

In Search of the American Dream

1 Every generation has dreamed of a better life for their children. Many made the
2 decision to pack up everything and immigrate to America. That is how most Americans
3 came to be Americans.

4 For 200 years, people who have suffered from poverty, hunger or oppressive
5 governments have come to the United States of America in search of the American
6 Dream. Many people around the world work 18 hour days just to earn enough to
7 survive. For these people, the American dream means an easier life and a better
8 education for them and their children. Other people think differently. For these others,
9 it is the idea of getting rich without working hard. It is the idea that after a long day of
10 work you can go to a casino and win the jackpot and retire.

11 Making enough money to buy a nice home, put the kids in a good school, have money
12 for college, this is exactly what the American dream is about. Many Americans work 2
13 or more jobs a day to support their families and they just do not have the opportunity
14 to earn enough to do everything, or do they?

15 Many Americans are turning to the internet to live the American dream. The best part
16 about this is that now you can live the American dream without being in America or
17 being an American. Since the creation of the internet, we have seen more impressive
18 technologies than ever and more way to achieve success. With only a small amount of
19 money, anyone can create their own webpage or app that could turn into the next big
20 thing. It might sound easy but in reality, it is a lot of hard work however it is possible.
21 The internet is the American dream because what the American dream is, in reality, is
22 an equal opportunity for all.

23 The dream is that you can do better in life than the cards you have been dealt, just like
24 in poker you are dealt your cards then after looking at them you have the chance to
25 exchange your bad cards for better ones. Many people around the world are dealt a
26 bad hand in life but the idea that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed gives
27 them hope.



Comprehension Questions

1. What opinion does the text express about the American dream?
2. The American dream is all about making money quickly. True/False.
3. You have to be American to live the America dream. True/False.
4. Why do people want the America dream?
5. How can you achieve the American dream?
6. What analogy did the text give about the American dream?
7. Why is the American dream like the internet?

Writing Task

You are an American immigrant. Today you just completed you citizenship test and are officially an American. Describe your life up until this moment. Include details about good and bad times, problems you overcame and things you failed at.

Write a short letter (200 words) describing your life and your hopes for the future.

Gap Fill

For 200 years, people who have from poverty, hunger or oppressive governments have come to the United States of America in search of the American Dream. Many people around the world work 18 hour days just to enough to For these people, the American dream means an easier life and a better education for them and their children. Other people think differently. For these others, it is the idea of rich without working hard. It is the idea that after a long day of work you can go to a casino and win the and

The dream is that you can do better in life than the cards you have been, just like in poker you are your cards then after looking at them you have the chance to exchange your bad cards for better ones. Many people around the world are dealt a bad in life but the idea that everyone has an equal opportunity to gives them



| Vocabulary | Definition / Example / Translation |
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| Poverty | Hunger | To suffer |
| To support | Impressive | To retire |
| To deal (cards) | To immigrate | Oppressive |
| To survive | Jackpot | To succeed |
| | | |
| | | |
| Talk about... The average salary in your country | Talk about... Your hopes for the future of your country | Talk about... The main goal of people in your country |
| Talk about... Working part-time vs. full- time | Talk about... How you stay focused on a goal | Talk about... How you feel after failing to achieve a goal |



Speaking Task – Role-play

Role 1

You are a life advisor. People come to you to ask for help. Often they are confused and don't know what to do in life. Sometimes people know what they want to do but they just don't know how. A person is coming to ask for your advice.

Checklist:

- Listen to the goals and life story of the person. Take notes.
- For each goal they tell you, ask them for more details.
- Give them some concrete advice for each goal.
- Give the person encouragement and organize another appointment next year.

You must use the following words: support, impressive, deal and succeed.

Role 2

You are a young person with many dreams and goal but you don't know what you want to do or how to do it. You are going to see a life advisor. Before you start, invent a backstory for your life.

Checklist:

- Tell the advisor your life story.
- Tell them your goals in detail
- Listen to the advice of the life advisor
- Make a plan to achieve your goals

You must use the following words: survive, jackpot, poverty, and hunger.

Debate Topics

- Money causes more problems than it solves
- America is the best country in the world

Discussion Topic

- Something you wish you did differently in the past

Discussion Topic

- Something you wish you had learned when you were younger

Discussion Topic

- How do dreams change as you get older?

Discussion Topic

- How much money do you need to be happy?



Answers

1. What opinion does the text express about the American dream? **The American Dream is different for everyone. In essence, it is the idea that you can always do better for yourself if you just work hard. The American Dream is for everyone.**
2. The American dream is all about making money quickly. True/False. **False. For some people, it is all about making money quickly. For others, the dream is just a better quality of life.**
3. You have to be American to live the America dream. True/False. **False. Anyone can pursue The American Dream.**
4. Why do people want the America dream? **It represents a better quality of life. To do better than how you started life.**
5. How can you achieve the American dream? **You have to work hard. Some people have two jobs just to support their families. Many people are now starting web pages and creating apps. Of course, you could go to the casino or buy a lottery ticket too.**
6. What analogy did the text give about the American dream? **The American Dream is like playing poker. You can't choose the cards you are dealt but what you do with them is your choice.**
7. Why is the American dream like the internet? **The internet represents an opportunity. People who have nothing can create a webpage or app that could make lots of money. You don't necessarily need a lot of money just an idea and hard work.**

Gap Fill

For 200 years, people who have **suffered** from poverty, hunger or oppressive governments have come to the United States of America in search of the American Dream. Many people around the world work 18 hour days just to **earn** enough to **survive**. For these people, the American dream means an easier life and a better education for them and their children. Other people think differently. For these others, it is the idea of **getting** rich without working hard. It is the idea that after a long day of work you can go to a casino and win the **jackpot** and **retire**.

The dream is that you can do better in life than the cards you have been **dealt** just like in poker you are **dealt** your cards then after looking at them you have the chance to exchange your bad cards for better ones. Many people around the world are dealt a bad **hand** in life but the idea that everyone has an equal opportunity to **succeed** gives them **hope**.

