

# **AMERICAN PASSAGES – UNTERRICHTSMATERIALIEN- ENGLISCH** (GERS-Niveau B1-B2) geeignet für 7./8. Klasse AHS, 4./5. Klasse HAK, HBLA

## **PRE-VIEWING MATERIALS:**

### **Reading**

- Interview with Filmmaker Ruth Beckermann

### **Tasks**

- Alphabetical List – The United States of America
- Mindmap – The Political System in the US
- Crossword

## **POST-VIEWING MATERIALS:**

### **Language in Use (2 tasks, 16 questions)**

- Public Housing Projects – A View inside the Fence of a Modern Ghetto.
- Founding Fathers Made of Bronze – The Signing of the Constitution.

### **Reading Comprehension (3 tasks, 24 questions)**

- The Heritage of Native America
- Homosexual Couples and Adoption
- A Letter from Christine, Ufologist from Arizona

### **Listening Comprehension (5 tasks, 25 questions)**

- The American Dream- Interview with Sheila Skemp, Professor of History in Oxford, Mississippi,
- Segregation: An Interview with Miles, an African American Taxidriver from Atlanta
- Relationships –Several Persons talk about their Relationships
- Forclosure- A Woman is being put out of her House
- Life in the Tunnels below Las Vegas

### **Schreibaufträge für “Review”, “Report” und “Opinion essay”**

- You are a journalist for the New York Times and are writing a review of "American Passages" from an American's point of view. (max. 200 words)
- (reply to 1) ) You are a reader of the New York Times in Vienna and have just read the review. Write a letter to the editor, giving your personal opinion concerning the film and the Austrian view on the USA. (max. 200 words)
- You have been asked by the headmaster of your school to write an article about "American Passages", comparing it to the social situation of minorities in Austria. (max. 200 words)
- You are working for a famous movie magazine and responsible for promoting new films. Write a short advertisement of "American Passages". (max. 100 words)
- You are a blogger specializing in film analysis. Pick a scene you remember well and write a short commentary on it (characters, film technique, atmosphere, message, personal opinion). (max. 200 words)
- 

### **Online Research**

- Find out more about Paolo Soleri's „Arcology“

Die Materialien wurden von Ursula Wolschlagler, Mag. Christian Tröbinger und Wolfgang Pawlat in Zusammenarbeit mit Mag. Roland Hofmann erstellt.

## AMERICAN PASSAGES – UNTERRICHTSMATERIALIEN

### PRE-VIEWING MATERIALS:

#### Interview with Filmmaker Ruth Beckermann:

## „It’s like playing in a sandbox”

*Afro-Americans celebrating in the streets of Harlem, young women recovering from their drug addiction in jail, and a 87-year-old former pimp who rolls the dice in Vegas: in her new documentary Viennese filmmaker Ruth Beckermann goes on a search for the American dream and discovers various paths.*

wieninternational.at met the director of *American Passages* and spoke with her about surprising realities, scenes gone wrong and the art of being in the right place at the right time.



Her new film took Ruth Beckermann to America

*wieninternational.at*: You travelled to eleven U.S. states for your film. Were there places where you absolutely wanted to go? What was decided on the spot?

**Ruth Beckermann:** I definitely wanted to be in New York on election night – not in Chicago, where all the official business was, but in Harlem. And I wanted to shoot in Las Vegas. These two destinations were planned. And I already knew when I was preparing the film that I wanted to go to the middle of the country, to the south and the west, not to the coasts but into the heart of America. Whether it would be Texas or Arizona didn’t really matter that much. Things usually happened through contacts. But of course I also took spontaneous decisions. The waffle house on the highway in Arkansas, for instance: We had only gone there to have breakfast. It had such a coffeehouse atmosphere to it, and I always like filming in coffeehouses, so we decided to shoot there on the spot. The scene in the social housing block happened spontaneously, too. We had arranged to meet someone there, and suddenly there was this action with the police. These things would often just snowball. We’d meet someone in a bar who would tell us about someone he knew, then we’d go there, and so on. With a film like this you can’t really draw a line between research and shooting.

*wieninternational.at*: Was it obvious from the start that this would be a film about “the end of the American century”, as the press pack describes it, or did that only become clear while you were travelling around the country?

