

READING AND SPEAKING

Living in the USA

- 1 Close your eyes and think of the United States. Write down the first five things you think of.

The Empire State Building
Cheeseburger and fries

Compare your list with other students.

- 2 Read the introduction to the magazine article. Then work in three groups.

Group A Read about Aziz.

Group B Read about Endre.

Group C Read about Yuet Tung.

- 3 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why and when did he/she come to the US?
- 2 What does he/she do?
- 3 What does he/she like about living in the US?
- 4 What was difficult at the beginning?

- 4 Find a partner from each of the other two groups. Compare the three people.

- 5 Answer the questions with your group.

- 1 What do the people have in common?
- 2 Are they all happy living in the US?
- 3 Who has other members of their family living there?
- 4 Do they all have children?
- 5 Who married someone from their own country?
- 6 What do Aziz and Endre like about the US?
- 7 What do they say about their own country?
- 8 Do they like the people?
- 9 What do they say about Americans and their cars?

What do you think?

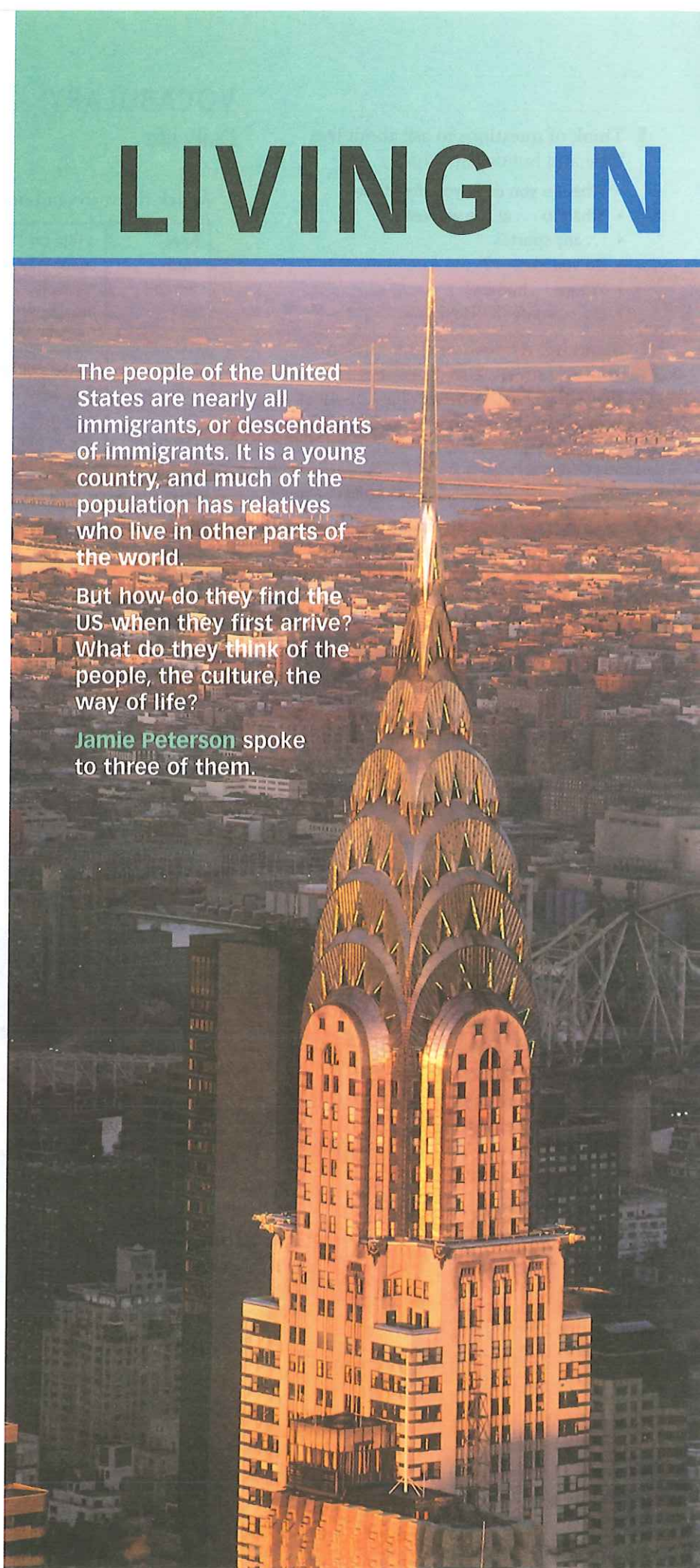
- What do you like best about living in your country? What would you miss if you lived abroad?
- Do you know any foreigners living in your country? What do they like about it? What do they find different?

