



By Veronica Boix-Mansilla

The Re-imagining Migration Learning Arc proposes that understanding migration entails constructing a powerful compass to navigate the past, present, and future instances of migration and find one's place in a world on the move.

Such a compass involves the capacity to ask informed and revealing questions about this shared human experience. What are our stories of migration? Where do we humans come from? Why do people leave their homes? How do borders influence people's lives? What conditions enable receiving communities to welcome newcomers? What is my responsibility in constructing welcoming and inclusive societies? Questions of this kind help us discern relevant aspects of migration, empathize with others, advance possible explanations, contextualize perspectives, recognize inequities, and engage in more informed action.

The learning arc proposes a series of questions about migration as an invitation to explore this complex topic in accessible ways, across disciplines and age groups. The arc presents three forms of engagement with human migration: "Moving Stories" invites a personal and empathic exploration, "Understanding Migration" invites inquiry into migration as part of our shared past, present, and future, and "Turning to Action" invites civic engagement. It is our hope that educators will find multiple entry-points along the arc to engage learners in meaningful ways. We invite you to explore, discover, wonder and connect.



# Moving Stories

We all have a story of migration - what is my story? What is yours?

- *In what ways do stories of migration help us understand who we are?*
- *What can we learn from the many visible and invisible stories of migration around us?*
- *How can we approach the sharing of stories of migration with understanding and compassion?*

## Understanding Migration

### Life Before Migration

Where do we humans come from?

- *Where do humans come from and what is our shared story?*
- *How do we know about our ancestors who migrated around the planet over the last 70,000 years?*
- *How is our shared human history shaping our lives today?*

What was life like before the journey (ours or others)?

- *How did people live their lives before migration (cultural practices), (theirs or others)?*
- *What values, worldviews did people hold?*
- *How does life before migration connect with life today? What is similar, what is different?*

Why do people leave their homes?

- *In what ways do societal, political, and environmental forces/challenges influence the decision to migrate?*
- *In what ways do the more intimate personal contexts motivate people's decisions to leave their homes?*
- *What happens to those who stay and how do they relate to those who leave?*

### The Journey

What do people experience as they move from one place to another?

- *In what ways are people's migration journeys similar and different from one another?*
- *How much control do migrants have over their journey and what are the choices and dilemmas they face during their journey?*
- *What do these journeys reveal about human nature?*

How do borders impact people's lives?

- *What is the purpose of borders?*
- *How do the visible and invisible borders that people encounter shape their lives?*
- *How can borders work in an ethical way?*

## How do individuals and societies navigate ambiguous status?

- *What are the rights of people with ambiguous status (people who are not clearly recognized by the State)?*
- *How do individuals and societies manage ambiguous status?*
- *What are our responsibilities toward people on the move with ambiguous status?*

## Adjustment

### What are the conditions in the new land?

- *How might the environment in the new land help or hinder newcomers' inclusion?*
- *How do newcomers come to understand the new land and their place in it over time?*
- *How might newcomers and the receiving community balance their identities, cultural values, and world views as they interact with one another?*

### What are the public stories of migration?

- *What messages about migration are people hearing through media and thought leaders?*
- *How can we assess whether available public stories about migration are reliable and representative?*
- *How do stories of migration influence how people think and (re)act?*

### How do local cases of migration relate to global patterns?

- *In what ways do particular cases connect to human migration over time and around the globe?*
- *What can we learn from other narratives about migration to help inform our perspective?*
- *What are the universal and unique qualities of successful integration?*

## Turning to Action

### How can we take action toward more inclusive and sustainable societies?

- *What issues related to migration do we care about and why?*
- *What can we learn from individuals and groups who have addressed migration in the past?*
- *How might we use our voice and spheres of influence to create and sustain inclusive and welcoming communities?*

The Re-imagining Migration Learning Arc was developed by Verónica Boix-Mansilla, with Adam Strom, Carola Suárez-Orozco and Marcelo Suárez-Orozco in partnership with Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Learn more about Re-Imagining Migration work on our website:

[www.reimaginingmigration.org](http://www.reimaginingmigration.org)