**Ruth Beckermann**: I wouldn't put it that strongly. I think the American Dream still exists today. I met people who only came from Bangladesh 15 years ago, and their kids are already working as doctors. For some groups of immigrants at least, such as Asians, it is still possible to climb up the social ladder. The 20th century was the American century: from conquering the Nazis in “the good war”, as it is called there, to the embarrassment of the Vietnam War to pop culture and music. The culture of the 20th century bears the mark of America, and it will probably continue to be like this for some time, but a certain shift of power towards Asia can already be felt. What I was most interested in, however, was America as Utopian project, as we also know it from the American Revolution. At the moment we have, on the one hand, the election of the first black president – a truly historic moment – and, on the other hand, the shock of the credit crunch that has dramatically shattered this dream. The real estate crisis that has led to millions of people losing their homes has called into question the idea of the American Dream that is also connected with the notion that every American should have his or her own home. When you are making a documentary it is always important to film a moment where something has broken open. This tension transmits itself to the people and to the film, and that was the right moment for me.



Jerry Goldberg at the Casino in Las Vegas

*wieninternational.at*: In how far is this dream of “Anything goes” and “Yes we can” still a driving force in the country even after these crises, and in how far has our European view of this “land of unlimited possibilities” changed?

**Ruth Beckermann**: Though it's nothing to be happy about the film has, of course, become more topical for us because the crisis is being felt more acutely here, too. When the film was finished back in March, April, one could still say: Oh well, that's America, but here everything's different, we have wonderful social security nets, etc. In the meantime events have more or less caught up with us. If, and how, America and Europe – the Western world in general – will re-orientate themselves, is the big question. I'm not a clairvoyant, unfortunately, and so I don't have an answer to that. At the moment, though, it looks as if we're pretty much continuing in the same vein as before.

*wieninternatinonal.at*: You spent some time in the States as a student. In what ways has the country changed since then?

**Ruth Beckermann**: That was in the 70s, and I was only in New York then. It was the time of free love, waterbeds, cinema, music, and a general sense of a new era. The end of the Vietnam War was already on the horizon. Coming from grey, provincial Vienna, New York was simply fantastic. It was poorer than today, of course. Now, Manhattan is all cleaned up – and much more boring. But then it was a diverse, crazy city. I loved



it. You can't compare that time with today. In Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn there are hardly any areas left where artists and less affluent people can afford to live. The little Manhattan you had back then – from the Lower East Side to the Bowery with the homeless to the Village where you had the artists, and the rich 5th avenue right in the middle – doesn't exist anymore.

*wieninternational.at*: In your films you often don't address issues directly but create a kind of network where viewers have to find their own way of understanding. How does a filmmaker, and a viewer, navigate in such a rhizomatic structure?

**Ruth Beckermann**: There are many issues and images which you would like to have in your film and which you think about before you actually start filming. I definitely wanted to film air conditioning as a symbol of America. Issues that were important to me were the real estate bubble, racism and homosexual parents, and I tried to find protagonists in advance or hoped to find some during filming. My approach is to re-invent the film in the cutting room. That's like playing in a sandbox, like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. You have to fit the material you have into a structure in which the viewer is free to move. I didn't want to make a film where everything is grouped according to topics. It's true, the film is like a rhizome or a piece of music, something that extends into all directions and yet connects again somewhere. Within it every viewer has to find his or her own way.



A casting in Las Vegas

*wieninternational.at*: There's one scene where you visit young women in jail – girls who seem to have gone through every horrible experience you can imagine in a woman's life. Can you tell us something about these scenes, and was there an event or an encounter that left a particularly strong impression on you?

**Ruth Beckermann**: There was this young woman who deeply impressed me because I think that at that moment she was absolutely sure she could change her life. While I was talking to her I thought: How should that happen? You need so much strength to get out of all that and not go back to the drugs again. There were these other women, too, who told their stories. One says she has eight children. During the few hours I spent with these young women I experienced conflicting emotions, and I thought to myself: Have you ever heard of the contraceptive pill? And how much faith do you need to keep all these children? I also wondered whether a six-month drug rehab programme makes much sense. I had very ambivalent emotions – also because this sheriff who hands out their diplomas is notoriously racist, which doesn't come out in the film that strongly. However, he does run quite a good programme in his jail. One thing you learn when you're doing documentaries is that life is full of contradictions and that people can be truly amazing. It is exciting how reality, and not just fiction, can often take you by surprise.

*wieninternational.at*: The old man at the casino is another fascinating figure. How did you find him?

**Ruth Beckermann**: The sound man I worked together with in Las Vegas met him through a friend. I wasn't really interested at first but when I heard his voice on tape I knew I wanted to meet this guy. Jerry, that was his

name, also got us permission to film in the casino, which is usually totally forbidden.



