

December 16, 2016

Dear Ms. Krayvenger's Class,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful questions! We are honored to answer them. It is so nice to know that you have genuine interest in how we are doing in our new country and our journey to get here. This meant a lot to my students. I am not surprised that so many of them worked for a while with electronic translators, bilingual dictionaries and the English they have learned to be able to answer you. You are really boosting our learning of English and you are helping us see how welcoming the United States can be. So thank you!!

It is our first year for all of us except one student-aid who has been in the country a few years (Keyron). He makes several comments as well.

We can't play your Kahoot until January! We were asked to be very QUIET this week because of final exams taking place. We can't wait to play it and then we will be getting some questions together for you guys as well!

Happy Holidays!!

Ms. Salva

And the Newcomers at Stratford High School

Houston, Texas

1) What was life like in your home country? What do you miss the most?

- It was fun, and I missed my childhood friends.
- It was fun i miss my grandmother and my friends Brenda, Adella, and Nirera.
- It was a good life there. I miss my relatives and my friends. Balqis
- It was a safe and happy life. I missed my girlfriend. Ali
- My life was good and I miss all my friends but USA is perfect and amazing country and the school how can I say how is beautiful something to me-
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- It was a fun, and I missed for my grand parent and my friend.I'm really miss them... Reham
- Even when life was difficult it had positive things I used to appreciate. What I miss the most are my friends.

2) Was it hard moving to another country?

- No
- No
- No ;) kb
- No - Ali
- JUST a BIT for me!

It depends ση ησω did you come to this country.

ησω that we are here, we had to have a dream of something. if you want to study them ησω it is possible for you! Οη anything else you want.

-ΚΕΥΡΟΝ

- Definitely yes because is a whole change, in all senses. Everything is new... Places, people, language, culture. It is a new beginning, but if you work hard to achieve your goals it worth it.

3) Did you already have family and friends in Texas?

- Yes
- yes
- No when I come to Texas I didn't
- My family came with me. We did not no anyone else.
- No one else here at first. But now, yes.

- Yes - kB
- Yes...Evelyn
- Yes... Ali
- I have just my family... Reham
- When i came to this country, my mom and my sister were already here! -Keyron
- Yes, I had family here, but no friends.

4) Do you like the United States? Why or why not?

- Yes I like the United States. Because school is better.
- Sure, I like the united states .Because the US very bigger ,so beautiful,and so unique ...Reham
- Yes I do and I love ♥USA
- Yes. I like it because it's safe here.
- Yes . Everything is better
- Yes. I like it because it is a new culture. Ali
- I like United State because is so beautiful and has wonderful people...Evelyn
- Yes Of Course I like the United States!
- because here I can have more opportunities than in my country.
- for example study. -Keyron
- There are various reasons for which I like the United States. First, it is an organized, safe and amazing country, with many diversity and also opportunities. I love everything I have learned in here, and also that I have been able to know many cultures from different countries over the world. It has been an wonderful experience for me.

5) How did you learn English?

- I practice every day for 20 minutes
- I practice read every day 35 minutes
- I learn listening and reading . - KB
- I practice English every day, reading, writing ,and listening to peopleReham
- My teachers teach me to learn. They are good teacher and so nice...Balqis

- WHEN I CAME TO THIS COUNTRY I DIDN'T KNOW ANY ENGLISH. NOW I KNOW A BIT, I THINK BASIC ENGLISH. AND I LEARN IT BY LISTENING THE PEOPLE, SOMETIMES PRACTICING BY MYSELF BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE TO PRACTICE. -KEYRON
- I been learning English with practice, I consider that is the key when you want to learn something new, it can be anything, but practice and constance are essential. Something that helped me to improve my English was listening to the people when talk, writing new words, using them, watching videos and tv in English, and the most important do not by shy and talk with the people; using your English with others because they will let you know your mistakes and help you to improve. Teachers are so important, they help me, and encourage me so much by answering all my questions and giving me amazing books to read.They will always be there to help you. Mrs Salva is very dynamic, she teach us reading, speaking, and writing English in funny ways. We learn so much!
- When I came at the beginning my best friend Muhnnad teach me five words everyday and when I started school Ms Salva teach me and she is still teaching me. Ali♥♥

6) *Is it scary living in a new country? (I think you are brave - Valentina)*

- No , for my was like a challenge And a change of life for the good of my future. - Kelvin Boral thanks Valentina
- It was not scary. Sami
- No, is normal....bugatt
- It is not scary because something can happen to you. it it just scary because it is a new country with a different language, culture and the way you live in. For me it was a little scary because I didn't know how the people would treat me. normally people doesn't get scared when they are new to a different country. =) Keyron
- Hi Valentina! Thank you for your words. I think that it depends on you, how do you see it. A change is a new opportunity! It is a journey that allows you learn many things. The first time I was nervous but now I feel very happy because I like here and I will have a better future.

The following are answers the kiddos gave to me verbally because we got these questions on the day of the final. - Ms. Salva

6) What is Children's Day?

- Celebrated in many of our countries. Japan, Honduras, El Salvador, Iraq and others. Also many other places in the world. The students all agreed that this was a day to celebrate children. They are given gifts and cities hold parades and other festivities. Some said that Godparents make baskets of gifts and all agreed that you are terribly spoiled on Children's Day!

7) What dances do you do in the Congo?

- Bukuru said that the dances are nothing specific for Christmas. It is just a festive time so many will dance with a partner and some do traditional dances if they know them.
- The Christmas holiday in the Congo is much more about being together and a happy religious celebration. It is not so much about gifts.

8) Do you celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas?

- We don't know anyone that celebrates the 12 days of Christmas. So we were confused about this song. We looked into it and it seems that it originated in England. But it isn't something any of us had any knowledge of. It was just a fun question because everyone here seems to know that song and no one seems to celebrate the 12 days. LOL

Anousha - we are so glad you experienced Ramadan! It is well known holiday to ½ the class only. We are all learning about it.

And Valentina's mom - Way to go! What big smiles here when we learned that she got the question right because she is a fellow Venezuelan. <3

***HAPPY HOLIDAYS AWESOME 4th GRADERS!
We think you are great and we are so happy to know you!***