From Little Havana to Chinatown

**MIAMI, Florida** (Achieve3000, February 25, 2020). Salsa music spills from storefronts. The scent of *café cubano* swirls in the streets. A spirited game lures a crowd, the clatter of dominoes, chatter, and laughter jubilantly building as the match intensifies. Welcome to Miami, Florida's Little Havana.

The U.S. is home to immigrants from all over the world. But neighborhoods like Little Havana help to preserve the unique heritage of its residents. From New York City's Chinatown to San Diego's Little Italy, these "heritage hubs" celebrate the importance of culture and ethnicity. And they allow visitors to delight in the nation's diversity.

Cuban exiles shaped the landscape of Little Havana beginning in the 1950s. It became known as Miami's Ellis Island: the historic immigration station in New York Harbor that welcomed newcomers for over 60 years. And in 2017, Little Havana was named a national treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

And this treasure has it all: Traditional Cuban food. Open-air markets. Art galleries surrounded by a thriving music scene. These attractions draw visitors to Little Havana, where well-dressed residents often gather in the shade to play dominoes. Peppered with spirited discussions, the games heat up with the Florida sun and the players' competitive spirits.

In much the same way, New York City's Chinatown hums with an electric energy. The neighborhood attracts crowds of visitors daily, beckoning bellies with dumplings, pork buns, and hand-pulled noodle dishes. Meanwhile, bargain seekers flock to Chinatown's bustling Canal Street shopping area.

While many cities in the U.S. boast Chinatowns, New York's is one of the largest. And it's also one of the oldest. In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were offered work in the West. As these opportunities lessened, locals accused them of taking their jobs. Faced with discrimination, many of these immigrants moved east to New York. They banded together to form a tight-knit community.

Today, New York City's Chinatown boasts markets, museums, and galleries steeped in Chinese culture and history. At Columbus Park, in the heart of Chinatown, people play mah-jongg, a traditional Chinese game. They also enjoy performances by Chinese opera troupes. And every spring, a 15-day Lunar New Year festival marks China's largest and most important celebration.

On the West Coast, Little Italy in San Diego preserves the legacy of Italian and Portuguese immigrants. These immigrants established the historic fishing community in the 1920s. In the 1970s, the neighborhood fell into decline. But revival efforts in the 1990s put a new shine on the cultural jewel. Today, it's a popular tourist destination.

The neighborhood covers 50 square blocks—including a massive piazza, an Italian-inspired public space featuring shops and art galleries. Locally owned eateries serve delicious pasta and seafood. And the largest Italian heritage festival on the West Coast is held there each fall.
As the saying goes, a tree is only as strong as its roots, and in the United States, those roots continue to spread from all over the world. Gradually they intertwine, creating a new, ever evolving American culture. But it's these culture-cultivating communities that help the country hold on to—and grow from—its varied roots. They've allowed many people to stay connected to their homelands and enriched others with new experiences.

**Dictionary**

*discrimination (noun)*  the practice of unfairly treating a person or group of people differently from other people or groups of people

*diversity (noun)*  the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

*enrich (verb)*  to improve the quality of (something): to make (something) better

*heritage (noun)*  the traditions, achievements, beliefs, etc., that are part of the history of a group or nation—usually singular

*legacy (noun)*  something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past
PART 1

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

A. In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were offered work in the American West, but as those opportunities decreased, locals accused them of taking their jobs, so many immigrants moved east to New York, where they banded together in a tight-knit community.

B. Little Italy in San Diego, California, was established by Italian and Portuguese immigrants as a fishing community in the 1920s and now covers 50 square blocks that feature a massive piazza with shops, restaurants, and galleries.

C. Different neighborhoods in the United States celebrate the culture of the immigrants who live there, letting them stay connected to their past while, at the same time, allowing visitors the chance to delight in the nation's diversity.

D. Known as Miami's Ellis Island, which was the historic immigration station in New York Harbor that welcomed newcomers to the United States for 60 years, Little Havana was named a national treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A. San Diego's Little Italy preserves the legacy of Italian and Portuguese immigrants who established a fishing community there in the 1920s.

B. Visitors to Little Havana in Miami, Florida, can enjoy watching the locals play games of dominoes and listen to their spirited discussions.

C. Culture-cultivating communities across the United States allow the country to hold on to, and grow from, its varied roots.

D. It must be a lot of fun to watch people playing mah-jongg in Columbus Park, which is found in the heart of New York City's Chinatown.

Question 3

The Article states:

While many cities in the U.S. boast Chinatowns, New York's is one of the largest. And it's also one of the oldest. In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were offered work in the West. As these opportunities lessened, locals accused them of taking their jobs. Faced with discrimination, many of these immigrants moved east to New York. They banded together to form a tight-knit community.

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to _______.

A. point out important differences between Chinese immigrants who lived and worked in the West and those who lived in New York's Chinatown

B. explain why it was so difficult to find people to work in the western part of the United States in the 1870s

C. explain why many Chinese immigrants first came to the United States and why so many of them moved east to New York

D. suggest that most Chinese immigrants of the 1800s arrived in New York and then moved west to find work

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word diversity?

A. mobility  
B. anxiety  
C. similarity  
D. humanity

**Question 5**
Suppose Hee Jin wants to find out about Lunar New Year festivals. She would find most of her information _________.

A. in a Chinese-English dictionary under the word "lunar"  
B. in a book describing China's largest and most important celebration  
C. on a map showing the location of points of interest in Chinatown  
D. on a TV show describing why Chinese immigrants came to the U.S.

**Question 6**
Read this passage from the Article:

>Cuban exiles shaped the landscape of Little Havana beginning in the 1950s. It became known as Miami's Ellis Island: the historic immigration station in New York Harbor that welcomed newcomers for over 60 years.

In this passage, the word immigration means ___________.

A. the act of coming to a country to live there  
B. the state of being confused about something  
C. the ability to overcome problems one faces  
D. the capacity of a person to change or adapt

**Question 7**
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that many immigrants were not treated fairly after they had been living and working in the United States?

A. As the saying goes, a tree is only as strong as its roots, and in the United States, those roots continue to spread from all over the world. Gradually they intertwine, creating a new, ever evolving American culture.

B. Cuban exiles shaped the landscape of Little Havana beginning in the 1950s. It became known as Miami’s Ellis Island: the historic immigration station in New York Harbor that welcomed newcomers for over 60 years.

C. In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were offered work in the West. As these opportunities lessened, locals accused them of taking their jobs. Faced with discrimination, many of these immigrants moved east to New York. They banded together to form a tight-knit community.

D. On the West Coast, Little Italy in San Diego preserves the legacy of Italian and Portuguese immigrants. These immigrants established the historic fishing community in the 1920s. In the 1970s, the neighborhood fell into decline.

**Question 8**
The Article says all of the following except __________.

A. most Cuban immigrants moved back to Cuba after many years in Little Havana
B. Italian Americans honor their heritage in San Diego's Little Italy each fall
C. playing dominoes is a popular pastime in Little Havana
D. Chinese immigrants faced discrimination after working in the United States
Thought Question

Give three reasons why someone would like to visit neighborhoods like Little Havana, Little Italy, and Chinatown. Include facts and details from the Article in your response.

Type your answer in the text box below.