A young resident of the housing project in Tulsa

*wieninternational.at*: Are there any scenes that you regret not being able to fit into the overall concept of the film?

**Ruth Beckermann**: I shot some material in a company that drills for oil. The owner was a rich, white American man, and he was the third generation of his family to run the company. That was an interesting topic, of course, especially with the major BP oil disaster that was headline news at the time. However, there wasn't really a lot to see and the man didn't have much to say. You don't take someone in your film just because of the topic. It just won't work.

*wieninternational.at*: The film primarily focuses on poorer people and the middle class. Why is that?

**Ruth Beckermann**: The middle class is indeed very much at the centre of the film. It is *the* issue in America. The American Dream has successfully made us all middle class. What is also being felt in the film is the decline of the middle class. Democracies depend on a middle class – this applies to us here, too. It is the centre that holds society together. If I were to do a second part and take a more northern route there would certainly be scenes at an elite university or in a city like Chicago.

*wieninternational.at*: Until 2008 you were the chairwoman of dok.at, the Association of Austrian Documentary Film which you co-founded and which had its tenth anniversary last year. In these years Austrian documentary film has enjoyed growing success both on a national and on an international level. How did you experience this development, and how did dok.at contribute to this success? And is it easier to do a documentary film for a female director today?

**Ruth Beckermann**: It is much easier. When I started out there wasn't even any film funding. It's still difficult, especially for women. The film business here is still much more male-dominated than in many other countries. Unfortunately we have only few institutions that are in a position to finance films. Not all federal provinces in Austria have film funding schemes, and there is only one TV broadcasting company that co-finances films. There is limited choice, and the existing institutions should get bigger budgets.



The Estrella Female Jail in Phoenix

*wieninternational.at*: *American Passages* just premiered at the 2011 Viennale: a festival that emphasises its commitment to documentary films. That's not necessarily the case at all festivals. Do documentaries have less star appeal and are, therefore, less glamorous and not as easy to market?

**Ruth Beckermann**: Sure, documentaries aren't for escapists, but for alert, interested people. Our audiences are smaller, but they love our work.

Interview by (sasch) of [www.wieninternational.at](http://www.wieninternational.at)

Fotos © Ruth Beckermann Filmproduktion, 2011

**Info:**

American Passages. A film by Ruth Beckermann. Austria 2011. 120 minutes.

<http://www.ruthbeckermann.com/home.php?il=44>

In Viennese cinemas from 25 November 2011



[www.americanpassages.at](http://www.americanpassages.at)

<http://www.facebook.com/AmericanPassages>

**About Ruth Beckermann:**

**Ruth Beckermann** was born in Vienna. She studied journalism and art history in Vienna, Tel Aviv and New York. In 1977 she took her PhD at the University of Vienna. She has worked as a journalist for various Austrian and Swiss papers. In 1978 she co-founded the Filmladen shop where she worked for seven years. Since 1985 she has been active as an author and filmmaker. Previous films include *East of War*, *A Fleeting Passage to the Orient* (1999) and *Zorro's Bar Mitzva* (2006).



## **Task 1**

### **Mindmap – The Political System in the US**

The American constitution is the oldest written constitution and specified the purpose, form and structure of the government. It's ideological framework was provided by the "Declaration of Liberty", written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, which – 13 years before the French Revolution demanded "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" – outlined the "unalienable rights" afforded to people. Amongst them were "...Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...". This theory of natural rights shaped the fundamental idea at the heart of American government.

**Form groups of 3-4 students and make a mind map of your knowledge of the political system of the US. Pool your knowledge and write down all details that come to your mind.**

## **PRE-VIEWING MATERIALS:**

### **Task 2:**

#### **Alphabetical List – The United States of America**

Sts. are given a copy with the alphabet printed on the left hand side (top to bottom, A-Z, see attached list). The task is to find as many words as possible they associate with the topic „The United States of America“, writing down 1-2 words for each letter of the alphabet. The teacher sets a time limit of 3-5 minutes to do so. Then the sts. turn to their neighbour and complete their own list with the words their neighbour/s has/have found, using a different colour. The alphabetical list should not be corrected by the teacher or marked to ensure a playful elicitation of students' knowledge with a competitive element.



