

Migrants and Minorities: Bridging the Gap?!

Lead-in

1. Thinking about migration

a) **Take notes** on what you know about ...

- people who immigrate to / emigrate from Europe,
- the countries they come from / go to,
- the reasons why they are coming / leaving
- how they travel?

b) For some time now, the migration of people from one country to another and all the consequences this has – from positive effects on the economy to racial conflict – has been making the news.

Name an example of a migration-related topic that German news coverage is currently talking about or has just been recently engaging with.

- individual research results –

Here are three helpful websites (one in English, one in German, one with a specific focus on Germany) to verify and / or complete your results:

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/migration/index.html>

<https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/migration/dossier-migration/>

<https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/migration/laenderprofile/262758/historical-and-current-development-of-migration-to-and-from-germany>

2. Working with visuals

a) Look at the six pictures below. Which of them affects you the most? First describe it very briefly and then give reasons for your choice.



Description of the pictures and background information:

- *Picture 1 (black and white left): The photo shows a mixed race family with a white father and a black mother. They have got three children, a girl and two boys.*

Background: In the 1960s it was illegal in Virginia to have interracial marriages. The Loving family, who lived in Virginia, had been sentenced to a year in prison for marrying each other. The Supreme Court's unanimous decision determined that this prohibition was unconstitutional and ended all race-based legal restrictions on marriage in the United States.

- *Picture 2 (black and white, top right): The photo shows three white men and a little black girl, who is about five or six years old. She is very well dressed and is carrying a bag.*

Background: The girl Ruby Bridges (born 8 September 1954) is known for being the first black child to desegregate the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis in the 1960s. Ruby was escorted to school by federal marshals during the first year she attended William Frantz Elementary School.

- *Picture 3 (black and white, bottom right): The photo shows three teenage boys standing in a line and protesting against black students at their school. On their strike posters is written: "We the pupils of this school Clinton Hi don't want Negroes in our school", "We won't go to school with Negroes", "Strike against integration of Clinton Hi."*

Background: In 1956 three students from Clinton High School protested against court-ordered integration after the Brown v. Board of Education decision, which said segregation laws at school were unconstitutional.

- *Picture 4 (colored, top left): The photo shows a little black girl holding the American flag. In the background there are two white children, a boy and a girl, holding their hands on their heart.*

Background: Young students with mixed cultural background taking the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States which is an expression of allegiance to the flag of the United States and the republic of the United States of America. It is common to recite it in school at the beginning of every school day.

- *Picture 5 (colored, bottom left): The photo shows a football team with six white and five black or mixed race players. They are wearing white shirts and shorts and red socks, the goalkeeper is dressed in green.*

Background: The England national football team represents England in international football and is a mixed race team. White players: Hart (1), Cahill (5), Lallana (8), Kane (9), Rooney (10), Dier (17); black/mixed race players: Walker (2), Rose (3), Smalling (6), Ali (20), Sterling (number not visible).

- *Picture 6 (colored, right): The photo shows three white policemen with helmets and weapons pulling a black man through a street.*

Background: The theme is police brutality against black people. US police killed 258 black people in 2016, according to a project by The Guardian that tracks police killings in America.

b) Compare the black and white photos with the ones in colors. How do they differ in what they show? What conclusions can you draw?

The black and white photos and the colored photos show both aspects of diversity. They illustrate that black and white people can live together happily, but they also show that racism is a big issue, because there has always been discrimination against black people.

3. Focus on the UK and the US as superdiverse societies

a) Sum up the fact file about superdiversity in your own words.

FACT FILE

Superdiversity

The UK and the US are superdiverse societies. Recently, migrants from more varied countries of origin are immigrating to these countries as more asylum seekers, international students, and workers search for places that are safer and offer more opportunity. This influx of migrants is transforming social landscapes, resulting in an unprecedented variety of cultures, cuisines, identities, politics, faiths, languages and immigration statuses.

The text about superdiversity says that countries like Britain and America are superdiverse societies because their societies include many immigrants from all over the world who have influenced the host society in all walks of life.

b) Is superdiversity a curse or a blessing for your society? Make a list of pro and con arguments.

Superdiversity is a blessing

- *In a globalized world superdiversity is a logical consequence and reflects the fact that we are citizens of the world.*
- *Many countries need immigrants and know that immigrants are an enrichment for their society.*
- ...

Superdiversity is a curse

- *The host countries' national identity gets lost.*
- *Core values are in danger, the typical British dish for example is no longer British, it is Indian "Chicken Tikka Masala".*
- ...