

The best time to immigrate.

by Steven M. Swersky.

Unlike other articles, this one advises which age groups are the best in respect of immigrating to San Diego.

a. FOETUS to 0 YEARS.

By all accounts, this is definitely the best age for you to immigrate. Whilst swimming around in your mom's tummy, you won't know if you are in San Diego, the continental USA, or even in the pouch of a possum in the Grand Canyon for that matter. You will have no culture shock to deal with.

b. 0 to 2 YEARS.

This is also not a bad age to arrive in, since you will have the advantage of having parents who are either unbelievably courageous and undaunted, or else stinking rich. On the other hand they may be imbecilically foolish, which of course will not help you in any way, so be very careful before you make your decision.

c. 3 to 7 YEARS.

The ease with which you adapt to the new living conditions, the making of new friends, and assumption of an American accent after a few weeks, will be countere-balanced by the fact that you will see so little of your parents who will be killing themselves to make almost enough money to afford your schooling, tee ball, dancing lesson and baby sitter. If you come from S Africa, you won't even have the benefit of your nanny who used to look after you. However, TV and Nintendo should make up the short-fall in parenting time, so it's not so bad.

d. 8 to 12 YEARS.

If you're good at sport, confident, love lizzards, pet mice and computer games, you'll fit in real quick, while your classmates wait for you to lose your accent and feel genuine embarrassment about your parents. If you are quiet, intorverted and shy, you're in for Hell, because all the bullies are waiting for you. However, your standard of education will be different [not neccesarilly lower] so they'll put you in a class with kids two years your junior. That'll mean you're the biggest, so you can beat the nasty ones up if you want to.

d. 13 to 18 YEARS.

If you're in this category, the better looking you are the better chance you have of making it with your peers. Have your nose done, acne nixed, body toned before you arrive. This is a difficult time to arrive because you'll be unfamiliar with all the educational stuff, and will have a tough time catching up. Cliques amongst contemporaries are hard to break into.

e. 19 to 25 YEARS.

This is a good age to come if you are either a ranting joller, or else engaged to someone from your home country. Otherwise, you years way behind trying to understand the American culture, and potential partners will have very different expectations about marriage and commitment to you. You will be in your sexual prime, but the threat of AIDS will keep you frustrated.

f. MARRIED WITH SMALL KIDS.

These are tough years, because you will be torn between earning money and giving your children adequate love. Often the need for cash will win. Seeing your neighbours who were born into the system coping so well will drive you nuts. But, you will meet the parents of your children's friends, and will become friends with some of them. You will also be able to cling to other lost souls who will find you by some mysterious force.

g. MARRIED WITH BIG KIDS.

Add to your own burdens in life your teenage children's normal adolescent problems as well as their continuous griping to go home, and you've got a hell of a lot to look forward to. Money demands will be so fantastic that you will throw yourself on the floor, cry defeat and give up completely. Then the phone will ring, and your spouse will tell you that the prospect you have been sucking up to for the last fortnight will sign that big deal you've been aiming for. Good luck!

h. RETIRED to 80.

You will probably be immigrating to join your children, so if you like them good, if you don't Try to come with money and influence. You will be happy if you have your health, know some people, and are good at cards.

i. 80 PLUS.

This is the best time to immigrate, because if you still have the strength to do it, no doors are closed to you!