A

B

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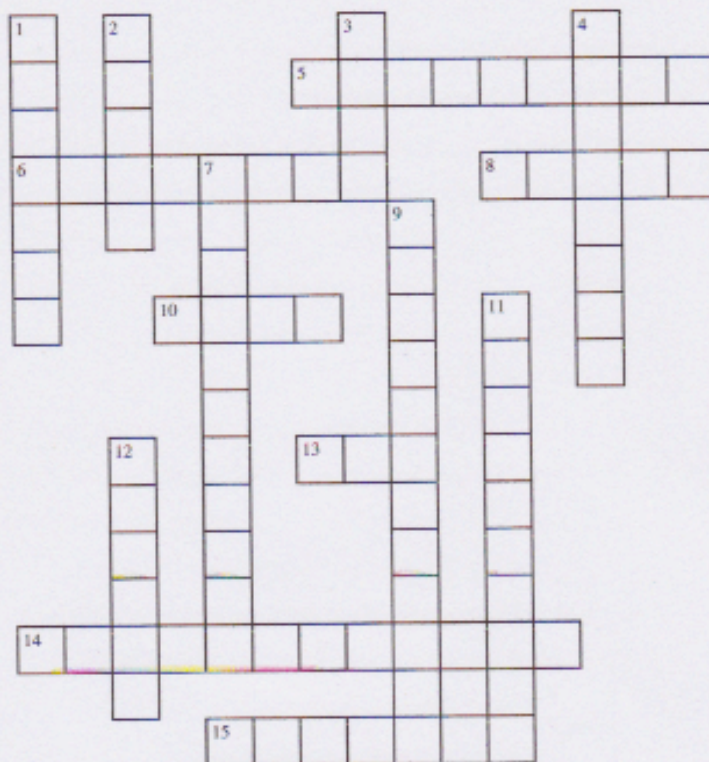
Y

Z

### Task 3:

### Crossword

## The United States of America



#### ACROSS

- 5 What's the political party of Barack Obama called?
- 6 What are retired soldiers who fought in wars called?
- 8 Which legendary singer was a star around the world, but never left the U.S.?
- 10 What is the group of people called that speak the verdict in American courts?
- 13 How many presidents of Afro-American origin have the U.S. had?
- 14 What's the dominant religious creed in the U.S.A.?
- 15 What is Barack Obama's middle name?

#### DOWN

- 1 What's the system of unpaid, mainly African, workers called?
- 2 How many states do the United States consist of?
- 3 What's the name of a religious group that has had great importance the history of the U.S.?
- 4 Which city is famous for gambling and its show business?
- 7 What's the political party of George W. Bush called?
- 9 What the reason for the festivities on every 4th of July?
- 11 In what city can you find the White House?
- 12 What is the area around the outskirts of cities called?

# AMERICAN PASSAGES – UNTERRICHTSMATERIALIEN ENGLISCH

## LANGUAGE IN USE

### Task 1

In the following text some words are missing. Choose the correct missing word from the list of possible words for each gap and mark it with an x. The first one (0) has been done for you.

#### **Public Housing Projects – A View inside the Fence of a Modern Ghetto.**

Sheila Jackson-Johnson lives in a “project” in Tulsa, Oklahoma with her ..... (0) daughter and her three young grandchildren. She is ..... (1) with high amounts of security watching the inhabitants twenty-four-seven:

“They are fencing us in ..... (2) they do with all apartment complexes. I like living here, because it feels like countryside. You see the horses and the ducks. I feed the ducks that land in that field back there. But they welded and sealed off the ..... (3). My handicapped son can’t even walk through the gates to the store in the morning. He has to walk up all around the block to get to the central entrance, because they have welded all the other gates shut. They are fencing us in like we were in a zoo.”

Miranda, a social worker, who works with the families in the “project”:

“It’s starting to be summer. It gets worse than this. But not normally, not out here though. We’re pretty cool. It’s pretty quiet out here. But they didn’t do anything today, they didn’t ..... (4) anybody. They just go stand there. They can only keep you there until the actual police come and that’s basically what their job is. It’s a rent-a-cop type of thing. If we really need the police, they usually don’t respond until somebody’s dying, until there’s a life- ..... (5) situation. With the cuts in the police departments, their response time is really slow. (223 words)

For decades, poverty has poured through the halls of America’s poorest ..... (6) housed in crime-ridden, severely distressed public housing developments across the nation.

HBO used a „project“ in Baltimore to shoot their television drama THE WIRE against it’s backdrop. It was a huge hit with critics who applauded its gritty depiction of urban life. The series’ large, primarily African American, ensemble cast portrayed cops, teachers, reporters, drug dealers, dockworkers, politicians, and other characters in the real dramas of a major American city.

