**Unit 11 Modern America (1981-Present)**

[Kit 4: Modern Immigration Stories](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=11&topic=04)

Source 1, “Marvin G Interviews Gilma G - El Salvador”

A middle-school student interviews his mother, who came to the US from El Salvador when she was a teenager.

“How My Mom Came To The U.S”

When my mom came to the U.S., she was 19. My mom and her family were poor. In El Salvador my mom helped my grandma sell food. There was a war in El Salvador, and she wanted to get away from it.  
  
My mom drove and walked from El Salvador to Mexico with 20-25 other immigrants. She got caught by the Mexican border police. She got stuck there for 3 days, and they were asking her lots of questions. After her release, she was three days without food and water. She had to steal from stores, and she got robbed by thieves. She snuck from Mexico into Texas by driving a car to Arizona. She took a plane to Virginia because her brother lived there.  
  
She lived with her brother and worked in Amigos Restaurant because my uncles who lived here already helped by getting her the job. She liked her job, but she got paid only a little.  
  
My mom came to America to give her family a better life. I love my mom because she sacrificed many things for me.

**Emerging ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 11 Modern America (1981-Present)**

[Kit 4: Modern Immigration Stories](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=11&topic=04)

Source 1, “Marvin G Interviews Gilma G - El Salvador”

A middle-school student interviews his mother, who came to the US from El Salvador when she was a teenager.

“How My Mom Came To The U.S.”

My mom was 19 years old when she came to the United States. She and her family were poor. In El Salvador she helped her mom sell food. There was a war. She wanted to get away from it.

1. Where is the mom from?

The mom is from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Why did the mom leave El Salvador?

She left El Salvador because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Do you think I was it hard or easy for the mom to leave El Salvador? Tell why you think so.

I think it was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the mom to leave because

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Intermediate ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 11 Modern America (1981-Present)**

[Kit 4: Modern Immigration Stories](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=11&topic=04)

Source 1, “Marvin G Interviews Gilma G - El Salvador”

A middle-school student interviews his mother, who came to the US from El Salvador when she was a teenager.

**Vocabulary**

* **border -** where two countries touch
* **sneak -** to move so that nobody will see you

“How My Mom Came To The U.S.”

My mom came to the US when she was 19 years old. She and her family were poor in El Salvador. My mom helped my grandma sell food. There was a war in El Salvador, and she wanted to get away from it.  
  
My mom drove and walked from El Salvador to Mexico with about 20 other people. The Mexican border police stopped her. She was stuck there for three days. They asked her lots of questions. After they let her go, she didn’t have any food or water for three days. She had to steal from stores, and she got robbed. She drove a car to sneak from Mexico into Texas and then Arizona. Then she got on a plane. She went to Virginia because her brother lived there.

1. What was one problem the mom had after she left El Salvador?

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1. Write one question that the Mexican border police might ask the mom.

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1. What part of the mom’s trip do you think was the most scary?

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**Advanced ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 11 Modern America (1981-Present)**

[Kit 4: Modern Immigration Stories](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=11&topic=04)

Source 1, “Marvin G Interviews Gilma G - El Salvador”

A middle-school student interviews his mother, who came to the US from El Salvador when she was a teenager.

**Vocabulary**

* **emigrant** - someone who leaves their country to live in a different country
* **release** - let go
* **sacrifice** - to give something up as a way to help someone else

“How My Mom Came To The U.S.”  
When my mom came to the U.S., she was 19 years old. She and her family were poor. In El Salvador, my mom helped my grandma sell food. There was a war in El Salvador, and she wanted to get away from it.  
  
My mom drove and walked from El Salvador to Mexico with about 20 other emigrants. She got caught by the Mexican border police. She was stuck there for 3 days, and they asked her lots of questions. After her release, she went three days without food and water. She had to steal from stores, and was robbed. She snuck from Mexico into Texas by driving a car to Arizona. She went by plane to Virginia because her brother lived there.  
  
She lived with her brother and worked in Amigos Restaurant. My uncles already lived in Virginia and they helped her get the job. She liked her job, but she got paid very little.  
  
My mom came to America to give her family a better life. I love my mom because she sacrificed many things for me.

1. Why was the mom stuck in Mexico for three days after the border police talked to her?

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1. How do you think the mom felt while she was emigrating? Tell why.

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1. What is one sacrifice the mom made? Explain your answer.

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| **BONUS** - Make a 4-panel cartoon with captions or speech bubbles. Each section should show the mom in a different place in her trip, in order. |