

Heather

My artifact is a picture of my mom and me with my sister that was taken in 2006. This picture tells a story of my father, a role model I have looked up to since I was little and still do. He carried that photograph everywhere he went, especially when he was immigrating to the U.S from Ecuador. This story that my artifact represents is something that many families especially immigrants may relate to because after all it's about immigration. This artifact is important to me and my family because it's an object that my dad took with him when he left his home country and its story behind it shows how much my father has sacrificed to reunite with his family. This relates to a theme in U.S history because many people have immigration experiences and can relate to each other on what hardships they had to go through and how they became the person they are today.

On December in the year 2007, my father was 24 and he left Ecuador in the city of Cuenca, where he and his family lived and where he left to come to the United States. Before he left he spent one last time with all of his family and said his goodbyes. He also spent that day packing, such as pants and a jacket. The following day he left in the morning and headed to the airport to Honduras. He arrived at night and from there he spent a night in a hotel. In the morning a person picked him up in car with another group and from there on they had to go through Guatemala and Mexico. He slept over a family member's house for a week in Mexico. Then he traveled to the border with a group of immigrants in a truck. He and the group had to hide in the back of the truck for approximately 10 hours. Once he and the group got to the border he had to walk in the dessert of Mexico for two nights. He says it was a struggle because it was very cold at night since it was during December. He and the rest had to be aware of the police control and had to run from them at some cases, he didn't really have food and had to rely on just drinking water from the river. At night he was told to walk but at day he and the group had to find a place to hide since policies kept watch. Then he arrived at Texas Laredo, and he had to wait with the rest for a van who was going to come for them to leave them at a house in New York. The journey of Texas to New York was 12 hours for my father. After two weeks he reunited with me, my mom and my sister. My father's journey to the United States lasted for 20 days. He had to go through a whole experience just to reunite with me, my sister and my mom and I'm honestly grateful to have him each day in my life.

The history that my artifact holds relates to the theme about immigration. Many people from different places in the world have immigrated to U.S for different purposes but I bet they can all agree how they all started with a fresh start in the U.S. In the site

["http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/snpim1.htm"](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/snpim1.htm) it states " After the great depression (1890), immigration started to increase, from 3.5 million to 9 million in the first decade. Many immigrants came to America to escape religious, racial, and political persecution and seeking relief from lack of economic". This demonstrates how all immigrants came to America for personal reasons. Also how many came to America for a better life to do better financially, and also be accepted religious wise. In addition this site ["https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2014/10/29/immigration-to-and-migration-within-the-u-s-in-the-1900s"](https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2014/10/29/immigration-to-and-migration-within-the-u-s-in-the-1900s) explains "Not all of the immigrants coming to the U.S. at the turn of the century intended to stay. Many Italians and Eastern Europeans only intended to work until they could save enough money to purchase land or make a better life for themselves back at home .In 1945 – Thousands of Puerto Ricans migrated to escape poverty. Many settled in New York. The wave of immigration peaked in the 1950s and continued into the 1960s. By then 1 million Puerto Ricans had made their way into the United States". This explains how many people came to America to get better jobs so they can make enough profit to support themselves and their families back home. Many Puerto Rican's immigrated to United States hoping for better opportunities due to economic problems in their home country.

This is the story of my artifact and how it holds great importance to me and especially to my father, after all, family is what kept him going to come here. My artifact connects to the same theme to many other thousands of people around the world.

Sites used

- <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2014/10/29/immigration-to-and-migration-within-the-u-s-in-the-1900s>
- <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/snpim1.htm>