Anyone who’s worked or lived in America’s inner-city..... (7) could recognize the reality of the show’s characters and the issues of crime, poverty, drugs, and family stress presented with a combination of sympathy and outrage. (344)

**Task 1 : Gap Activity**

- 0)    O old            O teenage            O raised            O youthful
- 1)    O fed up            O impressed            O content            O nervous
- 2)    O when            O like            O if            O so
- 3)    O projects            O gates            O fences            O wires
- 4)    O like            O mind            O persuade            O arrest
- 5)    O threatening            O changing            O growing            O managing
- 6)    O nationalities            O citizens            O workers            O kids
- 7)    O divisions            O fields            O neighborhoods            O departments

## LANGUAGE IN USE

### Task 2

In the following text .... Choose the correct .... and mark it with an x. The first one (0) has been done for you.

#### Founding Fathers Made of Bronze

**A scene from the documentary American Passages shows a guide in the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia explaining the room representing the signing of the constitution.**

“This is a representation of the moment of the (0).....signing.....(sign) of the constitution September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1787. What you’re (1) .....(look) at in the room here are 42 life-size statues showing you the actual moment of the signing. Behind me here is Abraham Baldwin, who is (2).....(actual) the last guy to sign the constitution. Now, 42 statues in the room, there are 39 names on the document. 38 of them signed it. In this corner here is John Dickinson, he’s got his hand on his chin sort of like that. He (3)..... (approve) the final draft of the constitution, but got sick and had to go back home to Delaware. So, right here is George Reed, who actually signed Dickinson’s name on the constitution for him. The three men at the back table of the room are Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, and Edmund Randolph and George Mason, both from Virginia. We call them the dissenters because they saw the final draft of the constitution and still (4).....(choose) not to sign it. Their concerns were centered (5) .....(most) around too much power going to the United States federal government in Washington, not enough (6)..... (protect) for the states or individual citizens. They wanted to see something like the bill of rights added in sort of a list of protections for citizen’s liberties – that ended up coming later in 1789. They did not sign the constitution but they’re still in the room, cause they are telling us some important things about the right to free speech and dissent in a democratic society. Again, the statues are all life-size, they (7).....(create) by a studio in Brooklyn, New York over the course of 18 months. 50 artists working together created these bronze statues.”

The American constitution is the oldest written constitution and specified the purpose, form and structure of the government. It’s ideological framework (8) ..... (provide) by the “Declaration of Liberty”, written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, which – 13 years before the French Revolution demanded “Liberty, Equality and Fraternity” – outlined the “unalienable rights” afforded to people. Amongst them were “...Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...”. This theory of natural rights shaped the fundamental idea at the heart of American (9) .....(govern).





# AMERICAN PASSAGES – UNTERRICHTSMATERIALIEN

## READING COMPREHENSION

### Task 1

Read the text below about minorities in the US. Then choose the most appropriate answer (A-C) for each of the questions. The first one has been done for you.

### The Heritage of Native America

Bobbie Martin, a painter from Talequa explains his painting: I'm a quarter Creek Indian. The federal government gave every native American an enrollment number as part of their identification process. Those names and numbers actually came from the census of native Americans, so my grandmother's name is on that list of names that are in that painting. Even today, if you belong to a native American tribe, the government issues you a card, certifying what percentage of blood you are (have?) if you want to get access to certain services. There's a lot of health services, hospitals and other kinds of services in Talequah, that you can use, but you have to prove your lineage to one of the people in these tribal rolls. From a political standpoint it's still active and viable. Well, it's controversial, because there's a lot of people that didn't get enrolled, that obviously have Indian blood. But they don't have the officially approved card, so they can't get services.

When European settlers arrived on the North American continent at the end of the fifteenth century, they encountered diverse Native American cultures—as many as 900,000 inhabitants with over 300 different languages. These people, whose ancestors crossed the land bridge from Asia in what may be considered the first North American immigration, were virtually destroyed by the subsequent immigration that created the United States. This tragedy is the direct result of treaties, written and broken by foreign governments, of warfare, and of forced assimilation.

Today, people see the policies of the past with 21st century eyes. One might wonder how the nation's indigenous population became "inferior" cultures in their own land, or how a nation could have committed such atrocities in the name of "progress". One might question whether it is acceptable to make national decisions without involving in the decision making process those who will be most drastically affected.

In 1786, the United States established its first Native American reservation and approached each tribe as an independent nation. This policy remained intact for more than one hundred years. But as President James Monroe noted in his second inaugural address in 1821, treating Native Americans this way "flattered their pride, retarded their improvement, and in many instances paved the way to their destruction."