LIVING IN

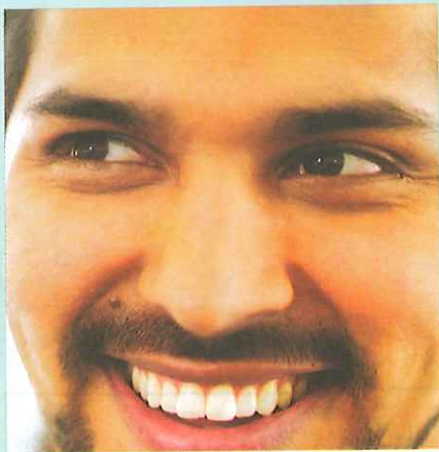
The people of the United States are nearly all immigrants, or descendants of immigrants. It is a young country, and much of the population has relatives who live in other parts of the world.

But how do they find the US when they first arrive? What do they think of the people, the culture, the way of life?

Jamie Peterson spoke to three of them.



THE USA



Aziz Tounsi
aged 24, from Tunisia

Aziz came from Tunis to New York ten years ago. He wanted to study English here. At first he missed everything – the sunshine, the food, his family. But now he has a successful business with his three brothers and his wife. They run a sports store in New Brunswick. Aziz's wife is also Tunisian, and they have two children who go to American schools.

When asked about the future, Aziz says without hesitation, 'I want to work hard and be successful.' He certainly works hard. He's at the store all day, then works as a driver in the evening. 'I like living here,' he says. 'You can be what you want.'

'When I first came here, I didn't speak the language, and it was winter. It was so cold! There was snow! Now nearly all my family are here, not only in New York, but also in California, and in Texas. We meet about once a month and have a huge Tunisian family meal! We're all happy here.'



Endre Boros
aged 45, from Hungary

Endre is a mathematician at Rutgers University, New Jersey. He came from Budapest thirteen years ago. 'I had an opportunity to come here for two years.' After a year, his wife came to join him, and since then they've had a daughter, so they decided to stay.

'At first it was very strange. Everything is so big here,' he says. 'I started to feel happy when I bought a car. Now I go everywhere by car. In Hungary, we only use the car at weekends, but here your car is part of your life. Nobody walks anywhere.'

How does he find the people? 'Very friendly. The first question everybody asks you is "Where are you from?" People talk to you here, they start conversations. I like the fact that there are people from all over the world.'

What about the way of life? 'The thing I like best is the independence. Nobody tells me what to do. Here you can do what you want, so you learn to make decisions for yourself. I feel in control.'



Yuet Tung
aged 31, from Hong Kong

Yuet Tung is her Chinese name, but in English she's known as Clara. She came to the US eight years ago and studied fine art. Now she works on Madison Avenue for a publisher. She married a Vietnamese American three years ago, and they live in Long Island. They don't have any children yet.

What does she think of living in New York? 'It's very similar to Hong Kong. It's a busy city, very exciting, and people walk very fast! I like the stores here. They're huge, and it's cheaper than Hong Kong. But you need a car here. In Hong Kong everyone uses public transportation, because it's good and it's cheap. At first I hated driving here, but it's OK now.'

What does she like best? 'The space. Here I live in a house with a yard. In Hong Kong it is so crowded. And the people are friendly. When I go jogging, everyone says "Hi!" And the food is from every country in the world.'