A Better Life

Since 1945, about 7 million people have chosen to make Australia their home. About one quarter of all Australians today were born overseas (see box).

**Why Do People Migrate?**
People migrate for many reasons. They may want to join family members, or make a new life with the chance of better health and education than could be found in their homelands. They may want to find work, or escape unpleasant or dangerous conditions in their homeland.

**Australia's Immigration Programmes**
The Australian Government operates two immigration programmes: the Migration Programme and the Humanitarian Programme. The Humanitarian Programme is for refugees fleeing danger in their homeland. The Migration Programme accepts people into Australia who are either skilled in an occupation which Australia needs (skilled stream), or who have members of their family already living in Australia (family stream).

People are accepted for the skilled stream if they have training or experience in an occupation which is in demand in Australia, or if they have business skills and money to invest in a business which will create jobs for other Australians. In 2013-2014, there were 128,550 places for skilled migrants to gain entry due to their work or business skills.

To be chosen for the family stream a person must be sponsored (supported) by a member of their family who is already an Australian resident. Most family stream migrants are the husbands, wives or fiancés of Australian citizens or permanent residents. In 2013-2014, there were 60,885 places for family migrants sponsored by family members already in Australia.

**Living Together**
The last 60 years of immigration have had a very visible effect on Australia. Groups of people coming to a new land will naturally want to live close to other people from the same background, especially when they speak a language other than English.

The places these communities have gathered to live have changed dramatically. An older example is Dixon Street in Sydney, known as Chinatown, which has had the appearance of an Asian city for many years. In the 1970s and 1980s Cabramatta (Sydney) and Springvale (Melbourne) became centres for the Vietnamese community. Likewise, Leichhardt (Sydney) and Carlton (Melbourne) became centres for the Italian community in the 1950s and 1960s.

These places have become popular with all Australians, who are often attracted by the restaurants and to experience grocery stores which provide a wonderful range of food. In fact, immigration has influenced many aspects of everyday Australian life, including music, film, television, art, architecture, cuisine, sport and recreation.
1. How many people have moved to Australia since 1945?
   a. half of the population   c. about 6 million
   b. 22.6 million   d. about 7 million

2. List 4 common reasons for people wanting to migrate to another country.
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3. How many places were made available for skilled migrants in 2013-14?
   a. 7 million   b. 60 885   c. 400 000   d. 128 550

4. Shade the response that best shows why people are accepted for the skilled stream.
   They have training or experience in an occupation which Australia needs.
   They want to live close to other people from the same background.
   They are fleeing danger in their homeland.
   They are sponsored by a member of their family who is already an Australian resident.

5. What is the purpose of the Humanitarian Programme?

6. Shade true or false to answer the following.
   a. More people have come to Australia from New Zealand than from the United Kingdom.
   b. In June 2014 Australia’s estimated population was about 24.4 million people.
   c. There are more Chinese born residents than Indian born residents in Australia.

7. Inference questions
   7. Which programme would a person apply for if they wanted to move to Australia to live with their adult children?
      a. Humanitarian Programme (family stream)   c. Migration Programme (family stream)
      b. Migration Programme (skilled stream)   d. Humanitarian Programme (skilled stream)

8. What benefits do you think Australia has gained from its years of immigration?

9. Why do you think people with the same background choose to live close to one another?

Challenge Option
Locate Leichhardt and Cabramatta on a map of Sydney.