In addition, Monroe observed that America's westward growth "has constantly driven them back, with almost the total sacrifice of the lands which they have been compelled to abandon. They have claims on the magnanimity and . . . on the justice of this nation which we must all feel." Despite Monroe's concern for the plight of Native Americans, his administration successfully removed them from states north of the Ohio River. (447)

(Source: Documentary AMERICAN PASSAGES,

[http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/native\\_american.html#](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/native_american.html#))

**Task: Choose the most appropriate answer for each of the questions.**

1) Why does the government still give every Native American a card?

- A  Because the identification process is very complex.
- B  Because you need it to prove your genealogy.
- C  You need it to register in order to take part in the census.

2) Why is Bobbie's grandmother in the painting?

- A  She didn't get a number in the census.
- B  She doesn't belong to a Native American tribe.
- C  She has Native American blood.

3) Why was the second American immigration so harmful for Native Americans?

- A  Because the first one hadn't quite finished yet.
- B  Because the new settlers wanted to get rid of them.
- C  Because there wasn't enough land for all of them.

4) What does a modern view on the history of the Native Americans reveal?

- A  It shows that Native American culture was sacrificed in the name of modernisation.
- B  It shows that Native Americans were actually not the original inhabitants of the United States.
- C  It shows that Native American cultures had similar rights as white immigrants.

5) What was President Monroe's attitude towards Native Americans?

- A  "It is not necessary to move Indians into reservations."
- B  "We have to give them their land back."
- C  "Native Americans should be treated as one nation."

## Task 2 for Reading Comprehension:

Read the text below. Then choose the most appropriate heading for each paragraph (A-I). One has been done for you.

### Homosexual couples and adoption: Charles Hahn-Lowry describes, how he and his partner Robert came to adopt two newborns overnight.

.....

When we first got together, neither one of us were comfortable with being gay. But we both wanted to have a family and so we were basically best friends, we talked openly with each other. But I guess really, we were probably dating.

.....

But, we still wanted to have kids, and we didn't see how that could work if you're a gay person. We thought you have to get married to a woman, that was what made sense to us.

So, we were actually still trying to be straight so we could have kids, because we always knew from the beginning: We wanted to have a family, we just didn't know how we could put it together.

.....

So we looked into adoption. When we were reviewing all of the ways that we could adopt, trying to put all of our effort into getting a baby, specifically a healthy baby, maybe a healthy white baby, it just felt wrong to us.

.....

There were so many children here in Arizona, who had no family at all. There's thousands of them in the care of the state. And that's what really pulled us in that direction.

.....

We decided, we don't have to have a baby, we prefer younger children because we want to have this experience, and so from the beginning we had told the agency we would be open to a sibling group of up to three children, who were removed. We would try to keep the family together and the kids would ideally be 4-8 years old. So we were going through the whole process thinking of 4-8 year-olds. We had set up our house to be with children... We had bunk beds, we had all the kids stuff...

..... F) An idea takes shape

So what happened is: We got a call on a Friday from the agency and they said that there's this mother who just came in and she has newborn twins and she's wondering which families would be available: "Would you like to be available?".

.....

And we said: "Ok. We'll make ourselves available". And thinking not much more of it. On Monday morning they called us and they said "Congratulations, you're the family that she would like to have to adopt these children. Are you still interested?".

.....  
And we said: “Ok, yeah, sure, we’re still interested”, and they said “great, come get them!”. Right there. On Monday morning. And we said ok. And they said “just make sure you get car seats for them, so you can take them home”.

So just like that we drove to the agency, we met the mother, we signed the papers, and then we had two babies.

.....  
And we were not ready at all. We had nothing. Absolutely nothing for babies at all. We had to get diapers and formula and everything. (460)

**Choose a heading for each paragraph (A-I).**

- A) Teething problems
- B) Family bonds
- C) The conventional concept
- D) Choosing the parents
- E) Friends with a dream
- F) An idea takes shape**
- G) The obvious choice
- H) An opportunity arises
- I) A dream come true



### Task 3 for Reading Comprehension:

Read the text below. Then choose the correct answer (C=correct, F=false, N=not in the text) . If wrong, correct the statement. The first one has been done for you.

