



### The American Dream

**The Essential Question:** Is the American Dream real, or is it a fantasy?

Before reading the **Chasing the Dream** blog post, introduce **The Essential Question** and review students' prior knowledge of the American Dream. This activity will help students explore their idea of the American Dream and compare their ideas with the rest of the class.

Have students study the illustration from the blog post and pick out the pictures they think most fit their vision of the American Dream. Then, have students draw pictures of what the American Dream is to them. The picture should show what the student values most about their future.

When they are finished drawing, put students into pairs and have them compare what they drew.

- **Ask:** How are your pictures similar? How are they different? Why do you think your dreams are different from or similar to your classmate? Do you think that in 50 years, students your age now will have the same dreams for the future that you do right now? Why or why not?

Explain that the American Dream has many different definitions depending on who you are, where you come from, your life experiences, your family, religion, school, the media, etc. The opportunity to achieve that dream is different for everyone as well.

#### Approx. Time



- 30 minutes

#### Learning Target



- Students will create and compare illustrations of their visions of the American Dream and their future.

#### Big Questions



- Is the American Dream real, or is it a fantasy?
- What is your “American Dream”?

#### Lesson Source



- [The Issue Vol. 1.7: The American Dream](#)