

HUMANITIES I

Unit III. The Humanities in New York (5)Chapter 4. The Puerto Ricans

Affective Objective:

To become aware of the problems faced by many Puerto Ricans in New York City, and of the values that grow out of these problems. Also, to respond sympathetically to the aspirations of Puerto Ricans and to the difficulty they have in living a good life in New York City.

Knowledge Objective:

To know what these aspirations are, and that they revolve around basic economic considerations (housing, material goods), getting out of the city, careers with more status than they now have, social and economic justice, better education, and full civil rights.

It is important to notice that the Puerto Ricans described in the reading do not always identify their aspirations with cultural or educational opportunities.

1. What did the Puerto Ricans think was their most important goal?
2. Why did these Puerto Ricans come to New York City? Why do they remain in the city?
3. What are some of the problems that they face in achieving these goals? What are some of the value differences that create problems for them?
4. What attitudes do you think these problems lead to? How do the Puerto Ricans interviewed here, deal with these problems?
5. What do you think New York City has to offer its citizens? (i.e. Puerto Rican citizens) Why do you think many of the Puerto Ricans interviewed in the reading stress the acquisition of material possessions?
6. Do you think New York City has an obligation to meet the special needs of minority groups such as Puerto Ricans? What can the city do to respond to these needs?

Gather together all the material that you can find which discusses the immigration problem. Discuss immigration laws of the U.S.A., Australia, Canada, and of other countries such as Great Britain where the immigration laws have been revised and changed within the last decade.