#### Christine, a Ufologist from Arizona, also wants to be in the film:

A letter from Christine D.:

I will try and give you my background and photo for your files. I have sent a request to MUFON to do this interview. I have been interested in UFOs since I was quite young. I began having UFO dreams/experiences about my teenage years in Cleveland, Ohio. In my 20s and 30s I lived in Colorado at about 10,000 ft elevation. UFO sightings were commonplace there. In 1981 I was working at Black Cat Fireworks with a gentleman by the name of Pat McGuire. Pat was a Wyoming rancher and had been plagued over the years with cattle mutilations. He watched in terror one night as he witnessed a UFO come down and pick up a cow. After that the UFOs came during the day and night as well and eventually they made contact. One night Pat and I and my son left Rawlins, Wyoming, with a load of fireworks and about 20 minutes or so out of Rawlins, we encountered three very bright UFOs lined up in the eastern sky. I said to Pat, "Look at those stars!" I no sooner said that and the middle one headed straight for our windshield. I screamed, "It's going to ram us!" As soon as I said that the object stopped, then descended slowly to the pavement. We had pulled over to the shoulder by then and turned off the truck. Other cars and trucks stopped on both sides of the highway. I thought they were watching, but I think there was electrical interference from the UFOs. The UFO on the ground in front of our truck was about 150 ft at the most away from us. One of the other objects was being pursued by a jet out of Warren AFB in Cheyenne. There was another UFO to the right of our location (south) which was skimming the hills, keeping equidistant from the ground at all times. The object in front of our truck stayed there a very long time. At first I was climbing over my son who was asleep at the time. I wanted to go out in front of the truck and see this thing for myself. Pat stopped me and said, "Wait until you are invited." I thought to myself, "What do you call this?" Suddenly the light disappeared, it just wasn't there anymore. It did not take off or leave, it just disappeared. I remember feeling very sad at this point. I wanted to go with them. It took me a while to realize we had gone inside the object at some point. I started having dreams and fleeting images of being inside. I underwent hypnosis with Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D., and only fragments were recovered. I continue to have UFO sightings and recently photographed a UFO that had windows. Out of one of the windows we got a face, which I will show you when you come out here. I have been with MUFON as an investigator since 2008, I have been a UFO researcher for over 30 years. Call me if you need anything more. Thanks much, Christine D. (518)

1) When Christine was young many people saw UFOs in Cleveland.

O T                    O F                    O N    IN COLORADO

2) Pat McGuire watched a UFO making crop circles near the place where the cows were grazing.

O T                    O F                    O N

3) At first, Christine and Pat thought that the UFOs were fireworks from their truck load.

O T            O F            O N

4) The UFO hit the windshield of the car.

O T            O F            O N

5) Christine thinks that the trucks stopped because they weren't able to move on.

O T            O F            O N

6) There was an airplane flying after one the UFOs.

O T            O F            O N

7) Christine felt the need to protect her son from the UFO.

O T            O F            O N

8) Christine says that she doesn't remember being inside the UFO at all.

O T            O F            O N

9) Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D., has also had UFO experiences.

O T            O F            O N

10) Christine is still shocked by the experience.

O T            O F            O N

## AMERICAN PASSAGES – UNTERRICHTSMATERIALIEN

### LISTENING COMPREHENSION

#### Task 1 THE AMERICAN DREAM

You are going to listen to two statements of Sheila Skemp, history professor in Oxford, Mississippi, who talks about her main field of study, the American dream. (2 min)

First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.

While listening, choose the correct answer for the questions below. Check the correct box.

Question 0 has been done for you.

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to review your answers.

**Q0:**

Professor Skemp is talking about the 1980s and 1990s.

true  false

**Q1**

Rockefeller, Carnegie and Morgan made millions of dollars off the natural resources that were in the East.

true  false

**Q2**

At first women could only achieve the dream in a second-hand way.

true  false

**Q3**

The American dream is something that immigrants didn't value.

true  false

**Q4**

Professor Skemp has a student who writes a term paper about the German dream.

true  false

**Q5**

Sheila Skemp's German student had heard about the American dream since childhood.

true  false

## Task 2 SEGREGATION

You are going to listen to an interview with Miles, an African American Taxidriver from Atlanta (3 min.).

First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, choose the correct answer for the questions below. Check the correct box.

Question 0 has been done for you.

