from other countries.

Malik

My name is Malik.

My family is from an African country called Somalia.



My parents came to the United States so they could find better jobs.

In Somalia we did not have electricity or a washer and dryer!





In the United States I learned about the Independence Day **holiday**.
There is a **custom** of celebrating with parades and fireworks.



Sofía
I am Sofía.
My grandparents are from El Salvador in Central America.
They came to the United States long before I was born.



My father knew that a good education was important.
My father met my mother when they were in college.



My family has the good life my grandparents wanted for us.
We are very happy here.



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 Sofia have learned many things about the United States. Choose one holiday or custom that we follow here. Write a paragraph to tell why we celebrate it.

Write your paragraph on another sheet of paper.

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