

ANSWER KEY

Racial and Ethnic Demographics of U.S. Population Pre- and Post-1965 Worksheet

1. In what ways did the U.S. population's demographics shift after 1965?

The impacts of post-1965 immigration include a more diverse and overall growth in U.S. population, because of both immigrants and their descendants. For example, Pew Research suggests that the racial makeup of the country would have looked very different if not for the 59 million people who immigrated between 1965 and 2015: the percentage of White people would have been higher (75% instead of 62%) while all communities of color would have had a lower population without the 1965-2015 immigration. About half of those 59 million people were from Latin America, and a quarter from Asia, which heavily influenced this diversification. The country's population is also estimated to have grown by 72 million specifically because of the 1965-2015 immigration.

1. What implications and consequences do you think this shift has on the demographics of U.S. citizens?

As more people immigrate to the United States and naturalization is no longer excluded from people based on their race, this increased immigration likely led to a large growth in Latinx and Asian citizens - the largest share of immigrants coming from those regions of the world respectively. Additionally, the descendants born in the United States are also citizens through birthright citizenship, adding millions more non-white citizens to the U.S. population.

2. In what ways did the diversity within the APIDA community in the United States grow after 1965?

Prior to 1965, very few ethnic groups from within the APIDA community were represented in significant numbers in the United States - namely Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, and Indian communities. As immigration opened and refugee assistance was prioritized, more Southeast Asians - such as Vietnamese, Laotian, Khmer, Hmong - immigrants came to the U.S. Currently there are over 30 different APIDA ethnic groups in this country.

3. Based on 1965-2015 demographic trends and changes, do you think the demographics of the United States will continue to change in the next 50 years? Explain.

Following the 1965-2015 demographic trends, it is likely that Latinx, Asian & Pacific Islander, and Black populations in the United States will continue to grow, both through immigration and domestic-born populations. As a result, it is



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possible that people of color may make up the majority of the population in the United States within the next couple decades.