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

**Q0: Which statement is right? Miles grew up...**

- A ...in Mississippi
- B ...in South Africa
- C ...in "this town"
- D ... downtown

**Q1: The described rules of segregation were**

- A social rules that people followed, because they believed in them.
- B social rules that people followed, regardless, whether they liked them or not.
- C a law that still exists and should be changed.
- D the law at that time

**Q2: Things now are**

- A the way they should be
- B much worse than they used to be
- C still not what they should be, but better than what they used to be
- D the same

**Q3: The reason, why Obama is being kept in so many tales, is being defamed, is because**

- A he's a Democrat
- B he's Afro American and has power
- C he's the most powerful man in the world

D because he pleads against racism

**Q4: The whites in the country**

A never voted for Obama

B voted for McCain

C persecute him now, even if they voted for him

D voted for Obama due to the lack of other options

**Q5: Miles says, the Americans**

A never had health insurance

B don't have health insurance

C all used to have health insurance

D shouldn't have health insurance



### Task 3 RELATIONSHIPS

You are going to hear statements of three persons who talk about their relationships, a young woman, an older woman and an older man (2 min.).

First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, choose the correct answer for the questions below. Click the correct box.

Question 0 has been done for you.

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

#### Speakers:

A: young woman

B: old man

C: old woman

#### Indicate the speaker who says:

0	We're family oriented	C
1	We dated for about a year	
2	We're both from different states	
3	Mississippi is kind of in between Texas and Georgia	
4	I've been her boss	
5	I'm a dependent person	

## Task 4 – FORCLOSURE

You are going to hear the statement of a woman, who has to move out of her house.

First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, answer the questions below, using a maximum of 4 words.

Question 0 has been done for you.

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to review your answers.

0	What do people do in the community and family the woman comes from ?	stick together/help each other/fight for one another
1	According to the speaker – who “has” everything and everybody ? : banks,	
2	What did Mr.Gainer teach ?	
3	What would remain after “they” had wiped out the middle class, according to Mr.Gainer ?	
4	What would the woman like to tell her old highschool teacher ?	

## Task 5 LIFE IN THE TUNNEL BELOW LAS VEGAS

You are going to hear statements of Eric and Phil who live in a tunnel underneath Las Vegas. They describe their everyday life.

First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, choose the correct answer for the questions below and check the correct box.

Question 0 has been done for you.

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to review your answers.

**Q0:**

15 years ago Eric was working at a racetrack in New York

true  false

**Q1:**

According to Eric there should be stricter laws against the consumption of Marijuana

true  false

**Q2:**

Eric quit drinking alcohol.

true  false

**Q3:**

Eric currently takes heroin.

true  false

**Q4:**

Phil is a casino employee

true  false

**Q5:**

Phil describes how he once was caught stealing 500 dollars

true  false

**Q6:**

Phil earns money by stealing tickets from gaming machines

true  false

## **AMERICAN PASSAGES – UNTERRICHTSMATERIALIEN**

### **POST-VIEWING TASKS:**

#### **Online Research - Arcology**

**Paolo Soleri, Italian-American architect, describes his concept of the modern city:**

**„Arcology“, a concept combining architecture and ecology.**

**Paolo Soleri** : “The structure of society now is being exploded into giantism. Why? Mainly because of the presence of the automobile. So the landscape that used to be this size now has become this size, an endless sprawl and that’s a consequence, almost direct consequence on the adoption of the automobile as a conveyance, so that’s an insult to everything. Including life. But that’s where we are right now. We are on our land which is disproportionate to our make-up and we are paying the price for it. Including the financial cost. So this devolution in the automobile landscape started about two generations ago and now we are in the middle of it and not only this country but all over the world. We are rushing into the ultimate crash which is to be when we adopt 4 billion automobiles per year to move around or try to move around. So the crisis is very, very profound.

Ruth Beckermann: “What was your concept of the city?”

**Paolo Soleri** : “The city is where culture and civilization are produced. So, once we decided we eliminate the city, we eliminate our culture. So that’s a catastrophe per se. immediate. With the triumph of technology and the productivity of technology, which is a gigantic productivity, we have been cluttering this enormous landscape with all sorts of things. Because productivity means wealth. So, you want to be rich, be a very good customer and be a very good producer. And that’s the recipe for ...materialism. So, we are stuck.”

Ruth Beckermann: “That’s what happened here.”

**Paolo Soleri**: “Yes. So, my alternative is to adopt, what I call a lean alternative, by lean I mean something like elegant frugality, and I am stuck with it. We have been working on this notion of the leaner, lean city. Why linear and why lean? That’s the gist of it.”

#### **Task – Internet research**

**Go online and find the answers to the following questions using the suggested websites.**

<http://www.arcosanti.org/theory/arcology/main.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arcology>

**What is the main idea behind Arcology?**

**What is the “lean alternative” to the present-day city?**

**Find information about 2 projects built around the concept of arcology.**